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To Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons invited to the
Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010039

Date: 18 January 2022

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8, and Rule 9

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A47 Wansford to Sutton scheme

Examination Timetable and procedure

This letter provides you with the Examination Timetable, details of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) Written Questions and other important information about the Examination.

All documentation associated with this project, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the audio recording taken at that meeting can be found in the [Documents tab](#).

Procedural Decision on the Preliminary Meeting

I write further to my Rule 6 letter dated 30 November 2021. I have decided that there are no further procedural matters which need to be explored orally at PM2 scheduled for 2.00pm on 11 January 2022. As a result, and in accordance with paragraph 7.5 of the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.6 'Virtual Examination Events'](#), I am satisfied that there is no need to reconvene the Preliminary Meeting and have made the Procedural Decision to close the meeting in writing, effective immediately. This means that a virtual meeting (Preliminary Meeting Part 2) was not held.

The Examination Timetable

I have made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A**.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in the Rule 6 letter dated 30 November 2021¹. In finalising the Examination Timetable, I have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made at the Preliminary Meeting and in representations submitted in advance of that meeting.

The Examination Timetable contains a number of deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All deadlines are at 23:59 hours on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, I may disregard them.

We request that all Interested Parties make their submissions using the 'Make a submission' tab on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website on or before the applicable Deadline. Annex D to this letter provides further information about the 'Make a submission' tab.

If I consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will only be sent to Interested Parties and Other Persons² invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the [project page](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website. Additionally, if you wish to receive further updates there is a function on the right-hand side of the [project webpage](#) to register for email updates. These provide automatic email notifications at key stages during the Examination.

There was discussion at the Preliminary Meeting over the Examination Timetable, and as a result of this I am making two changes from that set out in the Rule 6 letter. These are so that:

- Deadline 1 is moved from Tuesday 25 January to Friday 28 January; and
- Deadline 7 is moved from Tuesday 17 May to Friday 20 May.

I have not acceded to the remaining requests from the Applicant. If Deadline 3 were to be moved back it would reduce the time between that deadline and the Hearings scheduled for the week commencing 14 March, and this would be likely to increase the length of those hearings or require additional attendance which may otherwise be avoided as I would have less time to prepare and publish a detailed agenda.

I also consider that moving Deadlines 5 and 6 would also constrain the timetable. As I indicated at the Preliminary Meeting there is nothing to prevent the submission of documents prior to the deadline itself.

As discussed at the PM I had also hoped to hold an Accompanied Site Inspection in the week commencing 14 March 2022. However, with Hearings to be held virtually, organising both events in that week may be problematic logistically.

I have therefore decided to put the date of Tuesday 29 March 2022 for further Site Inspections. The nature of those Inspections would be determined closer to the date and is discussed in **Annex B**.

¹ Your invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

² Other Persons are persons that I chose to invite to the Preliminary Meeting, in addition to the prescribed persons listed in section 88(3) of the Planning Act 2008 – see 'Your status in the Examination and future notifications' below

Other Procedural Decisions

Annex B contains important details and clarifications about my other Procedural Decisions made at, or following, the Preliminary Meeting. These include:

- **Changes to the draft Examination Timetable**
- **Examining Authority's Written Questions**
- **Statements of Common Ground**
- **Local Impact Reports**
- **Habitats Regulations Assessment**
- **Site Inspections**
- **Assessment of Principal Issues.**

Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted. These should be submitted by Deadline 2 in the Examination Timetable (Tuesday 15 February, **Annex A**).

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in my Initial Assessment of Principal Issues discussed at the Preliminary Meeting and included in my Rule 6 letter³. Nor are they restricted to the content of my Written Questions (see next heading, below).

Any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a Written Representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why⁴. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations "*the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions*"⁵ where appropriate.

Further written submissions will be requested by the ExA at various points in the Examination.

Any Written Representations, and any further written submissions requested by the ExA in the course of the Examination which exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

ExA's Written Questions

I have compiled Written Questions (WQ) about the application and the representations received so far; these were issued in draft on 16 December 2021. These are being issued in final form at the same time as this letter. There are a small number of

³ https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010039/TR010039-000313-TR010039_Final_Rule_6_Letter.pdf

⁴ Required under Rule 10(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-act-2008-examination-of-applications-for-development-consent>

changes from the draft, principally to deal with changes since that time and typographic errors, and they have been highlighted in the WQs. Answers to my WQs must be provided by Deadline 2 (Tuesday 15 February) in the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

These questions are published on the National Infrastructure Planning website and are available in [PDF form](#), and an [editable Word document](#). If you require a hard copy of my WQs, please contact the Case Team who will send you a copy.

Hearings

The Examination Timetable at **Annex A** includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and I will notify all Interested Parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the Examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That notification will include an additional deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to attend the notified hearing(s).

In light of the public health situation at present, and the necessary lead-in for any hearings to allow for arrangement and publicity, I have decided that the Hearings scheduled for the week commencing Monday 14 March 2022 will be held virtually on the MS Teams platform. I am hopeful that, should they be needed, and the public health situation allow, then the hearings scheduled for May 2022 would be held face-to-face. It should be noted that there may not need to be those hearings in May and thus nobody should rely on this and therefore should fully engage with the virtual hearings.

Annex C provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings.

Site Inspection

Information about the Site Inspection, scheduled to take place in the week commencing 14 March 2022, is also contained in **Annex B**.

Availability of application documents and representations submitted to the Examination

[All documentation and audio recordings](#) associated with the examination of this application can be found on our website.

Annex D provides details of locations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development at which all Examination documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge.

Advice to Interested Parties about how to access and navigate the Examination Library is also provided at **Annex D**.

Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's document [What is My Status in the Examination?](#)

If your reference number begins with: 'A47-0', 'A47W-AP', 'A47W-S57' 'A47W-APL' or '200' you are in Group A.

If your reference number begins with: 'A47W-SP' you are in Group B.

If your reference number begins with: 'A47W-OP' you are in Group C.

The meaning and purpose of those groups are explained in the document published at the link above. If having read this document you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Award of costs

I also draw your attention to the possibility of the award of costs against Interested Parties who behave unreasonably. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#).

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D** to this letter.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, we consider it necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information, please view our Privacy Notice.

I look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Robert Jackson

Robert Jackson
Examining Authority

Annexes

- A** Examination Timetable
- B** Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- D** Availability of representations and application documents

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to **complete** the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

Item	Matters	Due dates
1.	<p>Procedural Deadline A Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written submissions on Examination procedure, including draft timetable • Requests to speak at the Preliminary Meeting Part 1 • Requests to speak at Issue Specific Hearing 1 on the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) 	<p>Friday 7 January 2022</p>
2.	<p>Preliminary Meeting Part 1</p>	<p>Tuesday 11 January 10.00am</p>
3.	<p>Issue Specific Hearing 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Development Consent Order 	<p>Wednesday 12 January 10.00am</p>
4.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable • Issue of Written Questions (WQ) – ExQ1 	<p>As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting</p>
5.	<p>Deadline 1 (D1)</p> <p>Deadline for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on RRs • Comments on updated application documents. • Post Hearing submissions • Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP) by the ExA • Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) • Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) • Request to receive future correspondence by email • Proposed itinerary for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) from the Applicant • Notification of wish to attend an ASI, if one is required and suggested locations, with justifications • The Applicant to provide the Habitats Screening matrices in MS Word format 	<p>Friday 28 January</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
6.	<p>Deadline 2 (D2)</p> <p>Deadline for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to ExQ1 Written Representations (WR) and summaries of any WR exceeding 1500 words Local Impact Reports (LIR) from local authorities Comments on the Applicant's proposed ASI itinerary Comments on any submissions received by D1 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules 	Tuesday 15 February
7.	<p>Deadline 3 (D3)</p> <p>Deadline for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on responses to the ExQ1 Comments on WRs Responses to comments made on RRs Comments on LIRs Comments on any submissions received by D2 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules <p>Requested from the Applicant only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressed Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Statement of Commonality of the Statements of Common Ground (SCSoCG) An updated version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions and a schedule of changes An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (CAS) in clean and tracked versions Schedule of changes to the Book of Reference (BoR) Updated Guide to the Application 	Tuesday 1 March
8.	<p>Hearings 1</p> <p>If required, dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Specific Hearings Open Floor Hearing Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 	Week commencing 14 March, if required
9.	<p>Deadline 4 (D4)</p> <p>Deadline for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case Comments on any submissions received by D3 	Thursday 24 March

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules <p>Requested from the Applicant only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressed SoCG and SCSocG An updated version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions and a schedule of changes An updated CAS in clean and tracked versions Updated Guide to the Application 	
10.	Accompanied Site Inspection , if required	Tuesday 29 March
11.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ExA's further Written Questions (ExQ2), if required 	Tuesday 5 April
12.	Deadline 5 (D5) <p>Deadline for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to ExQ2 if required Comments on any submissions received by D4 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules <p>Requested from the Applicant only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressed SoCG and SCSocG An updated version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions and a schedule of changes An updated CAS in clean and tracked versions Updated Guide to the Application Schedule of changes to the BoR 	Wednesday 20 April
13.	Deadline 6 (D6) <p>Deadline for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on responses to ExQ2, if required Comments on any submissions received by D5 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules 	Tuesday 3 May
14.	Hearings 2 <p>If required, dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Specific Hearings Open Floor Hearing Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 	Week commencing 9 May, if required
15.	Deadline 7 (D7) <p>Deadline for:</p>	Friday 20 May

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case, if required • Comments on any submissions received by D6 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules <p>Requested from the Applicant only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressed SoCG and SCSOCG • An updated version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions and a schedule of changes • An updated CAS in clean and tracked versions • Updated Guide to the Application 	
16.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required) • The ExA's proposed changes to the dDCO, if required 	Tuesday 24 May
17.	<p>Deadline 8 (D8)</p> <p>Deadline for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the RIES (if required) • Comments on the ExA's proposed changes to the draft DCO • Comments on any submissions received by D7 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules <p>Requested from the Applicant only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressed SoCG and SCSOCG • An updated version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions and a schedule of changes • An updated CAS in clean and tracked versions • Updated Guide to the Application • Schedule of changes to the BoR 	Tuesday 14 June
18.	<p>Deadline 9 (D9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any submissions received by D8 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules <p>Requested from the Applicant only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final SoCG and SCSOCG • Final dDCO in MS Word clean and tracked versions • Final Schedule of changes to the dDCO • SI template validation report • Final Book of Reference, and schedule of changes • Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule, in clean and tracked versions • Final updated Guide to the Application 	Tuesday 28 June

19.	<p>Deadline 10 (D10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any submissions received by D9 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules 	Tuesday 5 July
20.	<p>Deadline 11 (D11)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules <p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.</p> <p>The ExA may close the Examination earlier if satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed.</p>	Tuesday 12 July

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after each deadline for submissions.

Hearing agendas

We will aim to publish a draft agenda for each hearing on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Report on the Implications for European Sites

Where the Applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the DCO application, the ExA may decide to issue a Report on the Implication for European Sites (RIES) during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of the Habitats Regulations¹.

¹ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

I have made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting¹:

1. Changes to Draft Examination Timetable

Following the discussions at the Preliminary Meeting I am making two changes from that set out in the Rule 6 letter. These are so that:

- Deadline 1 is moved from Tuesday 25 January to Friday 28 January; and
- Deadline 7 is moved from Tuesday 17 May to Friday 20 May.

I have not acceded to the other requests for changes to the Examination Timetable made by the Applicant for the reasons set out in the main body of this letter.

I have additionally added a separate date of Tuesday 29 April for a Site Inspection. The nature of that visit is to be determined closer to that date (see below).

2. Examining Authority's Written Questions

I published my draft Written Questions (WQ) on 16 December 2021. This was to allow those who wished to, to start to prepare responses. However, the deadline for the responses was not confirmed at that time.

I have made a small number of changes from the draft list, principally to deal with changes since that time and typographic errors, and they have been highlighted in the questions. The deadline for responses has now been set for **15 February 2022**. This is approximately the same time after the Preliminary Meeting (PM) as for most examinations.

There are two changes which relate to questions ExQ1.1.10 and ExQ1.6.4. I have added three additional questions: ExQ1.0.23, ExQ1.5.12 and ExQ1.6.40A.

Some of my WQs are directed to specific Statutory Parties which have not, at the time of writing, confirmed that they wish to become Interested Parties for the purposes of the examination of the application.

All relevant Statutory Parties will receive this correspondence and I request for each to check my WQs carefully in order that they may identify and respond to any questions posed to them. No party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question I ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

For the avoidance of doubt, Statutory Parties are defined as the parties listed in Schedule 1 to The Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015².

This round of WQs is identified by the pre-fix ExQ1., subsequent round(s) by ExQ2., ExQ3., etc..

3. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

¹ Section 89(1) of the Planning Act 2008

² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/legislation/>

The Applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCG and it will aid the smooth running of the Examination if all Interested Parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCG liaise and co-operate with the Applicant in respect of their production. Final signed versions of the SoCG listed below are requested to be submitted by **Tuesday 1 March (Deadline 3, Annex A)**.

A. The Applicant and Peterborough City Council, to include:

- The effect on air quality
- The effect on biodiversity
- The effect on cultural history
- Emissions during construction and operation
- Landscape and visual effects
- The effect on minerals and waste
- The effect of noise and vibration
- Socio-economic effects, including the effects on the delivery of development plan aims and objectives
- Traffic and transport effects, including the effects on non-motorised users
- Water environment effects, including any permits required from PCC as LLFA

B. The Applicant and Cambridge County Council, to include:

- Emissions during construction and operation
- The effect on minerals and waste
- Socio-economic effects, including the effects on the delivery of development plan aims and objectives
- Traffic and transport effects, including the effects on non-motorised users
- Water environment effects, including any permits required from CCC as LLFA

C. The Applicant and Huntingdonshire District Council, to include:

- The effect on air quality
- The effect on biodiversity
- The effect on cultural history
- Emissions during construction and operation
- Landscape and visual effects
- The effect of noise and vibration
- Socio-economic effects, including the effects on the delivery of development plan aims and objectives

D. The Applicant and North Northamptonshire Council, to include:

- The effect on air quality
- The effect on biodiversity
- The effect on cultural history
- Emissions during construction and operation
- Landscape and visual effects
- The effect on minerals and waste
- The effect of noise and vibration
- Socio-economic effects, including the effects on the delivery of development plan aims and objectives

- Traffic and transport effects, including the effects on non-motorised users
- Water environment effects, including any permits required from NNC as LLFA

E. The Applicant and the Environment Agency, to include:

- Water environment effects, including abstraction and discharge
- Drainage including provision for containment and treatment /disposal of contaminated run-off
- Waste management issues, including permitting and formal exemption requirements, and the likelihood that any such requirements outside the DCO process may be obtained
- Emissions during construction and operation

F. The Applicant and Natural England, to include:

- Habitats, Ecology and Nature Conservation, including assessment of cumulative effects
- The loss of the Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land
- Effects on protected species and sites, including Sutton Heath and Bog SSSI
- Effects on areas of ancient woodland and veteran trees
- The need for and means of securing mitigation actions
- Need for Habitats Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment

G. The Applicant and Historic England, to include:

- The effect on the Scheduled monument north of A47 (List entry 1006796) and its setting
- The effect on the setting of other listed buildings in the vicinity
- The effectiveness of the proposed and embedded mitigation to address any adverse effects

H. The Applicant and the relevant statutory undertakers, to include:

- Relevant Protective Provisions in the draft DCO

I. The Applicant and Riverford Organic Farmers Ltd

- Those issues raised in the Relevant Representation

J. The Applicant and the William Scott Abbott Trust

- Those issues raised in the Relevant Representation

K. The Applicant and David Longfoot

- Those issues raised in the Relevant Representation

L. The Applicant and Milton (Peterborough Estates)/Sir Philip Naylor Leyland Bt

- Those issues raised in the Relevant Representation

All of the SoCG listed above should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft DCO. Any Interested Party seeking for an Article or Requirement to be reworded should provide in the SoCG the form of words which are being sought.

Where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed between the parties by Deadline 3, or in so far as any local authority position represents an officer level view only, draft versions of that SoCG are requested to be submitted **by the Applicant** to Deadline 3. The position of the relevant Interested Parties should then be confirmed in the course of the Examination.

I have removed a request for a SoCG between the Applicant and Upton Community Council as it is not clear as to the legal status of Upton Community Council. I have asked an additional WQ on this (ExQ1.0.23), and it may be that I will ask the Applicant to prepare a SoCG with Upton Community Council once its status has been clarified.

4. Local Impact Reports (LIRs)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see our [Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports](#).

Local authorities³ are invited to submit LIRs by **15 February 2022** (Deadline 2, **Annex A**).

5. Habitats Regulations Assessment

Under the Habitats Regulations⁴, in order to inform the Secretary of State as the competent authority, certain information needs to be provided and consultation undertaken during the course of the Examination. The Applicant provided screening and integrity matrices with the Application and is asked to provide these in MS Word format at **Deadline 1** (28 January 2022).

The Applicant has concluded in its 'Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment' [APP-140] "that there will be No Likely Significant Effect on the Nene Washes SAC, SPA and Ramsar from the Proposed Scheme". However, the WQs (ExQ1.2.16 to ExQ1.2.27) have requested additional information to be submitted and depending on the responses will determine how this matter is Examined further.

6. Site Inspection

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) on Tuesday 29 March 2022. However, due to the public health situation this may not be possible.

As set out in my Rule 6 letter dated 30 November 2021 the purpose of the ASI is for me to see features of the proposals within the context of the evidence put

³ Defined in s56A of the Planning Act 2008

⁴ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

forward. Notes of Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) are published on the project webpage on the NI Planning website. I have already undertaken an USI on 27 October 2021 and the [notes](#) have already been published.

Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access. The purpose of ASIs is familiarisation only and no discussion of the merits of the Proposed Development will be entertained during an ASI.

The Applicant is requested to submit to the Examination a draft itinerary for the ASI. The draft itinerary will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Following its publication, any Interested Party is invited to make comments on the Applicant's draft itinerary by **Tuesday 15 February** (Deadline 2, **Annex A**). Requests by Interested Parties to attend the ASI should be provided to the same deadline. As explained in my Rule 6 letter, the Interested Parties attending the ASI will include representatives of the Applicant, Peterborough City Council, together with other Interested Parties (or their representatives).

It may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany me for public health, logistical and safety reasons. However, it may be possible for arrangements to be made for Interested Parties (or their representatives) to join the inspection at specified locations within the itinerary. Please contact the Case Team if you wish to meet the inspection at a specific location within the itinerary, or at a new location, as proposed in your comments.

Depending on the public health situation it may not be possible to hold an ASI, then I will consider whether necessary visits to private land can be made as Access Required Site Inspections (ARSI). Here, I am provided with access to private land by the relevant landowner/ occupier and undertake the visit(s) on my own.

Should it not be possible to arrange any necessary ARSIs then the ExA will look to alternatives such as asking the Applicant to arrange 360° photography (similar to Google Streetview) and/ or videos at appropriate locations. These would then be published, and IPs would be able to make written representations to highlight matters they would wish the ExA to appreciate in the same way that they would have been able to point matters out at an ASI.

If an ASI can take place the final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website on or before **25 February 2022**.

Interested Parties should be aware that **ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed Development**. However, I may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

7. Assessment of Principal Issues

Annex C of the Rule 6 letter included by Initial Assessment of Principal Issues. Representations were made at Procedural Deadline A and at the PM on this. In light of these representations, I have amended the list to include reference to

“Geotechnical Risk, particularly in the area adjacent to the River Nene” in section 6 on Geology and Soils and to “geotechnical risk” in section 12 relating to cumulative and cross-cutting effects.

However, I have not included “cost” with the cumulative and cross-cutting effects as this, of itself, is not normally a planning matter. This is a different aspect to whether the Applicant has sufficient funds to undertake the Proposed Development which is considered as part of the Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession aspects of the Examination.

A revised Assessment of Principal Issues is given below.

As set out in the Rule 6 letter it is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all the issues that will be subject to examination and inevitably some issues will overlap or interrelate. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State for Transport after the Examination has concluded.

The order of the issues listed is primarily alphabetic and does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the PA2008 are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not listed as main issues.

It should also be noted that:

- whilst the effects of the proposal on the achievement of sustainable development including the mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change are not listed as specific Principal Issues; and
- whilst the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as specific Principal Issues

the ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these objectives in mind.

Principal Issue	Including (but not limited to) issues relating to:
<p>1. Air Quality (AQ) and Emissions (including Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions)</p>	<p>1.1 Adequacy of baseline assessment 1.2 Whether receptors have been appropriately identified 1.3 Construction effects of the Proposed Development 1.4 Operational Effects of the Proposed Development 1.5 Ability of the UK to meet its international air quality obligations 1.6 Construction and operational embedded GHG emissions 1.7 Effect on the achievement of the Government’s carbon reduction targets and carbon budget 1.8 Any cumulative impacts</p>
<p>2. Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment (including Habitats Regulations Assessment)</p>	<p>2.1 Adequacy of baseline assessment 2.2 Implications for statutorily and locally protected sites including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife sites 2.3 Biodiversity net gain and developing policy position 2.4 Future management and maintenance regimes 2.5 Need for Habitats Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment</p>
<p>3. Compulsory Acquisition (CA) and/or Temporary Possession (TP)</p>	<p>3.1 The case for CA/TP generally. 3.2 The need for the land proposed to be compulsorily acquired and/or temporarily possessed where specific objections remain. 3.3 Effects on those affected by CA and/or TP, including statutory undertakers/infrastructure and infrastructure providers. 3.4 Adequacy and security of funding for compensation. 3.5 Access for construction and maintenance. 3.6 Human Rights Act considerations and the Public Sector Equality Duty. 3.7 Consideration of alternatives to CA/TP. 3.8 Tests set out in sections 122/123/127/132/135/138 of the Planning Act 2008. 3.9 Book of Reference.</p>
<p>4. Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>4.1 Adequacy of baseline assessment</p>

Principal Issue	Including (but not limited to) issues relating to:
	<p>4.2 The effect on designated heritage assets and their settings</p> <p>4.3 The effect on non-designated heritage assets and their settings</p> <p>4.4 Whether sufficient information has been provided to allow consideration of the effects on archaeology</p>
<p>5. Draft Development Consent Order</p>	<p>5.1 The structure of the dDCO.</p> <p>5.2 Definitions.</p> <p>5.3 Scope of the Proposed Development and its Associated Development.</p> <p>5.4 The appropriateness of Articles and Requirements.</p> <p>5.5 The appropriateness of proposed protective provisions.</p> <p>5.6 Relationships with other consents.</p> <p>5.7 Whether the dDCO is satisfactory in all other respects.</p>
<p>6. Geology and Soils</p>	<p>6.1 The effect on the Best and Most Versatile agricultural land including restoration</p> <p>6.2 Geotechnical Risk particularly in the vicinity of the River Nene</p>
<p>7. Landscape and Visual</p>	<p>7.1 The effect on landscape character</p> <p>7.2 Short and long-term visual effects</p> <p>7.3 Effects of construction</p> <p>7.4 The effect of lighting</p> <p>7.5 Design of landscape mitigation</p>
<p>8. Noise and Vibration</p>	<p>8.1 Baseline Assessment</p> <p>8.2 Construction effects including mitigation</p> <p>8.3 Operational effects including mitigation</p>
<p>9. Socio-Economic Matters</p>	<p>9.1 The effect on local communities of the Proposed Development in terms of severance and connectivity</p> <p>9.2 The effects on walkers, cyclists and horse riders</p> <p>9.3 The effect on viability of farm holdings</p>
<p>10. Traffic and Transport</p>	<p>10.1 The case for, and the benefits of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>10.2 Strategic vision and objectives for national networks.</p> <p>10.3 Adequacy of baseline assessment.</p> <p>10.4 Adequacy of modelling.</p>

Principal Issue	Including (but not limited to) issues relating to:
	<p>10.5 The effect on the existing network</p> <p>10.6 The effect on walkers, cyclists and horse riders</p> <p>10.7 Whether the Proposed Development would meet the scheme objectives</p> <p>10.8 Whether the proposals would ensure appropriate connectivity between communities.</p>
<p>11. Water Environment and Flood Risk</p>	<p>11.1 Surface and ground water effects</p> <p>11.2 The effect on the River Nene and its environment</p> <p>11.3 The effect on the Wittering Brook and its environment</p> <p>11.4 The effect on Mill Stream and its environment</p> <p>11.5 Flood risk</p> <p>11.6 Drainage</p> <p>11.7 Future management and maintenance regimes</p> <p>11.8 The effect of climate change on the water environment</p>
<p>12. Cumulative and Cross-cutting effects</p>	<p>12.1 The cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with other schemes</p> <p>12.2 Whether the Proposed Development adequately balances the effects on cultural heritage, ecology, flood risk and geotechnical risk</p>

Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings

The Examination Timetable reserves three periods of time for three series of hearings to be held. The first took place on 15 January 2022 into the draft Development Consent Order and the other two are scheduled between 14 and 18 March 2022 and between 9 and 13 May 2022.

A further Issue Specific Hearing, dealing with the draft Development Consent Order, may be held in either or both of sets of Hearings set out above.

Requests to appear at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH). The final Examination Timetable requires that if Interested Parties wish to take part in an OFH or CAH they must respond in this regard on or before **Friday 28 January 2022** (Deadline 1, **Annex A**).

If no written requests to take part in an OFH or CAH are received by the above deadline, I am not required to hold such a hearing; although I may choose to do so nonetheless.

I may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that I think need to be explored orally.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

If an Interested Party wishes to attend an OFH or ISH they should indicate which topics in their Relevant Representation or Written Representation they wish to address at the hearing. Similarly, any Affected Person wishing to attend a CAH should identify clearly the plots of land about which they wish to speak.

Notifications from Interested Parties in respect of the above should be sent separately from any other written submission, and appropriately titled to allow us to quickly identify which event the notification relates to.

As with the Preliminary Meeting and initial Issue Specific Hearing, I will publish deadlines prior to the Hearings to allow registration to speak. These will be set when Hearing dates and preliminary agendas have been finalised so that relevant links can be sent out. In any event, the Hearings will be livestreamed, and the links will be provided on the relevant webpage.

Procedure at hearings

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010¹. Any oral representations must be based on either the Relevant Representation or Written Representation made by the person by whom, or on whose behalf, the oral representations are made.

¹ Rule 14

The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties². My examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions, and we will decide whether a hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important I consider an issue or topic to be.

Hearing agendas

I aim to publish a draft agenda for each hearing on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

² Rule 14(5)

Availability of representations and application documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the [Documents tab](#) at the above location.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the Examination Library (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- Each application document,
- each representation made to the Examination, and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the project webpage is also provided. **Please use the unique reference numbers** applied in the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.

Electronic deposit locations

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in the table below. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification and register in order to use a computer at these locations.

The opening hours and availability of information technology set out in the table below may be subject to changes or limitations to address public health requirements as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Bearing in mind the availability of the documents on the National Infrastructure Planning website and the effect of public health restrictions, please consider your need to attend these locations with care.

Please check the current circumstances with the relevant locations before you attend.

Local authority	Venue and address	Opening days	Printing/ photocopy costs
Peterborough City Council	Peterborough Central Library	Monday: 10:00– 4:00pm Tuesday: 10:00– 4:00pm Wednesday: 10:00– 4:00pm Thursday: 10:00– 4:00pm	Black and white A4 30p. Colour A4 50p.

	Broadway, Peterborough PE1 1RX	Friday: 10:00– 4:00pm Saturday: 10:00– 2:00pm Sunday: CLOSED	
Peterborough City Council	Sacrewell Farm Thornhaugh, Peterborough PE8 6HJ	Monday: 9:00 - 4:30pm Tuesday: 9:00 - 4:30pm Wednesday: 9:00 - 4:30pm Thursday: 9:00 - 4:30pm Friday: 9:00 - 4:30pm Saturday: 9:00 - 4:30pm Sunday: 9:00 - 4:30pm	NA

All printing charges quoted are correct as of November 2021

Submission of documents

The Examination Timetable has deadlines for submitting relevant information. You can submit documents through the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website using the 'Make a submission' portal. You may also use email or letters; however, these will take longer to process so please submit as early as you can. The portal separates submissions by date and type of submission, using drop-down menus. There is an 'Other' option if you are not able to separate your submission into one of the categories.

- Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.
- The Planning Inspectorate cannot accept links to websites.
- All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on our website. For example, Word, PDF, presentations. If your submission exceeds 1500 words, please include a summary which is less than 10% of the original text. The Planning Inspectorate has found that readers can access your main points more quickly, before reading the details. Please contact a member of the case team if you have any questions:
A47WansfordtoSutton@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Overview	s51 advice	Exam Timetable	Documents	Make a submission	Reli
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