



## Hearing Transcript

<b>Project:</b>	A46 Newark Bypass
<b>Hearing:</b>	Preliminary Meeting - Session 1
<b>Date:</b>	08 October 2024

**Please note:** This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

It is not a verbatim text of what was said at the above hearing. The content was produced using artificial intelligence voice to text software. It may, therefore, include errors and should be assumed to be unedited.

The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

# TRANSCRIPT\_A46\_PM\_SESSION1\_0810202

## 4

00:00

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, it's now at 10am and time for this meeting to begin. Before we go any further, can I just confirm that everybody can hear me clearly?

00:21

Yes, good. Thank you very much. Can I also confirm with the case team that the live stream and recording of this event has commenced? Thank you. I would like to welcome everybody to the preliminary meeting for the application by national highways for an order granting development consent for the a 46 New York bypass project. My name is Kenneth stone. I'm a chartered town planner. I'm a full time planning inspector for Town and Country Planning application, planning appeals, and an examining inspector for nationally significant infrastructure proposals. With the planning inspectorate, I've been appointed by the Secretary of State as the lead member of the panel to examine this application, and I've made a declaration of interests, and have no conflict of interests in respect of this appointment. I'll now ask my fellow members to introduce themselves. Paul.

01:18

Good morning. My name is Paul Burley. I am a chartered town planner and examining inspector for nationally significant infrastructure projects with the planning Inspectorate. David,

01:31

thank you, Mr. Burley, my name is David. Love I am a chartered town planner with postgraduate for qualifications in ecology, and I'm a practitioner member of the Institute of Environmental Management and assessment. I am an examining inspector for nationally significant infrastructure proposals with the planning Inspectorate. Mr. Stone,

01:49

thank you. Together, we constitute the examining authority, or you may hear us to refer to it as the XA. Our role is to examine the application and to report to the Secretary of State for Transport with a recommendation as to whether or not the development consent order should be made. The application seeks consent for a scheme that comprises online widening of the a 46 to the north of the existing route for most of its length, between forndon roundabout and the A one, followed by a new section of offline dual carriageway proposed between the A one and Winthorpe roundabout. The widening works include earthworks widening along the existing embankment and new structures where the route crosses the Nottingham to Lincoln and East Coast Main Line, main railway lines, the river Trent and the a one. The roundabouts at Farndon and winter will be enlarged and partially signalized, while the cattle market roundabout will be grade separated by elevating the a 46 access to the a one to and from the a 46 will also be improved by upgrading the Brownhill and friendly farmer roundabouts planning inspectorates.

Case team for this application presently here today comprises Ms. Allen, Mr. Keats as case manager and Stephen Parker as a case officer. Please, don't hesitate to talk to any member of the case team. Should you need help at today's event, or with the technology in terms of housekeeping, can everybody just make sure your mobile phones and other matters are turned off or turned to silent? Thank you. Closest toilets are out down the bottom corner, down down to the left, past the ramp. In the event of a fire, there are a number of fire exits which are identified with the green signs around once you exit the Great Hall, fire evacuation assembly point is near the tennis courts on the front lawn. To get there, you will need to walk through the car park and pass the Business Center. For anyone with mobility issues, there are ramps available. I have been informed that there are no scheduled fire drills for today. Today's meeting is being undertaken as a blended event. This means that some participants are present with us here at the venue today, and some are joining us virtually, using Microsoft Teams. We will make sure that however you decided to participate, you will be giving an opportunity to participate properly. The meeting is being both live streamed and recorded for those people observing or participating remotely in order to minimize background noise. Can you please make sure that you stay muted unless you are speaking, if you are participating virtually and wish to speak at a relevant point in the proceedings, please use the. Raised hand function, please be patient, though, as we may not get to you immediately, but we will invite you to speak at an appropriate time. Alternatively, you can turn your camera on if you are happy for your image to be recorded, so that we can see that you wish to speak. Can also remind people that the chat function on Microsoft Teams is switched off for this event. A recording of today's hearing will be available on the a 46 Newark bypass page of the national infrastructure website as soon as practicable after this meeting. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into a microphone stating your name and who you represent every time that you speak in terms of GDPR, a link to the planning inspectorates privacy notice was provided in the rule six letter. I assume that everybody here today has familiarized themselves with this, and it establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principle set out in the data protection laws. Please speak to a member of the case team if you have any questions about this. Anyone who speaks at this hearing must do their best not to give any information which should be kept private and confidential, such as health conditions or an address. If you submit information in writing or at a hearing which is considered by ourselves to be personal data, it will not be published or considered as part of the examination again. If you have any questions about this, please speak to the case team. This meeting will follow the agenda as set out in appendix A to our rule six letter. It would also be helpful if we had a copy of this, or if you had a copy of this in front of you, and we will ask the applicant to display the agenda on screen at various stages. Could you just put up Appendix A of the rule six, which provides the agenda for today's meeting? And we'll run through that in a little bit. Thank you very much. The purpose of this morning's meeting is to focus on the way in which the application is proposed to be examined. On that basis, we will only be inviting discussion about procedural aspects of the examination. The purposes of this meeting is not to discuss either the merits or any concerns that you may have regarding the application itself. The merits or concerns will be addressed and can only be addressed once the examination of the application begins, which happens following the close of this preliminary meeting. This morning, we'll give an opportunity for participants to provide their views on the examination process. We will listen seek clarification, and clarify any matters where necessary from our perspective, but we will not be taking any procedural decisions on the process today. It would be for the examining authority to determine how we consider as the most appropriate way to examine the application, and we will take on board all the matters and issues raised with us today, our rulate letter

with a finalized timetable will be published as soon as practicable after the close of this meeting, that will probably be during next week at some stage, and it's also our intention to publish our first set of written questions at the same time as the rulate letter. I uh, I intend to take a break at around 1130 dependent on the progress that we are making. As we appreciate people who have joined virtually will have been through the registration process, and we're conscious of video fatigue and comfort breaks. We anticipate that the preliminary meeting should be concluded by around lunchtime today.

09:08

The applicant, you can stop sharing the agenda at the minute. We'll come back to anything else after that's necessary. I will now hand over to Mr. Love to ask participants to introduce themselves. Mr. Love,

09:22

thank you, Mr. Stone, I'm now going to ask those of you who are participating in today's meeting to introduce yourselves. Could you please do so, stating a name, who you represent, and which agenda item or items Pong wish upon which you wish to speak. If you're not representing an organization or person, just confirm your name, summarize your interest in the application, and confirm the agenda items that you have an interest in. So I'm going to start with the applicant first. Please. Could you introduce your lead and advisors? Thank you Good

09:55

morning, and thank you. Larae Hendry, I'm a partner at Womble bond Dickinson, We are the lead. Sorry,

10:00

could you speak into the microphone a little bit later? Yes, sure. Sorry.

10:03

Larae Hendry, I'm a partner at Womble bond Dickinson. We are the legal advisors for national highways the applicant and I'm the Lead legal advisor in that team. If it's okay with you, Mr. Love I'll get the rest of the national highways applicant team to introduce themselves.

10:20

I'm sorry I'm still struggling. I don't know people at the back hearing that. It might the rooms. As you can see, it's very echoey. So it might just be that you need to project your voice or bring the microphone closer to you. Okay,

10:32

I'll just speak as if there's no microphone then and then, we had

10:36

the luxury of testing this yesterday afternoon. Okay,

10:38

should I start off from the top. So I'm Lara Hendry. I'm a partner at one by one. Dickinson, we are the legal advisors for national highways the applicant. I'm the Lead legal advisor. If it's okay with you, Mr. Love I'll ask the rest of the national highways team to introduce themselves. In turn, started with Mark Sutton at the top.

10:59

Good morning. Mark sudden, technical director with Skanska, delivery partner for national highways, representing national highways here today.

11:10

Good morning. Phil Buffy, Senior Project Manager for the a 46 nuke by plus scheme representing national highways. Phil

11:23

Good morning. John Barnard, the a 46 DCO lead.

11:28

Could you repeat this earlier?

11:29

John Barnard, B, A R N, A R D, representing national highways, is the a 46 DCO lead. You

11:44

I apologies. Mr. Love, in all of the technology confusion, I meant to say I'd like to speak on agenda item four, please. Thank you.

11:59

Thank you. Do you have anyone online that's joining us today? Lorraine Hendry,

12:04

for the applicant? No,

12:05

thank you. So I will now turn to the local authorities. I understand we have both Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council in attendance, if I may, start with the county council. Please. Could you introduce yourself and tell us which agenda items you wish to speak. Thank

12:26

you very much. Kevin Sharman, Nottinghamshire County Council. I'm here to represent the local highway authority, and my my background is very much in major schemes and projects. So we are here to look at all aspects and respond to all aspects, but we're particularly interested in the in the transport and traffic elements. But just reserve the right to speak on other items if necessary. Thank you. If I could introduce my colleague, good

12:57

morning, DJ owl, also representing on behalf of normanshire County Council. Thank you.

13:05

Sorry. Could you repeat your name?

13:06

DJ, how is

13:21

there anyone joining you online today? No, thank you. Better now to Newark and Sherwood District Council, please.

13:30

Yes, good morning. Or can you hear me? Okay? Yes, okay. So my name is Matthew Lam, L, A, M, B. I'm director for planning and growth at Newark and shewhar District Council. And I have two colleagues sat with me, but nobody online, so I'll ask those to introduce themselves in

13:50

turn. Lindsay Preston, senior planner for Newark and Sherwood. I'm working for Newark and Sherwood District Council on the 46 scheme. So hello, I'm Debbie broad. I'm the Lead practitioner for infrastructure for Newark and Sherwood District Council, working assisting Lindsay and Matthew at bat on the a 46 scheme.

14:16

Thank you, sir. And yeah, sorry, I admitted to say that likely to speak on Item four and potentially five, but more than happy to assist on any other item if it insists the inquiry.

14:33

Thank you very much. I don't have any statutory bodies who requested to speak today in advance, but can I just confirm that we don't have anyone in the room or online from the statutory bodies. I don't see any hands raised online or in the room. I'll take that as a no. Thank you. I'll now move on to individuals who have pre registered to speak, and in no particular order, I have Mr. John. Miller, are you present today, sir,

15:10

yeah. Mr. John

15:11

Miller, I'm a farmer.

15:14

Live in Kellam, here at Manor farm, Callum and other sort of large sort of chunk of land that will be taken up in the DCO application, it's about sort of 4047, hectares will be taken up. So I have nothing to say in the preliminary part, but I'll be speaking later on this afternoon,

15:33

right? Mr. Miller, thank you very much. If you change your mind, as is anything you want to add at any point, just raise your hand, please.

15:42

I And I have a Mr. Nicholas rallstone, Mr. Olst, president in the room today. No, okay, and Mr. Nathan Reed, no, is there anyone else in the room with us today who would like to speak who I haven't already mentioned? Yes, sir,

16:09

yes. My name is Anthony Asprey. Anthony spelt without an H. Asprey spelt as p, b, u, r, y. I am, in fact, a planning consultant in private practice, but today I'm appearing in my capacity as the chairman of the development committee of the Newark and Nottinghamshire agricultural society, who are a major landowner in the vicinity of the bypass.

16:36

Thank you, sir. And which agenda item or items do you have an interest in? Sir? Which agenda item or items do you wish to speak on? Sir?

16:56

Could you turn your microphone on please? Sorry, it's important just because it's been recorded as well. Thank you. Yeah. So

17:03

the the agenda concerned with the design and construction of the of the screen, not the compulsory purchase element.

17:14

So this morning is very much about the procedure for the examination. So it might be that the open floor hearing this afternoon might be something more, but if you do wish to add anything about the procedural aspects of it, rather than the merits of the case, please just raise your hand. Thank you. And I understand we don't have anyone attending virtually who wishes to speak, but I will ask that if there is anyone, just use the raise hand function. Just a few seconds. No, right? I believe that is everybody. So in that case, we'll now move on to item two of the agenda, which is the examining authority's remarks about the examination process. And I will now pass on to Mr. Burley. Thank you.

18:03

Thank you. Mr. Love. In order to streamline the running of this event in Annex B of the rule six, letter, we provided an introduction to the preliminary meeting and the examination process, explaining how it will be conducted and how you can participate for expediency, we're assuming that everyone has read

this, and therefore we don't propose to spend time reading it out. Now there are two specific matters that we would like to briefly draw to your attention at this stage. First one is additional submissions. We'd like to ensure that all parties are aware that in the pre examination stage, a number of documents have been submitted, which we have accepted as additional submissions. These include revised versions of some key application documents submitted by the applicant. And that was in response to Section 51 advice and the section 55 checklist issued by the planning Inspectorate. The documents include works plans, streets, rights of way and access plans, traffic regulations, measures and land plans, amongst other matters. There are also submissions from other bodies, including RWE generation, UK PLC, Newark Town Council and castlegate trustees limited. They can all be accessed through the examination library, and the references are as double oh one to as 101 inclusive. The second point we'd like to raise relates to procedural deadline, a we also accepted two submissions at deadline, a which was on the 24th of September, 2024 these included comments on the examination procedure, suggested locations to visit, attendance at various hearings and other matters which we'll cover during the course of. And following meetings, these submissions can be viewed in the examination library. It references PDA double 01 and PDA double 02 if anyone has any comment to make on any of these submissions, please do so by deadline. One, which is Tuesday, 22nd of October, 2024 there's some more general observations that we'd like to make about the process in the interests of ensuring that it is productive and as efficient as it can be. In terms of deadlines, we'll come on to talk about the examination timetable shortly, but we would like to highlight the importance of ensuring that information is submitted in accordance with set deadlines, the timetable can only be delivered if all parties meet the deadlines and provide submissions that are as comprehensive as possible. Late submissions restrict the ability of other parties involved to respond to the information, which can lead to unfairness in the process. It's therefore important for all to note that if you do submit something late, there is always the possibility that it may not be accepted into the examination. In terms of disagreements throughout the process, where there is a disagreement between parties on matters, we ask that all sides engage in a positive and timely manner and seek resolution as soon as possible. That may not be agreement, it may just be a concluded identification where no resolution is achievable. This could be done through statements of common ground and progressing needs as proactively as possible, and demonstrating progress in terms of land negotiations and protective provisions where relevant, we will provide the Secretary of State with a definitive recommendation, including on the draft development consent order, which will include protective provisions, if These have not been concluded by the close of the examination, we will adjudicate on the basis of the submissions made and will provide a recommendation to the Secretary of State. It's not appropriate, however, to leave matters unresolved with an expectation that the Secretary of State will seek to resolve those matters during the determination period. Another point we'd like to touch on is the national infrastructure project website, and hopefully most people will be familiar with that by now. We'd like to highlight the importance of that to the examination on the project page for the a 46 bypass, you'll find information about the application including the examination library, which contains all of the application documents, written submissions and procedural documents relating to this project. Each time a deadline passes, the documents that have been submitted will be added to the examination library so that they are available for everyone to see. But please bear with us. There's a slight delay because the documents have to be checked for GDPR information and so on. So it's often a couple of days after the deadline that you'll be able to see them. We would strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with this website, because the examining authority will be using it to communicate with everyone and to provide access to documents



throughout the examination. More generally, it's important that you are clear in understanding the process. Therefore, if there's anything that you're unclear about or on which you do need clarity, this is your opportunity to ask. If you have any specific points to make regarding the draft timetable, can I ask that these are raised under item four of the agenda? So does anybody have any points they'd like to seek clarification on at this stage? Not in the room. Anybody online? No hands. Thank you. So we'll move on to Item three of the gender to deal with the initial assessment of principal issues, sometimes referred to as IAP. But before we do, are there any questions about what we've said so far, including from my colleagues? No, okay, that concludes our general marks, remarks about the examination process, and Mr. Stone will take us through item three.

24:34

Thank you very much. Moving on to Item three, which deals with our initial assessment of principal issues for this item, it would be useful if you could have an XD of the rule six letter in front of you, and we're going to share the list of principal issues on the screen, but you can find these. Details in rule six of that letter. So if we can just put that up in the first instance, scroll down a little bit until we get to the first that's done. That just shows we can start the at number one. Maybe I think you've gone a bit too far there. I think you've gone on to the next one. So if we just come back up again and there, yeah, in and about, I think there's another one or two above that page, just above that, just the bottom of the page, yeah, that's fine, bit fiddly, but if there's anything in particular, we'll deal with that at that stage. This list provides an initial framework for issues for the examination of this application. It does not preclude us from amending the list by removing or adding to the initial principal issues at a later stage in the process. We've got nothing further to add at this stage. Nevertheless, individuals here today may wish to comment on either the broad headings or the individual matters. So in terms of what we've got in the IRP, we've got some 14 or 15 principal headings. They cover matters which deal with general or overarching matters, air quality, biodiversity, climate and carbon emissions, compulsory acquisition and temporary possession, geology and soils, the Historic Environment, landscape and visual effects, materials, assets and wastes, noise and vibration, population and health, traffic and transportation and water, environment and overall cumulative effect. So those are the broad headlines. And then within those, we've identified a number of bullet points of issues that we will seek to explore during the examination. But as I say, that that does not limit us, and they are very broad in nature. I just wanted to find out whether anybody had any particular comments. I think I've got some comments from Mr. Ashbury in terms of the overall API. Did you want to say anything about those broad areas or anything?

27:21

Apologize, Inspector, I'm having some difficulty hearing with the Echo, but I don't know whether this is the appropriate stage to raise it. But broadly, the position of the Newark and Nottinghamshire agricultural society, on behalf of the Newark Showground, is it is supportive of the scheme. However, earlier in the year, we had a meeting with the national highways and Skanska regarding certain details about which we had concerns, and we had understood that there would be a statement of common ground to resolve these matters, but we haven't subsequently been included in that statement of common ground process. We take the view that these issues are capable of resolution. They relate primarily to access arrangements on the diversion of Winthrop footpath number three and its impact on the operation of the showground, but I would stress that subject to coming to an agreement on a

statement of common ground, then any residual concerns that we might have are capable of being resolved. Sir,

28:32

okay. Thank you very much. I think that probably something in the timetable and in later on in the process where we're going to talk a little bit about statements of common ground, and we'll give the applicant a chance to respond at that point, and then we can have a bit of a dialog if necessary. We

28:48

have asked some clarifications on footpath three, wind or footpath three in our first set of questions, which will be published shortly. So perhaps you could engage in that as well and let us know what the issues are, so that throughout the process, we can ensure that they are picked up and that all sides of paying attention to it. Yeah, thank you.

29:16

Thank you very much. Did anybody else have any matters that they wished to raise in terms of the initial assessment of principal issues? Applicant, do you have any matters

29:28

Lorraine Hendry, for the applicant, nothing.

29:29

Thank you. Okay. Councils, no. Okay. Thank you very much. Case, if we move along the

29:43

I'll just check whether or not nobody in the room has indicated anybody online. I've got no hands raised so we've got no further points or questions on this agenda item. Uh. No other points have been raised on the initial assessment of principal issues. So in that case, we shall move on to the next agenda item, which is agenda item four and the draft examination timetable. And I'll ask Mr. Burley to deal with this.

30:15

Thank you for this agenda item. It would be useful to have Annex D of the rule six letter in front of you, and could the applicant share that on the screen as well? Please? You.

30:44

I thank you. Annex D sets out our draft examination timetable for the next six months, from today to completion on RB, four, Tuesday, eight, April 2025, the timetable sets out the draft dates for the submission of written documents in various deadlines across that period. It also includes dates of the examining authority to hold further sets of hearings if required in week commencing second of december 2024, and 17, February 2025, and to issue further documents, such as any further written questions, our proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO and a report on implications for European sites, if one is determined to be necessary, please note that the time for submission of information on each day To date is 2359 hours. That's one minute midnight. I've no specific issues raised on this matter, although Nottinghamshire County Council and the District Council identified a

general request to speak on matters including this item and the applicant also raised a request earlier. So let me go to Ms Hendry first. Would you like to tell us what your concerns or questions are?

32:09

Thank you. Mr. Burley. Lorraine Hendry, for the applicant, it's really just two points of clarification, if I may, in addition to our response to the rule six, letter examination, reference, examination, Library Reference, PDA, 001, we requested that the draft timetable the deadline for Item seven be deadline two in November instead of deadline one. And I just wanted to clarify there that we should have included also item eight, referenced in Annex f of the rule six, letter in that they are, you know, technical processes that we need to go through, and we thought it best that it kind of comes as a package, given its visual impact assessment aspects.

32:56

Yep. Thank you. Great. Were there any other queries with the relation to the timetable? Yes. Thank

33:05

you, Mr. Billy Lorraine Hendry, for the applicant. Only just a point of clarification, really. So again, in our response to the rule six letter, we requested that, instead of a book of reference refresh at every single deadline, that we would do it at deadlines, 135, and eight, to kind of make the most, I guess, of the of the type. But we also wanted to clarify, because when you update the book of reference, you can do what we call a full land registry refresh, which takes a few weeks and is quite an involved process. And so what we were proposing, if it was acceptable to the examining authority, is to provide an update at deadline. One of things that we've become aware of since the section 56 process a full land registry refresh at deadline three, an update if required, at deadline five, and then a full land registry refresh again at deadline eight, so that by the close of examination you have a complete book of references up to date as possible. Mr.

34:10

Stone is leading on compulsory acquisition. So I'll just seek his views, initial views on that.

34:18

Yes, I think in terms of your initial letter to us, we were happy to accept that they were provided in alternative deadlines. So so we were happy enough with that. I think the draft timetable did say where changes were provided. So obviously, if there were no changes, then you would we wouldn't expect an update in any case, yes, in terms of a full refresh, the expectation was more updates in terms of matters that had become available or you were aware of. So a full update at deadline three, and then a full update at deadline eight, to ensure.

40:00

Inspections for those. Are you content for those to be unaccompanied? You weren't suggesting that they would be accompanied

40:09

now, Matthew, I'm New York. She would No, we weren't, sir, thank you

40:18

Nottinghamshire County Council.

40:22

Thank you. Kevin Sharman, Nottinghamshire County Council, based on the conversations we've just had, we're quite comfortable with the procedure and the timetable as it is, as discussed now. Thank you.

40:31

Thank you. Do any of the interested parties in the room have any comments? No, and I understand there aren't any interested parties online. Yes, we haven't got any. So I think that probably concludes the discussion in that respect. Thank you. Now, can we move on to touch on a little bit more of the detail of the timetable. As you see from the draft timetable, there's nine proposed deadlines where the examining authority requires information to be submitted. In the interests of brevity, I don't intend to go through the draft timetable in its entirety, but I just like to highlight some key points following the start of the examination, which is after the conclusion of this meeting, the preliminary meeting, we will hold our first open floor hearing or ofh, that will be this afternoon, at 2:30pm this is an opportunity for individuals to speak directly to the examining authority, as the name suggests. It's open to any interested party to attend, and is not about a particular location or topic in relation to the proposed development.

Tomorrow, that's Wednesday, ninth of October 2024 at 10am we'll hold our first compulsory acquisition hearing, which will focus on the applicant's strategic case of compulsory acquisition and for temporary possession. It's important to note that this will not seek to deal with any individual objections from affected persons. These will be dealt with at a further compulsory acquisition hearing later in the examination. And for any parties who would like further information on that, please do contact the case team. I'll make some more general comments about hearings at this point, you'd be aware from the format of this week's events that the examining authority is now able to hold hearings as blended events, not in person, with other parties available, sorry, other parties able to attend online. Our draft timetable makes some assumptions about how future hearings will be held, with blended events being the preferred position, but we will give as much notice as possible regarding whether they will take place as a blended event like today or fully virtual via Microsoft Teams, and we will consider a range of issues at the time when determining the format of the event, such as accessibility, convenience, location and timing. Does anybody present today wish to make any comments on the format of future events? No, thank you. I'd like to remind you that oral submissions in all hearings should be based on representations previously made in writing to help inform the XA and not simply repeat matters already covered in a written representation. As I've just mentioned, an early open floor hearing will take place this afternoon, at 2:30 a compulsory acquisition hearing is scheduled for tomorrow at 10am In addition, and as also mentioned, we've reserved two further weeks for additional issue, specific compulsory acquisition and open floor hearings if required in the draft timetable, these are scheduled for the weeks commencing second of December 2024, and 17th of February 2025, if any interested parties anticipate that you would wish to be heard at any future open floor or compulsory acquisition hearing. Please notify us in writing by deadline, one, which is Tuesday, 22nd of October, 2024 we are mindful that there may be parties following today's meeting by the live stream or watching the recording after the event. Who may also have views about the format of future events. So to them, we'd say that if you plan to

participate in future hearings and you have a preference as to whether those events are held with an in person element like today or. Fully virtual via Microsoft Teams, please do write to us again by deadline, one the 22nd of October, 2024, and we'll take account of your views. We do understand that it's helpful to have sight of agendas and an indication of hearing topics as early as possible, as you'll appreciate, there's also a timetabling balance between the number of days, between the deadline when information is received an agenda publication, and the level of detail that can be prepared for the agendas. With the compulsory acquisition hearing, we've aimed to provide a fair amount of detail. Future dangers may not necessarily present as much detail, but regarding the topics for any future issue specific hearings in December, our initial thinking is that we may need to spend some time on issues falling into the broad categories of firstly, construction matters and effects, which may include topics such as traffic and transport, and secondly, environmental effects, which may include air quality, biodiversity, Historic Environment, landscape and visual flood risk and water resources and use of land that's just our initial view based on the information before us to date, and it may be a deadline one and deadline two, and when we receive documents such as the local impact reports and written submissions and indeed responses to our first written questions and statements of common ground that we need to add or adjust some of those matters. In any event, we're likely to want to spend some time on the draft DCO and we will also hold a further compulsory acquisition hearing. We will decide whether any further open floor hearings are needed once we've reviewed the submissions of deadline one. So back to comments on the draft timetable. As soon as possible, after this week's hearings, we will issue a rule, a letter, which will finalize the examination timetable. At the same time, we intend to publish our first set of written questions, which we mentioned earlier, turning to look at some of the specifics. Deadline one is scheduled for Tuesday, 22nd of October 2024 and the applicant, I think you've already covered off your points on this. But is there anything else you'd like to add?

47:40

Lorraine Hendry, for the applicant, no thank you. Thank

47:42

you. We have an accompanied site inspection identified as potentially taking place in the week commencing second of December 2024 we will at this point also make some general points about site inspections. As Mr. Stone said, we've already undertaken an unaccompanied site inspection from publicly accessible land that took place on the sixth and seventh of August 2024 and there's a note of our visit on the examination library document, EV double 01, that inspection was principally undertaken in order to observe and inspect the landscape character of the area, the views from some of the environmental statement viewpoints and sites proposed for the alignment of the Proposed road widening, the offline section structures and rounds about as well as various locations identified in relevant representations, but only where these were available from, publicly accessible locations accompanied site inspections are to ensure that the examining authority can gain an understanding of The proposed development within its site and surroundings, as well as its effects. There's no discussion of merit during the course of an accompanied site inspection, but the exas attention can be drawn to points of interest. Procedural deadline, a we requested suggestions for locations of an accompanied visit, and we've received a number of responses from the applicant. And the EXA also accepted a late response from Mr. Leary. These are all set out in the procedural deadline a responses in the examination library. Many of the requests are for us to visit the site and view it from publicly accessible

locations, which we would do by an unaccompanied site inspection. If we determine that in USI, unaccompanied is the appropriate format for those public locations that we haven't already visited, we would provide a. Further note of any further visits we undertake on the project web page, the applicants asked to submit a draft itinerary for an accompanied site inspection by deadline one Tuesday, 22nd October 2024 and I think the challenge now is if and how such a visit could be accommodated in one day in the week commencing the second of December 2024 if the applicant is working up the itinerary, could you refer to our USI note, Ev, double 01, to check where we've already visited, please, so that there's no duplication. We also anticipate, given our previous comments, that we'll make a further USI so in rationalizing where we might go accompanied, you could consider how and where and what parts of the application site it would be useful to see accompanied by the applicants and any other interested parties that might include, for example, where the main structures would be, site compounds, any pieces of land that would require private access. And, you know, any, anything else that you'd like to draw to our attention, really, and we'd ask that that is contained within one day. And obviously the days will be a little bit shorter at that time of the year too. Is there anything as applicant that you'd like to discuss further now, or are you happy to take forward the Draft Day si itinerary and submitted to Deadline one.

51:46

Thank you. Larae Hendry, for the applicant, no, nothing, nothing. In addition, only a query, really, that if there is sort of a weather event, whether there's sort of contingency time, given that it's December, whether there's kind of contingency in the timetable for us to perhaps reschedule the ASI if we need to, but it's really just kind of a thought for you.

52:06

Yes, we'll, we build that in because, you know, it's not uncommon in this country to have events disrupted by weather. But are you expecting a lengthy asi? Oh, What haven't you got that file yet? No.

52:24

Lorraine Hendrick with the advert not expecting a lengthy one. Thank you. Thank you.

52:39

So in terms of the ASI for other parties, including IPs, we'd ask for any comments or suggestions for the applicant's draft proposals to be submitted at the same deadline, so that they can all be taken into account too. So that's deadline one on Tuesday the 22nd of October, 2024 moving on to Deadline two now, which is Tuesday the 12th of November 2024 This provides an opportunity for anybody else to provide comments on the applicant's draft itinerary. We'll publish the final itinerary at least five days in advance of the event taking place, but we will try to give more notice than that, if possible. We should note that any submission of deadline one does not preclude any further requests for site visits, including suggestions of prospective locations during the examination, and that may be after you've had the opportunity to review what's been said at hearings or in any additional documents that have been submitted. But please note that there should be a good reason for asking for further insight inspections. Does anybody else present in the room today wish to make any suggestions about locations to be visited by the EXA at this point? Nope, thank you. So before we move on, does anybody else have any final questions about site inspections, whether unaccompanied, accompanied? No thank you. So back

to the general timetable comments. You'll see from the draft timetable that, if required, further sets of written questions are currently programmed for Tuesday 14 January 2025, and Tuesday 25th of March 2025 we may also, at any point during the examination, issue a specific request for information from named parties, but only if necessary. This is known as a rule 17 request. The final substantive deadline on the timetable is deadline eight. That's Thursday, the third of April 2025 at that we're seeking the submission of finalized documents that have been evolving during the examination. We've got a final deadline, deadline nine, which is Monday, seventh of April 2025 which is really just to allow all parties to submit any final comments and to summarize their final positions having seen the finalized documents. Importantly, that is not an opportunity to raise new matters or to introduce new evidence. It's just an opportunity for parties to provide a summary of where their case, opposition has ended up, and two is assist the in drafting our final recommendation report. We are conscious that it's a tight timetable. The six months do fly by, but in some places, we've tried to spread the deadlines across the examination period and hope that all parties will work constructively to ensure timely submissions and assist in ensuring a fair and open process. Are there any other matters that anybody would like to draw to our attention at this point, I'll go to the applicant first.

56:20

Lorray Hendry, for the applicant, nothing further.

56:21

Thank you and most authorities, District Council, nothing, and county council, nothing. Anything from any interested parties, no, nothing. Thank you. And I understand we don't have anybody online, okay, so we will consider all of the points raised here today, and as Mr. Stone said earlier, we'll be issuing our rule a letter as soon as possible. It's usually within about a week, and that will include the final timetable. I hope everybody does understand that there's many competing aspects when drafting a timetable, including internal deadlines for the planning inspectorate, which also need to be built in, including, you know, quite prosaic things like notifications and so on. So it's always a difficult task to make sure that everybody's 100% happy, but we will try our best. But ultimately it is up to the examining authority to decide the final timetable. We would also like to highlight that once the examination closes, no further submissions can be accepted. When the examining authority has completed its examination of the application, it will inform each of the interested parties. We'll now move on to the next agenda item. Have you got anything they'd like to add before we do move on? Mr. Lovell, Mr. Stone,

57:53

I think just looking at the time and the fact that the applicant was going to go in, come back to us. I think we've only got two items left. I think it's probably suitable if we take our break now and then. So if we come back at half 11, so we kick half an hour, if you the time to come back to us, a response then, and we'll pick up item five at half 11. So for the time being, the hearing is adjourned, and we shall resume at 1130

58:30

Thank you.

58:32

Thank you. Applause.