

Planning Act 2008 – Section 93

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

Agenda for virtual Open Floor Hearings 1 and 2: Monday 16 August 2021, 10:00am and 6.00pm

Notification of the dates, times and joining instructions for the virtual Open Floor Hearings (OFHs) was provided in the [Examining Authority's \(ExA\) letter](#) dated 14 July 2021.

Arrangements Conference

Please join at **9:30am** for the morning or **5:30pm** for the evening. The Case Team will admit you from the lobby and register your attendance.

Where necessary a break will be provided during the OFH in recognition of the fatigue associated with on-screen communication during virtual events.

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing**
- 2. Purpose of the hearing**
- 3. Representations by Interested Parties (IPs)**

Each IP in attendance and wishing to speak will be invited to put oral submissions to the ExA. A time limit may be applied to these submissions depending on numbers of participants. The ExA may ask questions of the IP about matters arising from written and oral submissions.

- 4. Responses by the Applicant**

The Applicant will be invited to respond to matters raised and to questions arising from the ExA either orally after all IPs have spoken, or in writing by Thursday 9 September 2021 (Deadline 4).

- 5. Closure of the hearing**

Participation, conduct and management of the hearings

Participation by speakers

At an OFH, each IP is entitled (subject to the ExA's powers of control over the conduct of the hearing) to make oral representations about the

application. If on the day there are other individuals who are not registered as IPs but who wish to make oral submissions at the OFH, it will be open to the ExA to use its discretion to hear these should time permit.

OFHs do not have subject-matter controlled agendas and participants may raise any matters arising from the application that is important and relevant to the decision taken under the Planning Act 2008. However, oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing by the particular participant and should not simply repeat matters previously covered in a written submission, but rather provide further detail, explanation and evidential corroboration to help inform the ExA.

Cross questioning is not normally allowed and the ExA will ask any questions that arise. The ExA will make appropriate provision for the introduction of more detailed evidence from experts at Issue Specific Hearings. People who have land or rights affected by Compulsory Acquisition or Temporary Possession have a right to be heard at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, and that will be the best forum to raise those issues.

Once you have spoken at one OFH you do not normally have a right to speak again at another. It is important that you use your allotted time well to communicate your messages to the ExA.

The evidence presented orally at the OFHs should be included in post-hearing submissions and submitted by **Thursday 9 September 2021 (Deadline 4)**.

The Applicant

The ExA asks that the Applicant attend the OFHs. The ExA will invite the Applicant to address questions raised by participants in summary form at the end of each hearing. The primary purpose of these hearings is not to enable the Applicant to make its own case beyond immediately necessary points of clarification. The Applicant's responses to participants oral cases should also be made in writing by **Thursday 9 September 2021 (Deadline 4)**.

Contingencies

The ExA will endeavour to hear all participants. If the OFHs, or parts of them, are unable to proceed, for example for technical reasons, then the ExA may adjourn incomplete business to reserved hearings later in the Examination Timetable. Notice of any adjournments will be provided on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Microsoft Teams

The OFHs will take place virtually using Microsoft Teams. Further information about virtual events in relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.6: Virtual examination events:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-6-virtual-examination-events/>

Further information, including a short video regarding taking part in a Planning Inspectorate virtual event, can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-virtual-events-guide-to-participating>

Please contact the Case Team if you have any questions about using Microsoft Teams or if you would like to test your access arrangements:

A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlingham@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

0303 444 5000