



National Infrastructure Planning
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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons invited to the
Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010056

Date: 16 November 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 8 and 9

Application by National Highways (formerly Highways England) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A417 Missing Link

Procedural Decision to close the Preliminary Meeting in writing, Examination Timetable, and Procedure

This letter provides you with the Examination Timetable, details of the publication of the Examining Authority's Written Questions, and other important information about the examination of the above application.

All documentation associated with this Examination, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the video recording taken during that meeting, can be viewed under the ['Documents' tab](#) on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Procedural Decision on the Preliminary Meeting

We have considered the comments and representations made at Procedural Deadline B and have decided that there are no further procedural matters relating to how the Examining Authority should conduct the Examination which need to be explored orally. In addition, no requests to attend Part 2 of the Preliminary Meeting were received at Procedural Deadline B. As a result, in accordance with paragraph 7.5 of the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.6](#) (Virtual examination events), we do not consider there is a need to reconvene the Preliminary Meeting and have made a Procedural Decision to formally close the meeting in writing today.

This means that a virtual meeting (Preliminary Meeting Part 2) will no longer be held at 10:00am on Tuesday 16 November 2021. The Examination will start on Tuesday 16

November 2021. Please refer to **Annex B** to this letter for further information about this decision.

Format of Examination Events

The Planning Inspectorate is currently consulting with stakeholders and customers about the future format of Examination hearings. It is expected that both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of its future operating model. Please see the Planning Inspectorate's [guidance related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) for more information, including the detailed guidance relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP). This guidance is updated periodically to align with the most up to date Government guidance relating to COVID-19.

We therefore remain flexible and will confirm the format of each of the hearings detailed in the Examination Timetable when we provide formal notification of the hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. Information about how to attend any in-person events would be confirmed in the formal notification. If it becomes clear that it would not be safe to hold a planned event that includes in-person participation, then we will notify Interested Parties that it will be held by wholly virtual means instead.

The Examination Timetable

We have made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A** to this letter.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our [Rule 6 letter](#). In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have sought where possible to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the Preliminary Meeting. A list of the main changes we have made to the draft Examination Timetable is set out at **Annex B** to this letter.

The Examination Timetable contains a number of Deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All Deadlines are at 23:59 on the date stated, unless otherwise specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the Deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, we may disregard them.

We request that all Interested Parties make their submissions using the '[Make a submission](#)' tab on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website on or before the applicable Deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about the 'Make a submission' tab.

If we consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will be sent to Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and Other Persons¹ invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

¹ Other Persons are persons that we chose to invite to the Preliminary Meeting, in addition to the prescribed persons listed in section 88(3) of the Planning Act 2008 – see 'Your status in the Examination and future notifications' below

Other Procedural Decisions

Annex B to this letter contains important details and clarifications about other Procedural Decisions we made at, or following, the Preliminary Meeting. These include:

1. Close of the Preliminary Meeting in writing.
2. Examination Timetable.
3. Examining Authority's Written Questions.
4. Accompanied Site Inspection.
5. Changes to land interests.
6. Acceptance of Additional Submissions into the Examination.
7. Decision to grant Interested Party status.

Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 14 December 2021)** in the Examination Timetable (**Annex A** to this letter).

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter. They are not restricted to the matters set out in our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues included in our [Rule 6 letter](#), nor are they restricted to the content of our Written Questions (see next heading, below).

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 to avoid delays in the Examination².

Further written submissions will be requested by the Examining Authority at various points in the Examination.

Any Written Representations, and any further written submissions requested by the Examining Authority 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.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. Please see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) for further information about Written Representations.

Examining Authority's Written Questions

We have prepared our first set of Written Questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions are published on the project

² Para 74 of Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent

webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed at the following link:

[Examining Authority's First Written Questions \(ExQ1\)](#)

Answers to ExQ1 must be provided by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 14 December 2021)** in the Examination Timetable (**Annex A** to this letter). If a question is addressed to you, a full and comprehensive written response is requested. Other parties may also provide a response or information on the topic.

If you require a Microsoft Word copy of ExQ1, please contact the Case Team using the email address at the top of this letter. Please note there may be a delay in posting these due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

Hearings and Site Inspections

As explained in our [Rule 6 letter](#) and at the Preliminary Meeting, the Examination will principally be a written process (see [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings (see [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#)).

On this basis the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and we will notify all Interested Parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the Examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That notification will include a Deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to attend the notified hearing(s).

Notifications of a wish to participate in an Open Floor Hearing or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing must be received by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 14 December 2021)**.

Annex C to this letter provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings.

We will also undertake site inspections. If we are able to view the site from public land, we are likely to do this unaccompanied and a note of the site inspection will be published on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#). The Examination Timetable also reserves time for us to undertake an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) during the **w/c 28 February 2022** if we feel it is necessary, and subject to any COVID-19 restrictions. Information about a potential ASI is contained in **Annex B** to this letter.

Managing Examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

There is a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'Email updates'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic email updates at key stages during the Examination.

Your status in the Examination

This letter is addressed to you because you fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's document [What is My Status in the Examination?](#)

If your unique reference number, found at the top of correspondence (letter or email) sent to you by the Planning Inspectorate, begins with '2002', 'A417-AP', 'A417-S57', 'A417-APL', 'A417-102A' or 'A417-ISP' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'A417-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'A417-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.

Award of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#).

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this Examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D** to this letter.

Please note that in the interests 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

Ken Stone

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

- A** Examination Timetable
- B** Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Arrangements for hearings
- D** Availability of Examination Documents
- E** Guidance on using the electronic 'Make a submission' tab

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

Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (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.

The examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

| Item | Matters | Date |
|------|---|--|
| 1. | <p>Deadline 1 (D1)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ1; • Local Impact Reports (LIR) from Local Authorities; • Written Representations (WRs), including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words; • Responses to Relevant Representations; • Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA; • Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • The Compulsory Acquisition Schedule; • Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP) by the ExA; • Notification of wish for any Interested Party to participate in an Open Floor Hearing; • Notification of wish for any Affected Person¹ to participate in a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing; • Submission by the Applicant, IPs and APs of suggested locations for the ExA to include in any Site Inspection, including the reason for nomination and issues to be observed, information about whether the location can be accessed using public rights of way or what access arrangements would need to be made; and | <p>Tuesday 14 December 2021</p> |

¹ Defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules². | |
| 2. | <p>Deadline 2 (D2)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on responses received by D1; Comments on WRs; Comments on responses to ExQ1; Progressed Statements of Common Ground; Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; Comments on LIR(s); Applicant's updated Guide to the Application; An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; Schedule of changes to the dDCO; An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; Submission by the Applicant of low-resolution documents; and Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | Thursday 13 January 2022 |
| 3. | <p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Specific Hearing(s) (if required); Open Floor Hearing(s) (if required); and Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (if required). | w/c 24 January 2022 |
| 4. | <p>Deadline 3 (D3)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written summaries of oral submissions to Hearings held during the week commencing 24 January 2022; Comments on responses received by D2; | Wednesday 2 February 2022 |

² The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Notification of wish for any Interested Party to attend an ASI in February (if held); and • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | |
| 5. | <p>Deadline 4 (D4)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses received by D3; • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; and • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | Monday 14 February 2022 |
| 6. | <p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Specific Hearing(s) (if required); • Open Floor Hearing(s) (if required); • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (if required); and • Accompanied Site Inspection (if required). | w/c 28 February 2022 |

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| <p>7.</p> | <p>Deadline 5 (D5)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written summaries of oral submissions to Hearings held during the week commencing 28 February 2022; • Comments on responses received by D4; • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; and • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | <p>Wednesday 9 March 2022</p> |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required). | <p>Thursday 17 March 2022</p> |
| <p>9.</p> | <p>Deadline 6 (D6)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ2 (if required); • Comments on responses received by D5; • Progressed Statements of Common Ground; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; and | <p>Wednesday 30 March 2022</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | |
| 10. | <p>Deadline 7 (D7)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on responses to ExQ2 (if required); Comments on responses received by D6; and Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | Monday 11 April 2022 |
| 11. | <p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required); and The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required). | Wednesday 13 April 2022 |
| 12. | <p>Deadline 8 (D8)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to the RIES (if issued); Responses to the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if issued); Comments on responses received by D7; Progressed Statements of Common Ground; Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; An updated Guide to the Application; An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; Schedule of changes to the dDCO; An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; and Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | Wednesday 4 May 2022 |
| 13. | <p>Deadline 9 (D9)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> | Friday 13 May 2022 |

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|------------|--|---------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to the RIES (if issued); • Comments on responses to the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if issued); • Comments on responses received by D8; • Finalised Statements of Common Ground; • Finalised Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Finalised Guide to the Application; • Final version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean and tracked versions; • Final dDCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report; • Finalised Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • Finalised Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; and • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | |
| 14. | <p>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.</p> <p>The ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.</p> | Monday 16 May 2022 |

Submission times for Deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any Deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) as soon as practicable after each Deadline for submissions.

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 DCO 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 Regulations³ and/ or Regulation 28 of the Offshore Marine Regulations.

³ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

We have made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting⁴:

1. Close of the Preliminary Meeting in writing

We have considered the comments and representations made at Procedural Deadline B and have decided that there are no further procedural matters relating to how the Examining Authority should conduct the Examination which need to be explored orally. In addition, no requests to attend Part 2 of the Preliminary Meeting were received at Procedural Deadline B. As a result, in accordance with paragraph 7.5 of the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.6](#) (Virtual examination events), we do not consider there is a need to reconvene the Preliminary Meeting and have made a Procedural Decision to formally close the meeting in writing today.

This means that a virtual meeting (Preliminary Meeting Part 2) will no longer be held at 10:00am on Tuesday 16 November 2021. The Examination will start on Tuesday 16 November 2021.

A [note of the Preliminary Meeting](#) has been published alongside this Rule 8 letter. This is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting, but is a summary of the key points discussed. An automated transcript has also been published, however the content is produced using artificial intelligence voice-to-text and is unedited. The [video recording](#) therefore remains as the primary record of the event.

2. Examination Timetable

In response to requests received in writing at Procedural Deadline A from the Applicant and the Joint Councils (Gloucestershire County Council, Cotswold District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council), we have moved Deadlines 2 to 4 on by one week such that:

- **Deadline 2** is moved to **Thursday 13 January 2022**;
- **the first round of hearings** is moved to **w/c 24 January 2022** (if required);
- **Deadline 3** is moved to **Wednesday 2 February 2022**; and
- **Deadline 4** is moved to **Monday 14 February 2022**.

We consider that the amended dates provide additional time for the receipt of materials at Deadline 2 whilst allowing sufficient time to consider submissions and prepare materials for subsequent Deadlines and any hearings.

We have also introduced a requirement for the notification of a wish for any Interested Party to attend an ASI in February (if held) by **Deadline 3 (Wednesday 2 February 2022)**.

⁴ Section 89(1) of the Planning Act 2008

3. Examining Authority's Written Questions

Our [first set of Written Questions \(ExQ1\)](#) has been published alongside this Rule 8 letter. Whilst most of our Written Questions are directed at specific parties, no other party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question we ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

All relevant Statutory Parties will receive this correspondence and we request for each to check our Written Questions carefully in order that they may identify and respond to any questions posed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, Statutory Parties are defined as the parties listed in Schedule 1 to [The Infrastructure Planning \(Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions\) Regulations 2015](#).

Statutory Parties that have not already registered to become an Interested Party should consider notifying the ExA of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party⁵. Statutory Parties must have decided whether they wish to be considered as an Interested Party and notified the Planning Inspectorate of their decision by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 14 December 2021)**.

Responses to ExQ1 are due by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 14 December 2021)**.

4. Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI during the **w/c 28 February 2022**; however, an ASI will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access. If access to private land is required, we may alternatively seek to undertake an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) with landowner consent rather than conduct an ASI.

Interested Parties are asked to submit suggested locations for any site inspection by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 14 December 2021)**. This should include the reason for nominating the site(s), issues to be observed, and information about whether the location can be accessed using public rights of way or what access arrangements would need to be made.

We will consider all submissions, and if we decide to hold an ASI, we will notify Interested Parties as soon as practicable. Interested Parties wishing to attend a confirmed ASI will be required to register by **Deadline 3 (Wednesday 2 February 2022)**, and we will aim to publish the final itinerary and arrangements on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) as soon as practicable. An ASI would be subject to any Government restrictions relating to COVID-19 in force at the time.

Interested Parties should be aware that **ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed Development**. Please make all representations in hearings or in writing at the appropriate Deadline.

⁵ Section 89(2A)(b) of the Planning Act 2008

5. Changes to land interests

When the Applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership or a new interest in relevant land, the Applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the Planning Act 2008 by completing the [form available on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

6. Acceptance of Additional Submissions into the Examination

Since issuing our [Rule 6 letter](#), we have exercised our discretion to accept the following Additional Submissions from the Applicant in response to the section 51 advice [[PD-003](#)] and section 55 checklist [[PD-001](#)] issued on 29 June 2021:

- Cover Letter [[AS-034](#)].
- 1.1b Application Document Tracker (Rev 1) [[AS-035](#)].
- 2.2 Land Plans (Rev 1) [[AS-036](#)].
- 2.3 Special Category Land Plans (Rev 1) [[AS-037](#)].
- 2.4 Works Plans (Rev 1) [[AS-038](#)].
- 2.5 Rights of Way and Access Plans (Rev 1) [[AS-039](#)].
- 2.6a General Arrangement Plans (Rev 1) [[AS-040](#)].
- 2.7a Traffic Regulation Measures Speed Limits (Rev 1) [[AS-041](#)].
- 2.7b Traffic Regulations Measures Clearways and Prohibitions (Rev 1) [[AS-042](#)].
- 2.7c Traffic Regulation Measures Classification of Roads (Rev 1) [[AS-043](#)].
- 2.8 Traffic Regulation Measures De-trunking Plans (Rev 1) [[AS-044](#)].
- 2.9 Environmental Features - Statutory and Non-Statutory Designated Sites of Nature Conservation (Rev 1) [[AS-045](#)].
- 2.10 Habitats of Protected Species, Important Habitats or Other Diversity Features and Water Bodies in a River Basin Management Plan (Rev 1) [[AS-046](#)].
- 2.11 Confidential - Habitats of Protected Species - Location of Badger Setts Plans (Rev 1) [[AS-047](#)].
- 2.12 Heritage Designation Plans (Rev 1) [[AS-048](#)].
- 2.13 Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plans Part 1 of 2 (Rev 1) [[AS-049](#)].
- 2.13 Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plans Part 2 of 2 (Rev 1) [[AS-050](#)].
- 6.7 Environmental Statement - Updates and Errata [[AS-051](#)].
- 8.1 Responding to the revised National Planning Policy Framework [[AS-052](#)].

We have also exercised our discretion to accept a number of Additional Submissions from the following parties:

- Charlotte Hill [[AS-023](#)].
- Chris Porteous [[AS-028](#)].
- Dawn Collings [[AS-006](#)].
- Dr Stephen Hill [[AS-010](#)] and [[AS-053](#)].
- Dr William Rimington [[AS-054](#)].
- Eileen McKay [[AS-014](#)].
- Energy Assets Networks Limited [[AS-033](#)].
- Energy Assets Pipelines Limited [[AS-032](#)].
- Energy Assets Power Networks Limited [[AS-031](#)].
- Greg Parsons [[AS-007](#)].
- Irene McTaggart [[AS-012](#)].
- Joe Neary and Felicity Matthews [[AS-008](#)].
- John Welham [[AS-009](#)].
- Julie Parsons [[AS-004](#)].
- Lily Hill [[AS-022](#)].
- Malcolm Crossley [[AS-026](#)].
- Mary James [[AS-027](#)].
- Melanie Hill [[AS-024](#)].
- Melissa Wright [[AS-030](#)].
- Mr P James [[AS-029](#)].
- Mrs E A Workman [[AS-005](#)].
- Mrs Lilian M Collings [[AS-018](#)].
- Neil McTaggart [[AS-011](#)].
- Nicky Wills [[AS-025](#)].
- Paula Drummond [[AS-017](#)].
- Peter Ritchie [[AS-015](#)].
- Rebecca Kennedy [[AS-003](#)].
- Rebecca Scanlon-Brown [[AS-013](#)].
- Sally Ritchie [[AS-016](#)].
- Shaun Wills [[AS-021](#)].
- Tim and Fiona Wheeler [[AS-019](#)].
- Tracey Thomas [[AS-020](#)].

These parties have not been afforded Interested Party status in the Examination, as their representations were received after the close of the Relevant Representation period (please see [Advice Note 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination](#) for further information about the Relevant Representation period).

7. Decision to grant Interested Party status

We received a request on 13 October 2021 from Lisa Field to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the Planning Act 2008. We have made the decision that it is appropriate to grant Interested Party status in this instance, having considered the information provided with the request.

A copy of the letter confirming the details of the decision is available on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website [[PD-006](#)].

The Applicant should address any matters that may arise in relation to the confirmation of the new Interested Party at **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 14 December 2021)**, and provide a final update by **Deadline 9 (Friday 13 May 2022)**.

Arrangements for hearings

Our Examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions, however the Examination Timetable reserves periods of time for hearings to be held (if required).

Requests to appear at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) on or before **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 14 December 2021)**.

Any request to participate in a hearing **must include** the following information:

- Name and Unique Interested Party reference number.
- Email address (if available) and contact telephone number.
- Name and Unique Interested Party reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing.
- The hearing(s) you wish to participate in and brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise.
- For Compulsory Acquisition Hearings: the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the [Book of Reference](#) and the [Land Plans](#).
- The Examination Library reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

It is important that notifications from Interested Parties to appear at hearings are submitted separately from any other written submission. Please select the appropriate Deadline and Submission Item under the ['Make a submission' tab](#) and ensure the submission is titled appropriately to allow us to quickly identify which event the notification relates to. **Annex E** provides further information about the 'Make a submission' tab. Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support to attend a hearing.

If no written requests to take part in an OFH or CAH are received by the above Deadline, we are not required to hold such a hearing, although we may choose to do so nonetheless.

We may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that we think need to be explored orally. The decision to hold an ISH about a particular topic is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

Hearing agendas

We aim to publish a high-level agenda for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) at the time the hearings are notified to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate.

For Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings we will publish a detailed draft agenda 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.

Procedure at hearings

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010⁶. Any oral representations must be based on either the Relevant Representation or Written Representation made by the person by whom, or on whose behalf, the oral representations are made.

The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties⁷.

Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real-time.

All hearings are recorded and the recordings will be made available on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed.

⁶ Rule 14

⁷ Rule 14(5)

Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning 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 and submission 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. A hyperlink to each document on the project webpage is also provided. **Please quote the unique reference number from 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. At Tewkesbury Library, free computer access is available to library members on production of their library card, however it may also be possible for others to use a computer on a "guest" card. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification with you to view documents at the electronic deposit 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 | Printing costs |
|---------------------------|---|--|----------------------|
| Cotswold District Council | Cotswold District Council Offices Trinity Road | Monday: 8:45am – 5pm Tuesday: 8:45am – 5pm Wednesday: 8:45am – 5pm | A4 10p* per sheet |

Annex D

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | Cirencester GL7 1PX | Thursday: 8:45am – 5pm Friday: 8:45am – 5pm Saturday: Closed Sunday: Closed | A3 30p* per sheet *Cash payments not accepted |
| Gloucestershire County Council | Shire Hall Westgate Street Gloucester GL1 2TG | Monday: 9am – 5pm Tuesday: 9am – 5pm Wednesday: 9am – 5pm Thursday: 9am – 5pm Friday: 9am – 5pm Saturday: Closed Sunday: Closed | A4 B&W 15p per sheet A4 colour 30p per sheet A3 B&W 80p per sheet A3 colour £1 per sheet |
| Gloucestershire County Council | Tewkesbury Library Sun Street Tewkesbury GL20 5NX | Monday: 9:30am – 5pm Tuesday: 9:30am – 7pm Wednesday: 9:30am – 1pm Thursday: 9:30am – 7pm Friday: 9:30am – 5pm Saturday: 9:30am – 4pm Sunday: Closed | A4 B&W 15p per sheet A4 colour 30p per sheet A3 B&W 80p per sheet A3 colour £1 per sheet |

Guidance on using the electronic 'Make a submission' tab

The ['Make a submission' tab](#) is available on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website, which parties are able to use to make their written submissions at the relevant Deadline.

You will need to enter your Unique Interested Party Reference Number found at the top of correspondence (email or letter) sent to you by the Planning Inspectorate. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation and do not have your own Unique Reference number, then you should enter the Interested Party Reference Number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered Interested Party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

Interested Parties will be able to submit documents ('Upload files'), make 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. Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third-party website, eg technical reports, media articles etc. 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.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next page, select the appropriate Submission Item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission Item and do not duplicate your submission. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission Items then please select the Submission Item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using this portal, please contact a member of the Case Team to assist using the email address at the top of this letter. The Planning Inspectorate will be monitoring the use of the portal. Any feedback is much appreciated and will help the Planning Inspectorate identify and prioritise future service enhancements for our customers.