



# The Planning Inspectorate

## Application by National Highways for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 road widening project

Case reference: TR010060

### Examining Authority's note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) to which the Application or Specified Matters relates on 11 January 2023

Examining Inspectors **Adrian Hunter**, **Max Wiltshire** and **Jon Gorst** (the Panel appointed as the Examining Authority for the application for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 road widening project) undertook the inspection. There were no other persons in attendance. In the interests of efficiency, the Panel carried out the USI the day before the Preliminary Meeting which took place on 12 January 2023.

The USI was undertaken by car and on foot on public roads and footpaths. No inspections were undertaken on private land. The USI was undertaken in order to view the route of the proposed scheme, existing roads and the surrounding area. Account was taken of the Applicant's suggestions for site visits [PDA-002] and locations prospectively within the setting of these proposals as identified in the Relevant Representations were also inspected.

#### Description of visit

Weather conditions were cloudy with sunny intervals and a fresh breeze. Conditions were at all times adequate to appreciate long views. As the USI took place in the first half of January, it was dark shortly after 16:00 hours and therefore the inspection started before 12:00 noon.

11:15 Two of the Inspectors met at the Chelmsford service station at Junction 19. Travelled along the A12 to Junction 20a and then proceeding to Witham. Locating the Public Hall where the Hearings would take place and then meeting with the third Inspector at Witham station.

12:15 Rejoining the A12 at Junction 22 and driving north easterly to Junction 25. View of the existing Junction 25 and the proposed new junction layout.

12:30 Travelling south from Junction 25 and briefly stopping at the Shell Garage at Doggets Lane.

12:35 Leaving at Junction 24 and taking the B1023 towards Feering and then turning to Inworth and Tiptree.

12:40 Viewing the narrowed road at Hinds Bridge on B1023 and stopping beneath the A12 flyover. Walking a short distance towards Inworth but as there was no pavement, returning to the car.

13:00 Driving through Inworth, noting the location of the proposed J24 roundabout and access roads and stopping car to briefly view the locations of two listed properties which were the subject of representations. Continuing to Tiptree.

13:15 Returning along the B1023 and turning left towards Great Braxted and then to Rivenhall End and viewing the site of proposed borrow pit (from the B1023) between the existing A12 and the railway line.

13:30 Rejoining the A12 and proceeding in a south westerly direction until leaving at the Hatfield Peveler turning.

13:45 Stopping at the Duke of Wellington mini roundabout and spending some minutes viewing traffic flows as suggested (although admittedly not at a peak traffic time).

14:10 Proceeding to Station Road, Hatfield Peverel to see the site of the proposed overbridge and viewing the adjacent properties where permanent acquisition is proposed for safety reasons.

14:20 Continuing along the B1137 and driving to Boreham and stopping near the junction with the road to Waltham. Leaving the car and spending some minutes viewing traffic flows and the turning

14:40 Continuing along the B1137 towards Junction 19 and then re-joining the A12 and travelling to Junction 20a again. Leaving the main road; crossing the bridge at Bury Lane and observing the location of the proposed replacement overbridge. Then turning right along the B1137 to proceed through Boreham village again.

15:15 Proceeding along the former A12 towards Springfield and viewing the Royal London and Edmundson Electrical sites (across the road from each other) where temporary rights are sought.

15:30 End of the USI.