



National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Phone: 0303 444 5000

Email: A428.Blackcat@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Applicant;
All Interested Parties;
Other Persons;
and Statutory Parties

Our Ref: TR010044

Date: 20 August 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

**The Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8, Rule 9, Rule 10, Rule 13 and
Rule 16**

**Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent
for the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement scheme**

**Examination Timetable, Procedural Decisions, notification of Hearings and
Accompanied Site Inspection**

Purpose and content of the letter

The letter (the Rule 8 letter) provides important information about the Examination of this application following the representations made in writing to, or orally at, the Preliminary Meeting Parts 1 and 2. This letter includes details regarding the Examination Timetable, publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) First Written Questions (WQ1), notification of Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection, and ExA's other Procedural Decisions as listed below:

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1. The Examination Timetable

The ExA has made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined and published the final Examination Timetable, attached in **Annex A**. The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in the Rule 6 letter dated 9 July 2021. In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made at the Preliminary Meeting and in representations submitted in advance of that meeting. A brief summary of our considerations in finalising the Examination Timetable is in **Annex A**.

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of Deadlines for receipt of submissions to the Examination. All Deadlines are at 23:59 on the specified date. Please ensure submissions arrive on the specified date; if your submissions are later than the dates specified in the timetable, we may not accept them into Examination.

If we consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable, notification will be sent to all parties invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the [project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website \(NI website\)](#).

2. Making your submissions

We request that all parties make their submissions through the project page of the NI website) , where you will find a 'Make a submission' tab which provides access to a submissions portal ahead of the relevant Examination Deadlines. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 12MB. **Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable.**

All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the NI website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. **Annex E** provides further information on submissions via the portal

3. ExA's First Written Questions

The ExA provided all parties advance access to the intended list of the ExA's First Written Questions and requests for information (WQ1) on Wednesday 21 July 2021, in order to facilitate the conduct of the Examination. WQ1 is now being issued formally alongside this Rule 8 letter; WQ1 are published on the project page of the NI website and can be accessed through this link:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/TR010044-000842>

While there are no amendments to the questions in the formal issue of WQ1, we have issued some additional questions in light of the matters raised at the Preliminary Meeting, Issue Specific Hearing 1 and the Open Floors Hearing 1. These additional questions are clearly marked. Responses to WQ1 are due by **Deadline 1, Tuesday 31 August 2021**. Please see the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

If you require a hard copy of our WQs, please contact the Case Team who will send you a copy.

4. Written Representations

In the Rule 6 letter dated Friday 9 July 2021, the ExA provided notice to all parties to submit Written Representations by **Deadline 1, Tuesday 31 August 2021**. Please see the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**). We reiterate that the Deadline and date for receipt of Written Representations stands.

Many of you may have already submitted Relevant Representations in line with Rule 3 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, which is the first round of representations received by the ExA. In line with Rule 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, 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 why. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions.

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues discussed at the Preliminary Meeting and included in our Rule 6 letter. Nor are they restricted to the content of ExA's First Written Questions. Further written submissions will be requested by the ExA at various points in the Examination.

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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.

5. Notification of Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection

We have made a Procedural Decision to hold the following Hearings. Important information about these hearings is contained in **Annex B**.

1. Virtual Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1) on Wednesday 22 September 2021
2. Virtual Issue Specific Hearing (ISH2) on Thursday 23 September 2021
3. Virtual Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3) on Friday 24 September 2021

We have reserved a date to hold a further hearing, if required:

4. Virtual Issue Specific Hearing or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing on Tuesday 28 September 2021.

Participation in a virtual Hearing relies on the Planning Inspectorate providing you with a joining link or telephone number in advance. If you wish to attend a Hearing, you must register by **Procedural Deadline C, Tuesday 31 August 2021**. Please see the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

6. Accompanied Site Inspection

An Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 21 September 2021 and this is set out in **Annex A** and **Annex B**. If you wish to attend the ASI, it is important that you register at the latest by **Procedural Deadline C, Tuesday 31 August 2021**. Please see the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

The Applicant is to submit their proposed itinerary for the ASI to the ExA by **Deadline 1, Tuesday 31 August 2021**. This should have regard to any locations proposed by other parties at Procedural Deadline A, as well as those locations favoured by the Applicant.

The ExA has visited the site during Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USI) in June and July and so has a reasonable understanding of the scheme, the site and its surrounding. We will not re-visit any location unless there are good reasons. Notwithstanding the Applicant's comments at the Preliminary Meeting Part 1, the ExA considers that the ASI can be completed in one day rather than two.

To inform the Applicant's preparation of the proposed itinerary for the ASI, the ExA has set out a long list of priorities here:

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

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1. Site and immediate surrounds of the proposed Black Cat Grade Separated junction;
2. Black Cat Quarry;
3. Location of proposed high pressure pipeline diversion;
4. Interaction between the Proposed Development and East Coast Main Line Railway;
5. Top Farm buildings in Little Barford;
6. Potton Road junction near Eynesbury Plant Hire Company, and the proposed single overbridge nearby;
7. Proposed Cambridge Road Grade Separated Junction;
8. Yelling;
9. Toseland;
10. Proposed works, including two new roundabout junctions and a new overbridge at/ near Eltisley; and
11. Proposed Caxton Gibbet Grade Separated Junction.

We acknowledge that the list of sites proposed by East West Rail (EWR) Company, and sites near Eltisley proposed by the Church Commissioners of England have not been included in our list of priorities. It is recognised that the annotated maps requested by the ExA at Preliminary Meeting Part 1, were not provided by Procedural Deadline B from those parties so as to inform our priorities at this time. However, this does not mean that the Applicant should not consider them in its proposed itinerary. If it is not possible to include these sites and other in this instance, as further information about the proposed EWR scheme, and the access arrangements for the sites proposed by the Church Commissioners of England becomes available, we may consider visiting the proposed locations at a future date.

We would request the Applicant's proposed itinerary to include any of those sites listed above that are not publicly accessible. The ExA's final itinerary will be published at least one week before the ASI. We want to emphasise that there is scope within the Examination Timetable for a further ASI, where other sites could be visited, should the ExA consider this necessary.

7. Local Impact Reports

Following consideration of issues raised by various parties, both in writing and during Preliminary Meeting Part 1, the ExA has revised the Deadline for the submission of Local Impact Reports by relevant Local Authorities. Local Impact Reports are required to be submitted by **Deadline 2, Wednesday 8 September 2021**, as set out in the Examination Timetable in **Annex A**.

8. Cancellation of Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)

In light of the number of parties expressing an intention to attend both Open Floor Hearings on Thursday 19 August 2021, the ExA has cancelled OFH2. The ExA made this Procedural Decisions orally at Preliminary Meeting Part 2 on Wednesday 18

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August 2021, and it is subsequently being issued in writing in this Rule 8 letter. OFH1 remained unaffected and took place on Thursday 19 August 2021 at 10 am, as set out in the Rule 6 letter dated Friday 9 July 2021.

9. East West Rail Company Limited

The ExA received a representation from the East West Rail Company Limited (EWR) on 30 June 2021. This representation was received after the close of the Relevant Representation period, and as EWR do not meet any of the criteria set out in sections 102A and 102B of the Planning Act 2008, they do not have Interested Party status. Nevertheless, the Examining Authority considers EWR's contributions would be relevant to the Examination and has therefore determined that EWR's status in the Examination is that of 'other person'. While this is not defined in the Planning Act itself, there is provision in the Examination Rules and Procedures for the ExA to invite 'other persons' to participate in the Examination. Any representations made would be given weight subject to their merits and the robustness of the evidence.

10. Post Hearing Action List

The ExA has issued a Post Hearing Action List which has been published alongside this Rule 8 letter. Actions were issued at the Issue Specific Hearing 1 on Wednesday 18 August 2021. The action list is published on the [project page of the NI website](#). Due date for the responses are as indicated on the action list.

11. Additional Submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted by Procedural Deadlines A and B the ExA has exercised its discretion and made a Procedural Decision to accept Additional Submission from the following:

1. Shell UK Limited (in respect of Shell Fortune Service Station [[AS-001](#)] and [[AS-002](#)]);
2. Woolfson Trago [[AS-003](#)];
3. East West Railway Company [[AS-004](#)];
4. Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire and Bedford Borough Councils [[AS-005](#)];
5. East Cambridgeshire District Council [[AS-005](#)];
6. North Hertfordshire District Council [[AS-006](#)]; and
7. Ted Baxter [[AS-008](#)].

12. Availability of application documents and representations submitted to 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 on the on the [project page of the NI website](#). Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D** to this letter.

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 in **Annex D**.

13. 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 'BCCG', 'BCCG-2002', 'BCCG-AFP', 'BCCG-S57' 'BCCG-APL' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'BCCG-ISP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'BCCG-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.

14. Award of costs

We 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](#).

15. Management of information

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

We look forward to working with all parties in the Examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Menaka Sahai

Lead Member of the Panel

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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

ANNEX A: Examination Timetable

The 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

Please note:

1. The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions and oral representations made at Hearings.
2. The time for submission of requested documents is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.
3. All information received will be published on [project page of the NI website](#) as soon as practicable after the Deadlines for submissions.

The ExA has sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made at the Preliminary Meeting and in representations submitted in advance of that meeting. The ExA has balanced the requests of parties with the needs of the ExA to facilitate a timely and thorough Examination. A summary of those changes are:

- The separation of Deadlines for procedural submissions and written submissions, with the inclusion of Procedural Deadlines C to E;
- To include a new Deadline 2 for the submission of Local Impact Reports;
- To reflect the cancellation of Open Floor Hearing 2; and
- Deadlines 4 and 7 (previously Deadlines 3 and 6 in Rule 6 letter) have been extended.

Hearing agendas

We will aim to publish a draft agenda for each Hearing on the project page of the NI 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 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 and/ or Regulation 28 of the Offshore Marine Regulations.

¹ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1.	<p>Procedural Deadline A for receipt by the ExA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of attendance at Preliminary Meeting • Confirmation of attendance at the Issue Specific Hearing and Open Floor Hearings • Notification to make an oral representation at the Preliminary Meeting with brief summary of issues intended to raise • Notification to make an oral representation at the Issue Specific Hearing and Open Floor Hearings with brief summary of issues intended to raise • Nomination for sites for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) • Requests for Open Floor Hearing • Requests for Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Hearing 	<p>Tuesday 3 August 2021</p>
2.	<p>Preliminary Meeting Part 1</p>	<p>Tuesday 10 August 2021</p>
3.	<p>Procedural Deadline B</p>	<p>Monday 16 August 2021</p>
4.	<p>Preliminary Meeting Part 2</p>	<p>Wednesday 18 August 2021</p>
5.	<p>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1)</p>	<p>Wednesday 18 August 2021</p>
6.	<p>Morning Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)</p>	<p>Thursday 19 August 2021</p>
7.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable • ExA's First Written Questions (WQ1) (advance access to WQ1 issued on 21 July 2021) 	<p>As soon as practicable</p>
8.	<p>Procedural Deadline C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party by the ExA 	<p>Tuesday 31 August 2021</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of wish to participate in CA Hearing in September with brief summary of issues intended to raise • Notification of wish to participate in Issue Specific Hearings in September with brief summary of issues intended to raise • Notification of wish to attend ASI in September 	
9.	<p>Deadline 1 (D1) for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case as requested by ExA • Responses to Relevant Representations (RRs) • Written Representations (WRs), including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words • Responses to the ExA's WQ1 • Applicant's proposed itinerary for the ASI • Applicant's CA Schedule • Statements of Common Ground • Applicant's Statement of Commonality • Notification by the Applicant of intent to make any non-material or material changes <p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Guide to the Application • Updated draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • Updated Explanatory Memorandum • Updated Schedule of Changes to dDCO • Any other information requested by the ExA 	Tuesday 31 August 2021
10.	<p>Deadline 2 (D2) for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Impact Reports (LIR) from relevant Local Authorities • Any other information requested by the ExA 	Wednesday 8 September 2021
11.	Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI1)	Tuesday 21 September 2021
12.	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)	Wednesday 22 September 2021
13.	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH2)	Thursday 23 September 2021
14.	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3)	Friday 24 September 2021

15.	Date reserved for Hearings (if required)²	Tuesday 28 September 2021
16.	Deadline 3 (D3) for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case as requested by ExA • Comments on responses to RRs • Comments on WRs • Comments on responses to the ExA's WQ1 • Comments on the LIRs • Comments on Applicant's CA Schedule • Comments on Statements of Common Ground and Statement of Commonality • Comments on Applicant's updated dDCO, Explanatory Memorandum and Schedule of changes to dDCO • Comments on any other information and submissions received by D1 and D2 • Requests for further CA Hearing and Open Floor Hearing • Nomination for additional sites for ASI • Any other information requested by the ExA 	Tuesday 5 October 2021
17.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Written Questions (WQ2) (if required) 	Friday 15 October 2021
18.	Deadline 4 (D4) for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the ExA's WQ2 (if WQ2 is issued) • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D3 <p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Statements of Common Ground • Applicant's updated Statement of Commonality • Applicant's updated dDCO • Applicant's updated Explanatory Memorandum • Applicant's updated schedule of changes to dDCO • Applicant's updated CA Schedule • Any other information requested by the ExA 	Thursday 4 November 2021

² This date is reserved for Hearings for use only if there are unforeseen technical or other problems at the Hearings scheduled 22-24 September, and they are unable to proceed as planned.

19.	<p>Procedural Deadline D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of wish to participate in Open Floor Hearing w/c 29 November with brief summary of issues intended to raise (only if Hearing notification is issued) • Notification of wish to participate in CA Hearing w/c 29 November with brief summary of issues intended to raise (only if Hearing notification is issued) • Notification of wish to participate in Issue Specific Hearings w/c 29 November with brief summary of issues intended to raise (only if Hearing notification is issued) • Notification of wish to attend ASI w/c 29 November (only if ASI notification is issued) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 16 November 2021</p>
20.	<p>Deadline 5 (D5) for receipt by the ExA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to the ExA's WQ2 (if WQ2 is issued) • Comments on updated Statements of Common Ground and Statement of Commonality • Comments on Applicant's updated dDCO, Explanatory Memorandum and Schedule of changes to the dDCO • Comments on Applicant's updated CA Schedule • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D4 • Any other information requested by the ExA 	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 16 November 2021</p>
21.	<p>Dates reserved for (if any are required)³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASI • Open Floor Hearing • CA Hearing • Issue Specific Hearings 	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 29 November 2021 to Friday 3 December 2021</p>
22.	<p>Date reserved for Hearings (if required)⁴</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 7 December 2021</p>

³ If the ExA decides to hold these Hearings and the ASI, the notification will be issued well in advance.

⁴ This date is reserved for Hearings for use only if there are unforeseen technical or other problems at the Hearings scheduled 29 November – 3 December 2021, and they are unable to proceed as planned.

23.	<p>Deadline 6 (D6) for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case as requested by ExA (relevant only if the Hearings are held) • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D5 <p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Statements of Common Ground • Applicant's updated Statement of Commonality • Applicant's updated dDCO • Applicant's updated Explanatory Memorandum • Applicant's updated schedule of changes to dDCO • Applicant's updated CA Schedule • Any other information requested by the ExA 	<p>Tuesday 14 December 2021</p>
24.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required) 	<p>Friday 17 December 2021</p>
25.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Written Questions (WQ3) (if required) 	<p>Wednesday 22 December 2021</p>
26.	<p>Deadline 7 (D7) for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the ExA's WQ3 (if WQ3 is issued) • Comments on the RIES (if RIES is published) • Comments on updated Statements of Common Ground and Statement of Commonality • Comments on Applicant's updated dDCO, Explanatory Memorandum and Schedule of changes to the dDCO • Comments on Applicant's updated CA Schedule • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D6 • Any other information requested by the ExA 	<p>Friday 14 January 2022</p>
27.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO 	<p>Friday 14 January 2022</p>
28.	<p>Procedural Deadline E</p>	<p>Tuesday</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of wish to participate in CA Hearing on Tuesday 8 February with brief summary of issues intended to raise (only if Hearing notification is issued) • Notification of wish to participate in Issue Specific Hearings on Tuesday 8 February with brief summary of issues intended to raise (only if Hearing notification is issued) 	25 January 2022
29.	<p>Deadline 8 (D8) for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to ExA's WQ3 (if WQ3 is issued) • Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D7 • Any other information requested by the ExA 	Tuesday 25 January 2022
30.	<p>Date reserved for (if any are required)⁵:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Specific Hearings • CA Hearing 	Tuesday 8 February 2022
31.	<p>Deadline 9 (D9) for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case as requested by ExA (relevant only if the Hearings are held) • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D8 <p>Final Updates from the Applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Statements of Common Ground • Final Statement of Commonality • Final Guide to the Application • Final dDCO in the Statutory Instrument (SI) template with the SI template validation report • Final Explanatory Memorandum • Final Schedule of changes to dDCO • Final CA Schedule • Final updated Book of Reference • Any other information requested by the ExA 	Tuesday 15 February 2022

⁵ If the ExA decides to hold these Hearings, the notification will be issued well in advance.

32.	Close of Examination by the ExA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 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	Friday 18 February 2022
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ANNEX B: Notification of Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection

The ExA provides notice of the following Hearings and ASI:

Date	Hearing	Time	Joining
Tuesday 21 September 2021	Accompanied Site Inspection 1 (ASI1)	Meeting time: 8:00 am Start time: 8:15 am	Stuart Memorial Hall, Church Street, Tempsford, Sandy SG19 2AW
Wednesday 22 September 2021	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1) Matters relating to the powers sought for CA and Temporary Possession (TP) 1. The case for CA and TP 2. Site specific matters 3. Statutory Undertakers' Land 4. Crown Land 5. Funding 6. dDCO provisions	Arrangements Conference: 12:30 pm Hearing: 1:00 pm	These hearings will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams. A joining link/ telephone number will be provided to pre-registered participants in advance
Thursday 23 September 2021	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH2) Highway matters including the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) 1. Need for the Proposed Development 2. Traffic effects on the nearby highway network 3. Highway layouts and structures 4. Effects on Non-Motorised Users 5. Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan 6. Noise and Air Quality 7. dDCO	Arrangements Conference: 9:30 am Hearing: 10:00 am	

Date	Hearing	Time	Joining
Friday 24 September 2021	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3) Social, Economic and Environmental matters including the dDCO 1. Assessment of alternatives 2. Heritage matters, including listed building and archaeology 3. Landscape effects 4. Biodiversity including HRA matters 5. Landuse, including loss of Best and Most Versatile land 6. Flood risk 7. Wider construction effects, including borrow pits 8. Sustainability effects, in particular economic effects 9. dDCO	Arrangements Conference: 9:30 am Hearing: 10:00 am	

Reserved Hearing dates

The ExA intends to cover all necessary matters as set out above. However, notification is also made of further Hearings on the following date, in the event that the ExA considers they are required, for example if a Hearing is disrupted by technical issues. Reserved hearings that are not required may be cancelled in the banner on the [project page of the NI website](#) and no other notice is required.

Date	Hearing	Time	Joining
Tuesday 28 September 2021	Issue Specific Hearing or Open Floor Hearing	Arrangements Conference: 9:30 am Hearing: 10:00 am	These hearings will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams. A joining link/ telephone number will be provided to pre-registered participants in advance

Attendance at ASI 1

If you wish to attend the ASI 1, it is important that you register at the latest by **Procedural Deadline C, Tuesday 31 August 2021**. Please see the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

The Panel would like to remind all attendees that the purpose of the ASI is to view the site and surroundings as referred to in the written submissions. No oral or written representations regarding the merits of the Proposed Development should be made at the ASI.

Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it; householders, occupiers and landowners may refuse to allow some persons accompanying the ExA onto their land. Under those circumstances, the ExA will decide whether or not to proceed with that part of the ASI.

During the ASI, the ExA, the Case Team and all attendees will be expected to follow current and relevant COVID-19 guidelines imposed by the Government and the Planning Inspectorate. If the number of attendees wishing to attend the ASI are greater than what is allowed at that time, the ExA may make a decision to split the nominated sites over more than a single session.

Attendance at Hearings

Participation in a virtual Hearing relies on the Planning Inspectorate providing you with a joining link or telephone number in advance. If you wish to attend any of these Hearings, you must register by **Procedural Deadline C, Tuesday 31 August 2021**. Please see the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

Please read the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual examination events](#) for important information about the virtual hearing procedure.

Hearing Agendas

High-level agendas for these Hearings have been published alongside this notification on the National Infrastructure Planning website to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate.

For Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings the ExA will publish a detailed draft agenda on the project page of the NI website at least five working days in advance of the Hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For Open Floor Hearings an agenda may not be published.

Public livestream

A public livestream of these hearings will be made available on the project webpage shortly before the hearings are due to open. The livestreams are available to anybody who wishes to observe the hearings.

ANNEX C: ExA's Procedural Decisions Tracker

The ExA has made a number of Procedural Decisions under Section 89(3) of the Planning Act 2008, which are recorded in the Procedural Decisions Tracker. Decisions are numbered in order of the date on which they were made.

√	Procedural Decision remains applicable
x	Procedural Decision has been cancelled or superseded

Procedural Decision		Date Issued	Status	Notes
1.	Request for comments on Relevant Representations by 31 August 2021	02/07/2021	√	Rule 9/17 Letter
2.	Request for Statements of Common Ground between the Applicant and specified parties by 31 August 2021	02/07/2021	√	Rule 9/17 Letter
3.	Request for LIRs from Host Authorities by 31 August 2021	02/07/2021	x	Superseded by PD 21 in Rule 8 letter
4.	Request for specified 1:2500 scale plans with OS details	02/07/2021	√	Rule 9/17 Letter
5.	Request for Low-resolution versions of maps, plans and drawings	02/07/2021	√	Rule 9/17 Letter
6.	Invitation to Preliminary Meeting Part 1 and 2	09/07/2021	√	Rule 6 Letter
7.	Notification of Hearings on 18-19 August 2021	09/07/2021	x	Superseded by PD 17 in Rule 8 letter
8.	Nominations of sites for ASI by Procedural Deadline A, 3 August 2021	09/07/2021	√	Rule 6 Letter
9.	Request for Applicant's proposed itinerary for the ASI by Deadline 1 – 31 August 2021	09/07/2021	√	Rule 6 Letter
10.	Requests for a CA Hearing by Procedural Deadline A, 3 August 2021	09/07/2021	√	Rule 6 Letter
11.	Request for a further Open Floor Hearing (beyond those arranged for 19 August 2021), by Deadline 1, 31 August 2021	09/07/2021	√	Rule 6 Letter
12.	Request to submit Written Representations in line with Rule 10 by Deadline 1, 31 August 2021	09/07/2021	√	Rule 6 Letter
13.	Request for updates to the dDCO and CA schedule by the Applicant to	09/07/2021	√	Rule 6 Letter

Procedural Decision		Date Issued	Status	Notes
	be provided at specified times and in a certain format			
14.	Responses to the ExA's WQ1 to be submitted after the Examination starts and by Deadline 1, 31 August 2021	09/07/2021	√	Rule 6 Letter
	Issue of Advance Copy of WQ1	21/07/2021	√	WQ1 Advance copy
	Formal issue of WQ1	20/08/2021	√	WQ1 formal issue
15.	Request for the submission of annotated plans to illustrate requested locations for ASI by Procedural Deadline B	10/08/2021	√	Preliminary Meeting Part 1
16.	Notification of the Examination status of EWR Company Limited as an 'other person'	10/08/2021	√	Preliminary Meeting Part 1
17.	Change to Hearings schedule - cancellation of OFH2 in the evening of Thursday 19 August 2021	18/08/2021	√	Preliminary Meeting Part 2, and Rule 8 Letter
18.	Notification of Hearings and ASI from 21-24 September 2021	18/08/2021	√	Preliminary Meeting Part 2, and Rule 8 Letter
19.	Publication of the Examination Timetable	20/08/2021	√	Rule 8 Letter
20.	Notification of the ExA's preference for a one-day ASI and long list of priorities from the nominated sites	20/08/2021	√	Rule 8 Letter
21.	Request for LIRs from Host Authorities by Deadline 2, 8 September 2021	20/08/2021	√	Rule 8 Letter
22.	Post Hearing Action List for parties to respond by Deadlines as indicated	20/08/2021	√	Rule 8 Letter
23.	Additional submissions accepted by the ExA into the Examination	20/08/2021	√	Rule 8 Letter

ANNEX D: Availability of application documents and representations submitted to the Examination

The Application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [project page of the NI 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. **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 will need to bring a form of identification and register as a library member 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/address	Opening hours
Milton Keynes Council	Milton Keynes Central Library 555 Silbury Boulevard Central Milton Keynes MK9 3HL	Monday: 09:00-17:30 Tuesday: 09:00-17:30 Wednesday: 09:00-17:30 Thursday: 09:00-17:30 Friday: 09:00-17:30 Saturday: 09:00-17:30 Sunday: Closed Limited number of computers available for

Annex D

		public use at Central Library on a first come, first served basis
Bedford Borough Council	Bromham Library Springfield Drive Bromham MK43 8NT	Monday: 10:00-12:00 Tuesday: 14:00-17:00 Wednesday: 10:00-12:00 Thursday: 14:00-17:00 Friday: 10:00-12:00 Saturday: 10:00-13:00 Sunday: Closed
	Kempston Library Halsey Road Kempston MK42 8AU	Monday: 14:00-17:00 Tuesday: 10:00-17:00 Wednesday: 14:00-18:00 Thursday: 10:00-17:00 Friday: 14:00-17:00 Saturday: 09:30-16:00 Sunday: Closed
Central Bedfordshire Council	Sandy Library Market Square Sandy SG19 1EH	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 09:00-18:00 Wednesday: 09:00-18:00 Thursday: 09:00-18:00 Friday: 09:00-18:00 Saturday: 10:00-16:00 Sunday: Closed
Cambridgeshire County Council	St Neots Library Priory Lane St Neots PE19 2BH	Monday: 09:30-17:00 Tuesday: 09:30-17:00 Wednesday: 01:30-19:00 Thursday: 09:30-17:00 Friday: 13:00-17:00 Saturday: 09:30-16:00 Sunday: Closed
	Papworth Library Lower Pendrill Court Ermine Street North Papworth Everard CB23 3UY	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 10:00-14:00 Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 13:00-17:00 Friday: Closed Saturday: Closed Sunday: Closed
	Cambridgeshire Central Library 7 Lion Yard Cambridge CB2 3QD	Monday: 09:30-18:00 Tuesday: 12:00-18:00 Wednesday: 09:30-19:00 Thursday: 12:00-18:00 Friday: 09:30-18:00 Saturday: 10:00-18:00 Sunday: 12:00-16:00

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	Cambourne Library Sackville House Sackville Way Cambourne CB23 6HL	Monday: 13:00-17:00 Tuesday: 09:00-13:00 Wednesday: Closed Thursday: Closed Friday: 09:00-17:00 Saturday: 09:00-13:00 Sunday: Closed
	Huntingdon Library Princes Street Huntingdon PE29 3PA	Monday: 09:30-17:00 Tuesday: 09:30-17:00 Wednesday: 09:30-19:00 Thursday: 09:30-13:30 Friday: 13:00-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-16:00 Sunday: Closed
Printing costs	Black and white	Colour
Milton Keynes Central Library		
A4	Single-sided: 20p	Single-sided: 75p
A3	n/a	n/a
Bromham and Kempston Library (No fees for limited amount of printing due to Covid) Pre-Covid charges as below:		
A4	Single-sided: 15p	Single-sided: 70p
A3	Single sided: 30p	Single-sided: £2.00
Sandy Library (No fees for limited amount of printing due to Covid) Pre-Covid charges as below:		
A4	Single-sided: 15p	Single-sided: £1.00
A3	Single sided: 30p	Single-sided: £1.50
Cambridgeshire Libraries – Central, St Neots, Papworth, Cambourne and Huntingdon		
A4	Single-sided: 20p	Single-sided: 75p
A3	Single-sided: 40p	Single-sided: £1.25

ANNEX E: Guidance on using the Submissions Portal

The Planning Inspectorate is using a submissions portal, which parties will be able to use to make written representation submissions at the relevant deadlines. There will be a **"Make a submission"** tab on the [project page on the NI website](#) which can be accessed ahead of each Deadline.

The portal operates on a system where submissions are separated in accordance with the Deadline submissions item requested. Please ensure documents are submitted to the correct Deadline and select the relevant document type. Where this is not possible, please use "other" from the drop down menu options.

Interested Parties will be able to make a representation by submitting a document and uploading a file, or making a text representation, or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB. **Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable.** All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

Interested Parties will be able to send, if necessary, electronic copies of their submission as email attachments to the A428.Blackcat@planninginspectorate.gov.uk project mailbox on or before the applicable Deadline, however we would encourage you in the first instance to use the submission portal.

If you experience any issues when using this portal, please contact a member of the Case Team to assist. The Inspectorate will be monitoring the use of the new submission portal and your feedback will help the Inspectorate identify and prioritise future service enhancements for our customers.