



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 16 June 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 at any stage.

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.

Description of visit

Weather conditions were sunny and warm with light winds. Conditions were at all times excellent to appreciate views.

10:45 The three Inspectors met in Witham. Two had travelled by train and one by car. This was their first in person meeting since the hearings at the end of April, and they therefore adjourned to a public area to discuss the latest developments in the Examination and to finalise plans for their itinerary.

11:45 Collecting the vehicle from the roadside in Witham and travelling south on the B1389 towards the A12. Turning left at the roundabout into the Gershwin Boulevard. Travelling round this to the Maltings Lane roundabout and turning right and right again into firstly Pondholton Drive and then Olivers Drive. Parking at the end of Olivers Drive and walking across the green space and up to and along the bank to the proposed site of the bridge which the Inspectors had already viewed from the opposite side of the A12 during the Accompanied Site Inspection.

12:10 Walking back along Olivers Drive, into Kinloch Chase and across Howbridge Hall Road through to Gershwin Boulevard to see the alternative site for the bridge which has been proposed by local residents.

12:40 Returning through Witham past the railway station and proceeding to Rivenhall. Turning towards Rivenhall End and viewing the site of proposed borrow pit I between the existing A12 and the railway line. The Inspectors had already seen this site during their first Unaccompanied Site Inspection on 11 January 2023 but since it has been the subject of much attention during the various Hearings, felt a second visit was warranted.

13:10 Re-joining the A12 and proceeding in a north easterly direction until leaving at Junction 23, taking the B1024 exit to Kelvedon. Taking the access to Prested Hall in order to consider the representations made at CAH1 and in particular view the current and proposed access arrangements. Parking by the Hall and entering this to view the venue itself before slowly exiting along the access road.

13:35 Returning to the A12 and turning towards Maldon in order to access Hatfield Peveril by means of the Maldon Road and joining the B1137 at the Duke of Wellington roundabout. Stopping to view traffic conditions at this location. Then continuing to Boreham to view traffic volumes and view the location for proposed traffic mitigation measures along the B1137.

15:00 Crossing the A12 at Junction 19.

15:10 Travelling into Chelmsford and separating at the station.

15:15 End of the USI.