



National Infrastructure Planning
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All Interested Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010059

Date: 22 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13

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

Procedural Decisions and Notification of Hearings

This letter provides you with details of Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA) and notification of Hearings that will be held during the week commencing 19 April 2021.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Having given careful consideration to all the relevant evidence, the ExA has decided that it is not necessary to issue a Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES).

Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

The ExA is conscious of the continued threat of, and uncertainties around COVID-19 and cognisant of the latest Government Guidance to control the COVID-19 outbreak including restrictions on travel and gatherings. At Issue Specific Hearing 1 in February [EV-016 to EV-019] the ExA invited, by Deadline 4, further requests to hold a ASI under Rule 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. Two submissions were made and the ExA is currently reviewing them in the context of the Applicant's proposed itinerary which was submitted at Deadline 2 [REP2-023]. At this stage no decisions have been taken about the need for an ASI but in any event the ExA is still considering undertaking, subject to Government Guidance, one or more Unaccompanied Site Inspections before the close of the Examination. Further updates on this matter will be provided in due course.

Notification of Hearings under Section 91 and 92 of the Planning Act 2008

The ExA has decided to hold Hearings in the week commencing 19 April 2021. Notice of the dates, times and format of these Hearings is provided at Annex A along with other important information about these events including details about the requests to be heard and the procedure that will be followed at Hearings.

Due to the issues around COVID-19 the ExA has made the Procedural Decision that these Hearings will be held by virtual means, through Microsoft Teams.

As set out in the Examination Timetable annexed to our letter of 6 January 2021, those Interested Parties who wish to speak at the Hearings should notify the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing A1inNorthumberland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk as soon as possible and no later than 5 April 2021. We would be grateful if you would inform us if you plan to attend a Hearing even if you do not wish to speak. Please ensure that you include your Interested Party reference number in your correspondence.

For those that do not wish to participate in the Hearings there is the opportunity to observe them in real time via a livestream link which will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website shortly before the start of the Hearings. Alternatively, a full digital recording of the event will be made available on the same webpage as soon as possible after the close of the Hearings.

All documentation associated with this project, including information about the previous Hearings and the digital recordings of them can be found on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning Website and can be accessed using this link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/a1-innorthumberland-morpeth-to-ellingham/?ipcsection=docs>

We look forward to continuing to work with all parties in the examination of this application.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Gleeson

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

Notice of Hearings, 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 a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing and Issue Specific Hearing to be held during April 2021.

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue
Tuesday, 20 April 2021	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2)	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:40 AM	By Virtual Means (See below)
Wednesday, 21 April 2021	Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) On Environmental Matters	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:40 AM	
Thursday, 22 April 2021	Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) On Environmental Matters	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:40 AM	
Friday, 23 April 2021	Hearings (Reserve Date)	10.00 AM Arrangements Conference 9:40 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. Therefore, the ExA has made a Procedural Decision that these Hearings will be held by virtual means, through Microsoft Teams.

Requests to appear at hearings

If you wish to participate in either of the Hearings listed above, please let the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team know by emailing A1inNorthumberland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by no later than 5 April 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 2010. 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 parties. 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.

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.

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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