



Department for Transport

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To:

The Applicant, the Secretary of State
for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities, Anglian Water Services
Limited and Natural England

28 October 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by National Highways Limited (“the Applicant”) Seeking Development Consent for the Proposed A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling scheme

CONSULTATION SEEKING COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT, ANGLIAN WATER SERVICES LIMITED, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL ENGLAND

Following the completion of the examination on 11 July 2022, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State for Transport on 11 October 2022. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has until 11 January 2023 to determine the application. There are outstanding issues on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the parties identified in bold could provide an update or further clarification. The issues are grouped by topic heading.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Secretary of State is aware that at the end of examination, Crown consent had not been obtained by the Applicant for temporary possession and permanent acquisition of rights of plot 1/5a and the permanent acquisition of all rights and interests in plot 1/6a. The Secretary of State requests the **Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities** to confirm whether they are content with the powers sought by the Applicant for these plots.

The Secretary of State also understands that there was uncertainty as to whether Anglian Water Services Limited holds an interest in plot 3/2g. The Secretary of State requests **Anglian Water Services Limited** to confirm whether it has an interest in plot 3/2g, and if so whether it objects to the Applicant’s proposed interference with its rights as regards this plot.

Wildlife and Protected Species

The Secretary of State is aware that the Applicant submitted a shadow application for a bat licence during the examination and that the application was still outstanding at its conclusion. The Secretary of State requests the **Applicant** to provide an update on the status of this application. The Secretary of State also requests **Natural England** to confirm whether it sees any impediment to the granting of the necessary bat licences.

Environmental Matters

The Secretary of State is aware that ground investigation works were ongoing during the examination. The Secretary of State requests the **Applicant** to confirm the results and any implications of these investigations.

Deadline for Response

The deadline for response is 11 November 2022.

Responses to the matters outlined in this letter should be submitted by email to A47WansfordtoSutton@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, or difficulty in submitting a response by email, please inform the Planning Inspectorate Case Team.

The responses will be published on the project page for the A47 Wansford to Sutton Project on the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as possible after the 11 November 2022 deadline at:

[A47 Wansford to Sutton | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/a47-wansford-to-sutton)

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision on the A47 Wansford to Sutton application and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully,

Rachel Dominey
Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit