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To Interested Parties and Statutory
Parties invited to the Preliminary
Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010059

Date: 6 January 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

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

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A1 in Northumberland – Morpeth to Ellingham

Examination Timetable and procedure and notification of hearings

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

All documentation associated with this project, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting Parts 1 and 2 and the digital recordings taken at those meetings, can be found using this link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/a1-in-northumberland-morpeth-to-ellingham/?ipcsection=docs>

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**.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in the Rule 6 letter dated 19 November 2020¹. In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made at the Preliminary Meetings and in representations submitted at Procedural Deadline A and B. In light of the representations received, we have moved Deadline 2 to Friday 29 January 2021 and Deadline 3 to Friday 12 February 2021. The ExA considers the amended dates provide

¹ Your invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

additional time for the receipt of materials, as requested by Interested Parties, while also allowing sufficient time for their consideration before the start of hearings. All other deadlines are as set out in the Rule 6 timetable.

Please note that 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 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 Interested Parties make their submissions through the electronic portal which will be made available on the project webpage ahead of the relevant deadlines. Further information is provided in Annex E. 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 National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text.

If we consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will only be sent to Interested Parties and Other Persons² invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the A1 in Northumberland - Morpeth to Ellingham project page of the National Infrastructure (NI) Planning website.

Other Procedural Decisions

Annex B contains important details and clarifications about our other Procedural Decisions made following, the Preliminary Meeting. These include:

- **Examination Timetable;**
- **Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI);**
- **Additional Submissions.**

Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted by **Deadline 1 (12 January 2021)** and Written Representations by **Deadline 2 (29 January 2021)** in the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

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 letter³. 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

² 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

³ <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/TR010059-000893>

which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why⁴. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations “*the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions*”⁵.

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

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.

ExA’s Written Questions

We have published the first Written Questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions were published, on 19 November 2020, on the project page of the NI Planning website and can be accessed through the following link:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/TR010059-000892>

Answers to ExQ1 must be provided by **Deadline 1** in the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

If you require a word version of ExQ1s, please contact the Case Team as soon as possible to request a copy.

Hearings

We have decided to hold a series of hearings between 22 and 26 February 2021, with a reserve date provided on 2 March 2021, if required. Notice of the dates, times and places of these hearings is provided at **Annex C** along with other important information about these events, including details of what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard and the procedure that will be followed at hearings.

The dates of these hearings are also confirmed in the Examination Timetable at **Annex A**.

Notifications of a wish to participate in an Open Floor Hearing, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing or Issue Specific Hearing must be received by Deadline 1 (12 January 2021). The Examination Timetable also includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held after the first set of hearings.

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

⁴ Required under Rule 10(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-act-2008-examination-of-applications-for-development-consent>

include an additional deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to attend the notified hearings.

Annex C 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.

Accompanied Site Inspection

Information about the Accompanied Site Inspection, scheduled to take place on the week commencing 29 March, is also contained in **Annex B**.

Availability of application documents and representations submitted to the Examination

All documentation and audio recordings associated with the examination of this application can be found using this link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/a1-in-northumberland-morpeth-to-ellingham/?ipcsection=docs>

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 at **Annex D**.

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 '2002', 'A1IN-AFP', 'A1IN-S57', 'A1IN-APP' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'A1IN-SP' you are in Group B.

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

You should be aware of the possibility of the award of costs against parties who behave unreasonably.

To assist understanding of what 'unreasonable behaviour' means in the context of an Examination under the PA2008, you may find it helpful to read the government guidance 'Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders' (July 2013)⁶. It is in everyone's interest that information is brought forward as early as possible in the examination process so you are encouraged to do so.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awards-of-costs-examinations-of-applications-for-development-consent-orders>

Management of information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted by the ExA) and a record of any advice which has been provided, is published at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/a1-in-northumberland-morpeth-to-ellingham/>

All Examination documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D**.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, we consider it 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,

Kevin Gleeson

Lead Member of the Panel

Annexes

- A** Examination Timetable
- B** Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Notice of hearings and requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- D** Availability of representations and application documents
- E** Electronic Portal

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. 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.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1.	<p>Procedural Deadline A</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written submissions on Examination Procedure; • Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting Part 1. 	<p>10 December 2020</p>
2.	<p>Preliminary Meeting Part 1</p>	<p>15 December 2020 at 10.00am</p>
3.	<p>Procedural Deadline B</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written submissions on Examination procedure including submissions responding to matters raised orally in the Preliminary Meeting Part 1; and • Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting Part 2. 	<p>22nd December 2020</p>
4.	<p>Preliminary Meeting Part 2</p>	<p>5 January 2021 at 10.00am</p>
5.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable; • The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1) (as originally issued 19 November 2020). 	<p>As soon as practicable after the close of the Preliminary Meeting</p>

6.	<p>Deadline 1 (D1)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1) issued on 19 November 2020; • Local Impact Reports (LIR) from Local Authorities; • Comments on Relevant Representations; • Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP) by the ExA; • Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA; • Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • The Compulsory Acquisition Schedule; • Notification of wish to participate in Open Floor Hearings; • Notification of wish to participate in Issue Specific Hearings; • Notification of wish to participate in Compulsory Acquisition Hearings; and • Notification of wish to attend Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI). 	12 January 2021
7.	<p>Deadline 2 (D2)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses for Deadline 1; • Comments on responses to ExQ1; • Written Representations (WRs) including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words; • Progressed SoCG; • 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 dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Submission by Applicant of proposed locations of ASI; 	29 January 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules¹. 	
8.	<p>Deadline 3 (D3)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 2; Comments on LIR(s); Comments on WRs; An updated Guide to the Application; An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; Progressed Statement of Common Ground; Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules; Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	12 February 2021
9.	Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)	Monday 22 Feb February 2021 10.00am
10.	Open Floor Hearing (OFH2)	Monday 22 February 2021 6.30pm
11.	Issue Specific Hearing into the dDCO (ISH1)	Tuesday 23 February 2021
12.	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)	Wednesday 24 February 2021 10.00am
13.	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)	Thursday 25 February 2021 10.00am
14.	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)	Friday 26 February 2021 10.00am
15	<p>Hearing</p> <p>Date reserved for any:</p> <p>Issue Specific Hearing (if required).</p>	Tuesday 2 March 2021

¹ The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

16.	<p>Deadline 4 (D4)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 3; • Written summaries of oral submissions to Hearings held during the week 22 February 2021; • Any post-Hearing notes requested at the Hearings; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • Comments on the Applicant's draft ASI arrangements and itinerary; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Progressed SoCG; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules; • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	12 March 2021
17.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required); • Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required). 	19 March 2021
18.	Accompanied Site Inspections	Week commencing 29 March 2021
19.	<p>Deadline 5 (D5)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ2 (if required); • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 4; • An updated Guide to the Application; 	1 April 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to dDCO; • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Progressed SoCG; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules; • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	
20.	<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). 	Week commencing 19 April 2021
21.	<p>Hearing</p> <p>Date reserved for any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Specific Hearing (if required). 	Tuesday 27 April 2021
22.	<p>Deadline 6 (D6)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 5; • Written summaries of oral submissions to Hearings held during the week commencing 19 April 2021 and if held 27 April 2021; • Any post-Hearing notes requested at the Hearings; • Comments on the RIES (if required) • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to dDCO; 	4 May 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • Progressed SoCG; • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules; • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	
23.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Written Questions (ExQ3) (if required); • The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required). 	11 May 2021
24.	<p>Deadline 7 (D7)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to comments on the REIS (if required); • Comment on responses submitted for Deadline 6; • Updated SoCG; • Update Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules; • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	11 May 2021
25.	<p>Deadline 8 (D8)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 7; • Responses to ExQ3 (if required); • Updated SoCG; • Update Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • An updated Guide to the Application; • An updated Book of Reference; • An updated Statement of Reasons; 	25 May 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed and dated s106 Agreements (if required); • Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if issued); • An updated version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions; • An updated Schedule of changes to dDCO; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required); • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	
26.	<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). 	8 June 2021
27.	<p>Deadline 9 (D9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on responses submitted for Deadline 8; • Written summaries of oral submissions to Hearings held during the week commencing 8 June 2021; • Any post-Hearing notes requested at the Hearings. • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	15 June 2021
28.	<p>Deadline 10 (D10)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised SoCG; • Finalised Statement of Commonality for SoCG; 	29 June 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised Statement of Compulsory Acquisition Schedule in clean and tracked versions; • A finalised Guide to the Application; • A finalised version of the dDCO in clean and tracked versions; • A finalised Schedule of changes to the dDCO; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules (if required). 	
29.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months.	5 July 2021

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after each deadline for submissions.

Hearing agendas

We will aim to publish a draft agenda for each hearing on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning 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.

An agenda for Open Floor Hearings will not be published unless the ExA, considering the number of participants notified to the Planning Inspectorate, believes to do so would be helpful to facilitate the efficient running of procedures on the day.

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 Regulations².

² 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 Meeting¹:

1. Examination Timetable

Responding to a request of the Applicant, supported by the host Local Authority and other Interested Parties, we have extended the deadline for **Deadline 2** to Friday 29 January 2021 and **Deadline 3** to Friday 12 February 2021.

2. Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI in week commencing 29 March 2021. The format and detail of this will depend on the Government's public health restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic in force at the time. If restrictions have been lifted, we may be able to be accompanied by registered parties. If restrictions remain, attendance may be limited and socially distanced; we may visit unaccompanied (with all necessary consents in place); or we may need to hold a virtual site inspection using photography or technology. We will release details nearer to the time.

Our Examination Timetable at **Annex A** shows that we are inviting the Applicant to submit a draft itinerary for the ASI, on 29 January 2021, based on suggested locations and supporting justification submitted by **Deadline 1**, 12 January 2021. There is an opportunity for all parties to comment on the draft itinerary by **Deadline 4**, 12 March 2021.

We will consider all submissions on this, and if we decide to hold an ASI, we will aim to publish the final itinerary and arrangements on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practically possible

Interested Parties should be aware that **ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed Development**. However, we may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

3. Additional Submissions

In response to the Rule 6 letter, there have been a number of additional submissions from energy undertakers that the ExA has accepted, all confirming that they do not have any assets or plant in the area. These have been published on the project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website, with references AS-011 to AS-016.

In addition to the documentation submitted by Procedural Deadline B [PDB-001 to PDB-003] the ExA has accepted the following additional submissions into the Examination:

- A 'Summary of Proposed Changes to Application' Version 2 submitted by the Applicant, references AS-017 (tracked changes) and AS-018 (clean). These

¹ Section 89(1) of the Planning Act 2008

additional submissions amend the submissions made by the Applicant by Procedural Deadline A [PDA-001 to PDA-003], which include an indication that the Applicant proposes to submit a request for three changes to be made to the application in order to accommodate changes to the Scheme.

- Additional submissions from Natural England [AS-019] and from Mr Inverarity on behalf of West End Anglers [AS-020] in response to the Applicant's additional submissions [AS-017 & AS-018] as well as Procedural Deadline A submissions [PDA-001 to PDA-003].

(Although not classed as an additional submission, the Environment Agency also submitted comments on the Applicant's proposed changes at Procedural Deadline B submission [PDB-001].)

Notice of hearings and requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings

Notification of hearings under Sections 91 & 92 of the Planning Act 2008

Notification of the date, time and place of Open Floor Hearing, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing and Issue Specific Hearings to be held during February and March 2021.

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue
Monday, 22 February 2021	Open Floor Hearing 1	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:30 AM	By Virtual Means (see below)
Monday, 22 February 2021	Open Floor Hearing 2	6:30 PM Arrangements Conference 6.00PM	
Tuesday, 23 February 2021	Issues Specific Hearing (ISH1) On the draft Development Consent Order	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:30 AM	
Wednesday, 24 February 2021	Compulsory Acquisitions Hearing 1 (CAH1)	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:30 AM	
Thursday, 25 February 2021	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) On Environmental Matters	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:30 AM	
Friday, 26 February 2021	ISH2 On Environmental Matters (if required)	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:30 AM	
Tuesday, 2 March 2021	Issue Specific Hearing (reserve date)	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:30 AM	

The ExA is conscious of the continued threat of, and uncertainties around, COVID19 and the latest Government guidance and restrictions. Equally, the Government has made it clear that the consenting processes for National Infrastructure Projects should progress. The ExA therefore has made a Procedural Decision that these Hearings will be held by virtual means, through Microsoft Teams.

Please note that in respect of this Procedural Decision, we write to Interested Parties for information purposes only. This Procedural Decision does not affect the Examination Timetable in any way and Interested Parties other than the Applicant are not required to respond to it.

Requests to appear at hearings

If you wish to participate in any of the Hearings listed above, please let the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing A1inNorthumberland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by no later than **Deadline 1** on 12 January 2021.

If you do not wish to speak but would like to observe any of the Hearings in real time, rather than retrospectively as a recording, it is the Applicant's intention to arrange a livestream of the Hearings. The link to the livestream will be published in advance on the A1 in Northumberland – Morpeth to Ellingham project page of the National Infrastructure website.

A full digital recording will be made available on the same web page as soon as possible after the close of the Hearing.

Information about Hearings is included in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notes which can be found here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes>

Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings

Depending on the number of participants at each Hearing, and the progress made during the events, it may be necessary to have breaks in proceedings. Additionally, in the unlikely event that there is an IT failure, we will attempt to resume the event later that day. As such, prospective participants are advised to keep the whole day available for each event.

Procedure at Hearings

The procedure to be followed at Hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010¹. 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 parties². Our examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions, and we will decide whether a Hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

¹ Rule 14

² Rule 14(5)

Hearing agendas

We will aim to publish a draft agenda for each Hearing on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning 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.

Availability of representations and application documents

All application documents and representations submitted to the Examination are available to view on the project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/a1-in-northumberland-morpeth-to-ellingham/?ipcsection=docs>

For ease of navigation, we recommend that you use the Examination Library (EL) which is accessible via a blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records:

- each application document;
- each representation accepted to be read in conjunction with the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is provided with a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the National Infrastructure Planning website is provided. **Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the EL when referring to any Examination documents in representations that you make.**

Documents can also be viewed electronically at the following locations close to the application site, free of charge. If you have difficulty accessing any documentation please contact the Case Team using the details provided at the top of this letter.

Local authority	Library/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
Northumberland County Council	Morpeth Library Royal Sovereign House Manchester St Morpeth NE61 1AF	Monday 10:00 – 16:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 16:00 Wednesday 10:00 – 16:00 Thursday 10:00 – 16:00 Friday 10:00 – 16:00 Saturday Closed Sunday Closed	A4 B&W – 15p Colour – 50p A3 B &W – 30p Colour - £1
Link to council library location			
Morpeth Library www.mylibrary.co.uk			

If you require a hard copy of the application documents, please contact the Applicant by email at A1inNorthumberland@Highwaysengland.co.uk or by telephone on 0303 123 5000.

Electronic Portal

The Planning Inspectorate will be using an electronic portal, which parties will be able to use during the Examination to make written representation submissions at the relevant deadline. The project page will reflect a new tab for parties to, "make a submission", which can be accessed ahead of each deadline.

The portal operates on a system where submissions are separated in accordance to the deadline submissions type requested. Please ensure documents are submitted respective to the associated deadline and are the relevant document submission types. Where this is not possible please use the "other" drop down option.

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. The Inspectorate will be monitoring the use of the new submission form and therefore your feedback thereto will be greatly appreciated.

Interested Parties will be able to send, if necessary, electronic copies of their submission as email attachments to the A1inNorthumberland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk project mailbox on or before the applicable deadline, however we would encourage you in the first instance to use the submission form.

If you experience any issues when using this portal, please contact a member of the case team to assist. Your feedback will help the Inspectorate identify and prioritise future service enhancements for our customers.