

A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling

Scheme Number: TR010039

Volume 8

8.11 Statement of Common Ground with Riverford Organic Farmers

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010
Rule 8(1)(e)

May 2022

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**A47 Wansford to Sutton
Development Consent Order 202[x]**

**8.11 STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH
RIVERFORD ORGANIC FARMERS**

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STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

This statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by (1) National Highways Company Limited and (2) Riverford Organic Farmers

Signed

Chris Griffin

Programme Leader

On behalf of National Highways

Date:

Signed

NAME:

POSITION:

On behalf of Riverford Organic Farmers

Date:

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) relates to an application made by National Highways (formerly Highways England) (“the Applicant”) to the Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”) for a Development Consent Order (a “DCO”). If made the DCO would grant consent for the Applicant to undertake the A47 Wansford to Sutton Scheme (“the Scheme”). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in the ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Scheme (AS-013).
- 1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate website.
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-wansford-to-sutton/?ipcsection=overview>
- 1.1.3 The SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties to it, and where agreement has not (yet) been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and so focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) National Highways as the Applicant and (2) Riverford Organic Farmers.
- 1.2.2 Highways England became the Government-owned Strategic Highways Company on 1 April 2015. In September 2021 Highways England Company Limited changed its name to National Highways Limited. National Highways is the highway authority in England for the strategic road network and has the necessary powers and duties to operate, manage, maintain and enhance the network. Regulatory powers remain with the Secretary of State. The legislation establishing National Highways made provision for all legal rights and obligations of the Highways Agency, including in respect of the Application, to be conferred upon or assumed by National Highways.
- 1.2.3 Riverford Organic Farmers Riverford Organic Farmers Ltd is an organic farm and UK-wide organic vegetable box delivery company founded in Devon, England, with sister farms in three locations around the country.

1.3 Terminology

- 1.3.1 In the tables in Section 3 ‘Issues’ of this SoCG the following terminology is used to indicate the status of the individual issue:
- Agreed - indicates where the issue has been resolved

- “Under discussion” indicates area(s) of current disagreement where resolution remains possible, and where parties continue discussing the issue to determine whether they can reach agreement by the end of the examination
- “Not agreed” indicates a final position for area(s) of disagreement where the resolution of divergent positions will not be possible, and parties agree on this point.

1.3.2 In this SoCG, the issues raised by Riverford Organic Farmers are presented alongside a response from National Highways. "Agreed" signifies that there is agreement between the parties that there are no further points to discuss as regards that particular issue, and Riverford Organic Farmers are satisfied by the National Highways response.

1.3.3 It can be assumed that any matters not specifically referred to in the Issues section of this SoCG are not of material interest or relevance to Riverford Organic Farmers, and therefore have not been the subject of any discussions between the parties. As such, those matters can be read as agreed, only to the extent that they are either not of material interest or relevance to Riverford Organic Farmers.

2 RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

- 2.1.1 A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between National Highways and Riverford Organic Farmers in relation to the Application is outlined in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Record Of Engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence:	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
22.07.2020	Meeting	Scheme update showing northern alignment
15.10.2020	Brochure & letter hard copy & email circulation	Scheme consultation brochure and letter circulation.
03.02.2021	MST meeting	Scheme update – A1 entrance discussed with Riverford Organics advised that no works would be done as part of this scheme.
16.02.2022	MST Meeting	Meeting to discuss SoCG and provide update on scheme progress

- 2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) National Highways and (2) Riverford Organic Farmers in relation to matters addressed in this SoCG.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Purpose of this Document

3.1.1 Section 3.2 summarises the key issues explored between Riverford Organic Farmers and National Highways whilst the issues are explored in more detail in Section 3.2.

3.2 Summary of Issues

Ref. No	Topic	Status	Date Agreed
1	Access from the A1	Agreed	09/05/2022
2	Site Security	Agreed	09/05/2022

3.3 Issues in Detail

Issue	Document Reference (if relevant)	Riverford Organic Farmers	National Highways Response	Status	Date
Those issues raised in the Relevant Representation					
Access from the A1	Relevant Representation by Strutt & Parker on behalf of Riverford Organic Farmers Ltd (RR-042)	The access off the A1 to Sacrewell Lodge (OS Ref: 52.594551, -0.418874 near "Processors and Growers") is used by large commercial vehicles. It is advised that the deceleration and acceleration lanes off/onto the A1 should be improved in the interests of road safety. The proposed underpass of the A47 must be of sufficient size for current and future agricultural use.	A Road Safety Audit has been undertaken on the scheme and its proposals with no issues raised in this area. The additional traffic generated by the four A1 houses is not deemed sufficient to upgrade this access and this junction is outside of the scope scheme no improvements will be	Agreed	09/05/2022

Issue	Document Reference (if relevant)	Riverford Organic Farmers	National Highways Response	Status	Date
			<p>made.</p> <p>The A47 underpass will be of sufficient size to allow agricultural vehicles to access Sacrewell Farm and the grounds Riverford Organics tenant.</p> <p>Detail regarding the underpass will be provided as detailed design progresses.</p>		
Site Security – Gate relocation	SoCG meeting 16/02/2022	Current gate location needs to be adjusted to allow Riverford Organics site to remain secure whilst maintaining unhindered access to the A1 properties.	Previous commitment made to relocate access gate, further detail will be discussed as part of detailed design.	Agreed	09/05/2022