



National Infrastructure Planning
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2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer
Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlingham@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

All Interested Parties

Our Ref: TR010040

Date: 14 July 2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) - Sections 91 and 92 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) - Rule 13

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham project

Notification of Hearings

My letter of 22 June 2021, the Rule 8 letter, provides the Examination Timetable setting out dates reserved for Hearings. I have considered how best to examine the matters arising from the application and how best to ensure fairness given the practical constraints arising from COVID-19. Following that consideration, I have decided to hold a series of virtual Hearings using dates reserved in the Examination Timetable.

Hearings will be held in the **week commencing 16 August 2021** and, if required, dates have been reserved for Hearings on **1, 2, and 3 September 2021**.

Information about the Hearings and how to attend can be found in the **annex** to this letter, which includes the following:

1. Notification of dates and times of Hearings
2. How to request to attend a Hearing
3. Arrangements for the Hearings
4. Technology to be used, and the help available
5. Privacy statement

Please contact the Case Team if you have any questions about this letter. In the meantime, I look forward to working with you during this Examination.

Yours faithfully,

Alex Hutson

Examining Authority (ExA)

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Annex

1. Notification of dates and times of Hearings

Open Floor Hearings

Open Floor Hearings provide an opportunity for any Interested Party to set out their views about the application to the Examining Authority (ExA).

Issue Specific Hearings

Issue Specific Hearings are held for the ExA to question particular parties' various issues. The ExA may invite any parties who I may wish to hear from at a Hearing.

Compulsory Acquisition Hearings

A Compulsory Acquisition Hearing is being held because the application includes a request for an order granting development consent to authorise Compulsory Acquisition / Temporary Possession of land or Compulsory Acquisition / Temporary Possession of an interest in or right over land.

An agenda for each Hearing will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at least five working days before the event.

The events will be held virtually and joining details will be sent out beforehand. **Please see Section 2 below on how to register.**

Event	Date	Time
Open Floor Hearing 1	Monday 16 August 2021	Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing starts at 10.00am
Open Floor Hearing 2	Monday 16 August 2021	Arrangements Conference at 5.30pm Hearing starts at 6.00pm
Issue Specific Hearing 1: Draft Development Consent Order	Tuesday 17 August 2021	Arrangements Conference 9.30am Hearing starts at 10.00am
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 Session 1: The Applicant's overall case for Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession	Wednesday 18 August 2021	Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing starts 10.00am
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 Session 2: Site / plot specific issues	Wednesday 18 August 2021	Arrangements Conference at 1.30pm Hearing starts 2.00pm
Issue Specific Hearing 2: Environmental matters	Thursday 19 August 2021	Arrangements Conference 9.30am Hearing starts at 10.00am
Issue Specific Hearing 3: Environmental matters	Friday 20 August 2021	Arrangements Conference 9.30am Hearing starts at 10.00am

Annex

Reserve Hearing dates

I intend to cover all necessary matters as set out above. However, notification is also made of further Hearings to be held virtually in the event that I consider that they are required to further examine any topics or, for example, if any of the above Hearings are disrupted by technical issues.

Event	Date	Time
Open Floor Hearing 3 (if required)	Wednesday 1 September 2021	Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing starts at 10.00am
Issue Specific Hearing 4 (if required): Draft Development Consent Order	Wednesday 1 September 2021	Arrangements Conference at 1.30pm Hearing starts at 2.00pm
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (if required)	Thursday 2 September 2021	Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing Starts at 10.00am
Issue Specific Hearing 5 (if required): Environmental matters	Friday 3 September 2021	Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing Starts at 10.00am

2. Request to attend a Hearing

Please request to attend or speak at each Hearing, by providing:

- Name and Interested Party reference number
- Email address (if available), to send you arrangement details
- Name of any organisation that you are representing and your role
- If you would like to speak at a Hearing(s) please state which Hearing and the topic(s) that you would like to raise
- Plot numbers, if you would like to speak at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing
- If you would like a document to be shared on screen at a Hearing please provide the document, or reference number to the [Examination Library](#)

Please let the Case Team know by **Monday 9 August 2021** if you would like to attend and / or speak at a Hearing. Contact details are as follows:

A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlingham@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

0303 444 5000

There will be a livestream recording of the event if you prefer to watch this rather than enter the Hearing. A link will be posted before the start of the event.

3. Arrangements for the Hearings

Agenda: The Agendas and detailed arrangements for the Hearings will be published to the project page of the [National Infrastructure Planning website](#) at least five working days before the Hearings. However, the actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at my discretion. I will manage the Hearings and invite participants to speak on the topics they have requested to speak about.

Attendance: If your request to attend and / or speak at a Hearing is accepted, you will receive an invitation which will include joining instructions.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>



Annex

Joining the event: The [Arrangements Conference](#) will admit you to the event and provide information on the Hearing and reminders about using the technology. Arrive early so the Case Team can admit you before the start time.

Contributing at Hearings: You may speak on issues set out in your Relevant Representation or Written Representation. I will be responsible for questioning each party, and as such, may not need to ask further questions either to you or to other parties in attendance. Please be assured that I will carefully assess all contributions you make during my examination of the application. Technical and management considerations may mean I need to limit the number of speakers at any Hearings. I will prioritise Interested Parties and those speaking on behalf of a group of people. I will give the same consideration to any matter, whether it is raised once or several times.

Speaking in Hearings: Speakers will need to introduce themselves, including any organisation or groups that they represent, each time they speak to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the event is clear who was speaking.

Written comments: All parties are invited to submit their comments, in writing, on specific matters included in the Hearing Agendas or arising at the Hearings. These submissions must be made before the deadline for post-Hearing submissions identified in the [Examination Timetable](#).

Cancellation: If any of the Hearings are no longer required or need to be cancelled / postponed for any other reason, notice will be provided on the [project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

Additional information: The Planning Inspectorate has published detailed advice on [virtual examination events](#) on our website.

4. Technology used for the virtual events

We will be using Microsoft Teams to conduct the event. You can join the event through the internet, the app or by telephone. If you have any questions about attending the event, please contact the Case Team and they will be happy to assist you.

For those that do not wish to participate in the Hearings there is the opportunity to watch them online. The link will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website before the start of the Hearings. Additionally, a recording of the event will be available on the same webpage after the close of the Hearings.

5. Privacy statement

All Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Examination events, whether virtual or physical are recorded. The recordings of the Hearings will be made available on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed at a Hearing. Speakers will need to introduce themselves, including any organisation or groups that they represent, each time they speak to ensure that someone watching the recording after the event is clear who was speaking.

Annex

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies. Please refer to our [Privacy Notice](#) for further information.

Participants should avoid making public any information they wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made public. You may contact the Case Team for further guidance on your personal information.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the Development Consent Order. If you participate in a Hearing, you will be recorded and the recording will be made available in the public domain.

If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you may keep your camera switched off.