

Your Ref: TR010039

A47 Wansford to Sutton  
National Highways  
Woodlands  
Manton Road  
Bedford  
MK41 7LW

7 January 2021

FAO Mr R Jackson  
Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Planning  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Dear Mr Jackson

**APPLICATION BY NATIONAL HIGHWAYS FOR AN ORDER FOR GRANTING  
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE A47 WANSFORD TO SUTTON SCHEME  
(TR010039)**

**APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO RULE 6 LETTER**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. In advance of the Preliminary Meeting in respect of the application for the A47 Wansford to Sutton Order (the Application), this letter addresses a number of matters raised in the Examining Authority's (ExA) notice of the Preliminary Meeting (the Rule 6 Letter), to be discussed further at the Preliminary Meeting if necessary.

**2. Name Change**

- 2.1. On 8 September 2021 Highways England Company Limited changed its name to National Highways Limited. The Application was submitted when the Applicant was called Highways England but the relevant legal entity is still the same (company number 09346363).
- 2.2. The Applicant is also aware that the ExA in written questions and requests for information (ExQ1) published on 16 December 2021 at written question 1.0.1 requested that the Applicant only make necessary changes adding.. " it is not necessary to undertake changes retrospectively or where the change would make no material difference. "Necessary", in this context is required going forward from this time, having an implication for, if consented, how the Proposed Development were to be implemented. It is not necessary to change a document only for this

reason if it anticipated that the document will be updated for another reason later in the Examination. In that situation then both changes can be made at the same time"

- 2.3. The Applicant agrees with the ExA and is proposing to carry out the Examination under the new name of National Highways, and all documentation going forward will be issued under this name. National Highways is therefore not intending to update all of the Application documents previously submitted, except where it is a legal requirement or is necessary to do so. For example, the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in Article 2 refers to the Applicant as Highways England Company Limited quoting the registered office and company number. The explanatory note at the end of the dDCO also refers to Highways England.
- 2.4. We trust that the above answers the ExAs written question 1.0.1 on this point.

### **3. Statements of Common Ground (Annex F)**

- 3.1. National Highways is working towards producing a number of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with a number of consultees in relation to the Scheme, as follows:
- Peterborough City Council
  - Cambridge County Council
  - Huntingdonshire District Council
  - North Northamptonshire Council
  - Environment Agency
  - Natural England
  - Historic England
  - Riverford Organic Farmers Ltd
  - William Scott Abbott Trust
  - David Longfoot
  - Milton (Peterborough Estates)/Sir Philip Naylor Leyland Bt
- 3.2. National Highways will seek SoCGs where possible with the bodies listed above that it has been engaging with to-date and/or those that may be affected by the Application. National Highways will also keep the ExA updated on the progress of the SoCGs and negotiation with the Statutory Undertakers and any required Protective Provisions throughout the Examination.
- 3.3. National Highways will endeavour to meet the deadlines set out in the timetable in relation to submission of the SoCGs.

- 3.4. In respect of the Examining Authority's request for a SoCG with Upton Community Council, National Highway's understanding is that this is not a legally constituted body and the Applicant is therefore unsure of who it represents. National Highways would be happy to work with a group on a SoCG but will need to understand more about its representation. Alternatively individuals are of course at liberty to participate throughout the Examination.

#### **4. Timetable for Examination**

- 4.1. National Highways has the following comments on the ExA's timetable.

*Item 6 – Deadline 1 (25 January 2022)*

This deadline falls on the same day as Deadline 8 of the Examination of the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton scheme. The deadlines falling on the same day, this may cause difficulties for many of the Interested Parties who may be involved in responding to questions and issues raised on both schemes. Moving Deadline 1 back to Friday 28 January will allow the Applicant and other Interested Parties enough time to respond to the deadlines on both schemes.

*Item 8 – Deadline 3 (1 March 2022)*

Submission of documentation including comments on written representations and Local Impact Reports on Tuesday 1 March is close to submission of those documents at Deadline 2, 15 February 2022, as this is a short month. The Applicant would suggest that Deadline 3 could be moved to Friday 4 March 2022 without impacting significantly on the Examination timetable.

*Item 12- Deadline 5 (20 April 2022)*

It would assist the Applicant in preparing its response to this deadline, particularly given that this deadline falls two days after the extended Bank Holiday weekend for Easter. Mindful of the Applicant's and the Planning Inspectorate's approach to ensuring the well-being of its people, the Applicant requests that this deadline is pushed back to Friday 22 April. It is not anticipated that this will affect the progress of the Examination.

*Item 13 – Deadline 6 (3 May 2022)*

This deadline falls the day after the early May Bank Holiday. Similarly as the above, the Applicant is mindful of ensuring that its staff, consultants, advisers and contractors are able to take adequate breaks and are not required to work over the Bank Holiday break. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this deadline be pushed back until Thursday 5 May. As above, it is not anticipated that this will affect the progress of the Examination.

*Item 15 Deadline 7 (17 May 2022)*

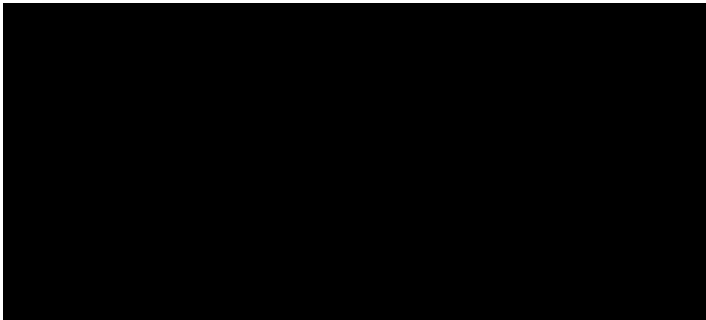
Depending on how many hearings are required in the week commencing 9 May 17 May 2022 this could prove to be very challenging. The Applicant would therefore suggest that, were it to be possible, Deadline 7 be moved from 17 May to 20 May

2022 to give more time to prepare post hearing submissions from the previous week. It is not anticipated that this will affect the progress of the Examination.

## **5. Proposed attendees at the Preliminary Meeting and Subsequent Hearings**

- 5.1. National Highways will attend the Preliminary Meeting and proposes to address the ExA on the matters set out in this letter. The list of proposed attendees on behalf of National Highways is enclosed at Schedule 1.
- 5.2. National Highways will also be attending all hearings listed at Annex D of the Rule 6 letter and, following receipt of the agendas, National Highways will produce a list of proposed speakers and present this to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the relevant hearing.

Yours sincerely



Craig Stirzaker  
Project Manager  
National Highways Limited

**SCHEDULE 1**  
**List of Applicant Attendees at Preliminary Meeting (Parts 1 and 2) and Issue Specific Hearing 1**

Attendee	Organisation	Email	Phone Number
Michael Fry (Barrister – consultant to WBD, Speaker at PM)	Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Kevin Gibbs (Lead Legal Advisor)	Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Stephen Dagg	Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sarah Holmes	Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Jonathan Donlevy (Senior Project Manager)	National Highways	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Craig Stirzaker (Project Manager)	National Highways	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Alan Nettey (Consents and Statutory Process Manager)	National Highways	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Jonathan Pitt (Project Manager)	Galliford Try	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Matt Murrell (Senior Project Manager)	Sweco	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Rebecca McLenaghan (EIA and HRA)	Sweco	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
David Battershill (Traffic and Transport)	Sweco	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Jacquie Critchley (DCO Lead)	Carter Jonas	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]