



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

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000  
Email: A417MissingLink  
@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

---

All Interested Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010056

Date: 2 February 2022

---

Dear Sir/ Madam

**The Planning Act 2008 – section 89(3); The Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 9**

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

**Procedural Decision in respect of site inspections**

As part of the Examination process, the ExA may undertake site inspections. These can be either unaccompanied or accompanied. The purpose of these is for the Examining Authority (ExA) to see features of the proposals within the context of the evidence put forward. As such, site inspections are a familiarisation exercise for the benefit of the ExA and are conducted at the discretion of the ExA. No discussion of the merits of the Proposed Development would be entertained during an Accompanied Site Inspection.

We note from the Applicant's recent [Additional Submission](#) with Examination Library reference [AS-062] that the Applicant believes that Accompanied Site Inspections may be beneficial to the Examination. The sites of FlyUp 417 Ltd, Stockwell Farm, and Emma's Grove are specifically mentioned with reference to the Applicant's '[8.2<sup>1</sup> Suggested Location for Site Inspections](#)' document submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1 with reference [REP1-007].

The ExA is in the process of organising site inspections to be conducted during the week commencing 28 February 2022, however the ExA is content that it is appropriate to conduct these inspections unaccompanied from public locations or with landowner consent where access to private land is required. The ExA wishes to emphasise that all suggested locations for site inspections submitted by Interested Parties at Deadline 1 have been afforded due consideration in determining which sites

---

<sup>1</sup> The Applicant's [Additional Submission](#) [AS-062] specifies document reference number 8.1 which appears to be an error.

the ExA deems it necessary to visit, as well as those orally stated during the first week of Hearings.

### **Details of Unaccompanied Site Inspections made so far**

A [note of the ExA's initial Unaccompanied Site Inspection \(USI1\)](#) is provided in the Examination Library with reference [EV-001] which we believe is relevant to this matter and which identifies a number of the locations suggested by the Applicant where we undertook initial visits.

Notes of the upcoming visits and any further Unaccompanied Site Inspections deemed necessary that are held will be published on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) as soon as practicable afterwards.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Team using the email address above.

Yours faithfully

*Ken Stone*

### **Lead Member of the Examining Authority**

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