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All Interested Parties and Statutory Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010065

Date: 15 October 2024

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Dear Sir/ Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 8 and 9**

### **Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A46 Newark Bypass (TR010065)**

#### **Examination Timetable and procedure**

This letter (the Rule 8 letter) provides important information about the Examination of this application. The letter includes:

- The Examination Timetable
- An invitation to submit Written Representations
- Details of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) written questions
- A request for Statements of Common Ground
- A request for Local Impact Reports from Local Authorities
- Other Procedural Decisions made by the ExA
- Information about Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections
- Information about the availability of Examination Documents
- Guidance on the use of the 'Have your say' tab on the [project webpage](#)

All documentation associated with this Examination, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the recording of that meeting, can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website ([project webpage](#)).

#### **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** to this letter.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our [Rule 6 letter](#). In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the Preliminary Meeting. A list of the main changes made to the draft Examination Timetable is set out at **Annex B** to this letter.

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 all Interested Parties make their submissions using the [‘Have your say’ tab](#) on the [project webpage](#) on or before the applicable Deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the [‘Have your say’ tab](#).

If we consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will be sent to Interested Parties and Statutory Parties invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the [project webpage](#).

## Written Representations

All Interested Parties were invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted in the Rule 6 letter (annexe F). These should be submitted by **Deadline 2** (12 November 2024) in the Examination Timetable.

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues or 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 which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the Examination (see paragraph 009 of the [government’s guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects](#) for further information about Written Representations).

We have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the Examination (see **Annex A**).

Any Written Representations and any further written submissions requested during the Examination, that 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.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/ evidence hosted on third party websites. See the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice for members of the public: [Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions.

The Planning Inspectorate has recently published guidance in relation to the use of generative Artificial Intelligence for the creation or alteration of any documents, information or data in casework. If you use AI to create or alter any part of your documents, information or data, you should tell us that you have done this when you provide the material to us. You should also tell us what systems or tools you have used, the source of the information that the AI system has based its content on, and what information or material the AI has been used to create or alter. All parties should follow the guidance, which is set out [here](#).

## Examining Authority's Written Questions

We have prepared written questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions are published alongside this Rule 8 letter on the project webpage and can be accessed at the following link:

[Examining Authority's First Written Questions \(ExQ1\)](#)

Responses to ExQ1 must be provided by **Deadline 2** (12 November 2024) in the Examination Timetable.

If you require an editable Microsoft Word version of ExQ1, please [contact the Case Team](#) using the contact details at the top of this letter.

## Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

**Annex B** to this letter contains important details and clarifications about other Procedural Decisions we made at, or following, the Preliminary Meeting, including:

- Examination timetable;
- Examining Authority's Written Questions;
- Statements of Common Ground;
- Local Impact Reports;
- Additional Submissions;
- Historic Environment Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment;
- Additional Viewpoint; and
- Book of Reference updates.

## Format of Examination Events

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when we provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

## Hearings and Site Inspections

The Examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for more information.

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public also provides important information about hearing procedures:

- [What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event](#)
- [Registering to speak at, or attend, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event](#)

On this basis the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and 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 include a Deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to participate at the notified hearing(s).

We will also undertake site inspections. Where we are able to view the site from public land, we are likely to do this unaccompanied and a note of the site inspection will be published on the project webpage. The Examination Timetable also reserves time for us to undertake an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) in the week commencing 2 December 2024. We will consider each suggested site location, including those provided in the Applicant's draft itinerary, to determine if it could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view it on an accompanied basis. We will also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on an access required basis.

**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. It also provides important information about the Accompanied Site Inspection and attendance at the inspection.

## Managing Examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the [project webpage](#).

A ['Have your say' tab](#) on the [project webpage](#) provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the 'Have your say' tab is provided at **Annex E** to this letter.

There is also a function on the left-hand side of the project webpage called ['Get updates'](#). This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the Examination.

## Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you are a person or organisation who is involved in the NSIP process. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [National Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#) for further details.

If, having read the advice, you are still unsure about how you are involved in the process please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

## Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#).

## Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this Examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#).

Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D** to this letter.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, it is 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

*Kenneth Stone*

## Lead Member of the Examining Authority

### Annexes

- A** Examination Timetable
- B** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- D** Availability of Examination Documents
- E** Information about the Make a submission tab

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.

Documents only need to be submitted where they are new or updated. All updated documents must be provided in two versions: one with tracked changes and the second clean, without tracks. Please provide a cover letter to summarise which documents have been amended.

Draft Development Consent Order (dDCOs) are to be submitted by the Applicant in the Statutory Instrument (SI) template. When submitting a dDCO the Applicant must provide the email notification from <https://publishing.legislation.gov.uk/validation> confirming the document has successfully passed validation, and the PDF version of the SI validation report obtained from the link in the notification email. The Applicant should also provide a clean (all tracking removed) standalone MS Word version of the dDCO, with no header or cover page.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	<p><b>Procedural Deadline A</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written submissions on the Examination Procedure, including any submissions about the use of virtual methods</li> <li>Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting</li> <li>Requests to attend the Preliminary Meeting or any hearings</li> <li>Suggested locations for site inspections (accompanied or unaccompanied), including justification, for consideration by the ExA</li> </ul>	<b>24 September 2024</b>
2.	<b>Preliminary Meeting (AM)</b>	<b>8 October 2024</b>
3.	<b>Open Floor Hearing (OFH) 1 (PM)</b>	<b>8 October 2024</b>
4.	<b>Compulsory Acquisition (CAH) 1 (AM)</b>	<b>9 October 2024</b>
5.	<p><b>Issue by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examination Timetable</li> </ul>	<b>As soon as practicable following the</b>

	Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1)</li> </ul>	Preliminary Meeting
6.	<p><b>Deadline 1</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on Relevant Representations (RR)</li> <li>Written summaries of oral submissions made at the PM or Hearings</li> <li>Requests to be heard at notified hearings, see Annex E of the Rule 6 letter</li> <li>Requests to be heard at an OFH</li> <li>Requests by Affected Persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a CAH</li> <li>Notification by any Statutory Parties who have not submitted a RR of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party</li> <li>Responses to any further information requested by ExA</li> </ul> <p><b>From Local Authorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Impact Report (LIR)</li> </ul> <p><b>From the Applicant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggested Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) itinerary</li> <li>Land Rights Tracker</li> <li>Initial Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Statement of Commonality (SoC)</li> </ul> <p>If changes have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated application documents tracker</li> <li>Updated Book of Reference (BoR)</li> <li>Updated Schedule of Changes to the BoR</li> <li>Updated draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)</li> <li>Updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO</li> <li>Updated Explanatory Memorandum (EM)</li> <li>Updated legal agreements, if identified</li> </ul>	<b>22 October 2024</b>
7.	<p><b>Deadline 2</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written Representations (WR), including summaries of any WR exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>Responses to ExQ1</li> <li>Comments on SoCG and SoC</li> <li>Comments on the Applicant's suggested itinerary for an ASI<sup>1</sup>, if required</li> </ul>	<b>12 November 2024</b>

<sup>1</sup> When suggesting locations, please have regard to the places already visited by the ExA on any Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) it undertakes. Suggestions must explain why the location needs to

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on LIR</li> <li>• Comments on any other submissions received at the previous deadline</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by ExA</li> </ul> <p><b>From the Applicant</b> If changes have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated application documents tracker</li> <li>• Updated Land Rights Tracker</li> <li>• Updated dDCO</li> <li>• Updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO</li> <li>• Updated EM</li> <li>• Updated SoCG and SoC</li> <li>• Updated legal agreements, if identified</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Deadline 3</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on WR</li> <li>• Responses to comments on RR</li> <li>• Comments on responses to ExQ1</li> <li>• Updated BoR (full land registry refresh)</li> <li>• Comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by ExA</li> </ul>	<b>26 November 2024</b>
9.	<p><b>Week reserved for Hearings and ASI, if required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue Specific Hearing(s)</li> <li>• Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s)</li> <li>• Further Open Floor Hearing(s)</li> <li>• ASI</li> </ul>	<b>W/C 2 December 2024</b>
10.	<p><b>Deadline 4</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written summaries of oral submissions made at the previous Hearings</li> <li>• Comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by ExA</li> </ul> <p><b>From the Applicant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated application documents tracker</li> <li>• Updated Land Rights Tracker</li> <li>• Updated dDCO</li> <li>• Updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO</li> <li>• Updated EM</li> <li>• Updated SoCG and SoC</li> </ul>	<b>13 December 2024</b>

be visited, information about whether the location can be accessed or seen using public rights of way or publicly accessible land, and what access arrangements would need to be made.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated legal agreements, if identified</li> </ul>	
11.	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ExA's Second Written Questions (ExQ2), if required</li> <li>Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and any associated questions, if required</li> </ul>	<b>14 January 2025</b>
12.	<p><b>Deadline 5</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses to ExQ2, if required</li> <li>Responses on the (RIES) and any associated questions, if required</li> <li>Comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline</li> <li>Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul> <p><b>From the Applicant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated NPS accordance table</li> <li>Updated application documents tracker</li> <li>Updated BoR</li> <li>Updated Schedule of Changes to the BoR</li> <li>Updated Land Rights Tracker</li> <li>Updated dDCO</li> <li>Updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO</li> <li>Updated EM</li> <li>Updated SoCG and SoC</li> <li>Updated legal agreements, if identified</li> </ul>	<b>4 February 2025</b>
13.	<p><b>Week reserved for Hearings, if required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further Issue Specific Hearing(s)</li> <li>Further Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s)</li> <li>Further Open Floor Hearing(s)</li> </ul>	<b>W/C 17 February 2025</b>
14.	<p><b>Deadline 6</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written summaries of oral submissions made at the Hearings</li> <li>Comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline</li> <li>Responses to any further information requested by ExA</li> </ul> <p><b>From the Applicant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated application documents tracker</li> <li>Updated Land Rights Tracker</li> <li>Updated dDCO</li> <li>Updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO</li> <li>Updated EM</li> <li>Updated SoCG and SOC</li> </ul>	<b>25 February 2025</b>

	Updated legal agreements, if identified	
15.	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ExQ3, if required ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the dDCO</li> </ul>	<b>12 March 2025</b>
16.	<p><b>Deadline 7</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses to ExQ3, if required</li> <li>Comments on the ExA's schedule of changes to the dDCO, if issued</li> <li>Comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline</li> <li>Responses to any further information requested by the ExA</li> </ul>	<b>25 March 2025</b>
17.	<p><b>Deadline 8</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline</li> <li>Responses to any further information requested by ExA</li> </ul> <p><b>From the Applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final application document tracker</li> <li>Final updated BoR</li> <li>Final BoR (with full land registry refresh) and schedule of changes to BoR</li> <li>Final Land Rights Tracker</li> <li>Final dDCO, in clean and tracked versions in both MS Word and PDF</li> <li>Final draft DCO to be submitted in the SI template with the SI template validation report.</li> <li>Final Schedule of Changes to the dDCO</li> <li>Final EM</li> <li>Final SoCGs</li> <li>List of matters not agreed where SoCG could not be finalised</li> <li>Final SOC</li> <li>Final NPS accordance table</li> <li>Final signed and dated legal agreements, if any identified</li> </ul>	<b>3 April 2025</b>
18.	<p><b>Deadline 9</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parties' closing statements of final position on outstanding matters not resolved by end of examination</li> <li>Responses to any further information requested by ExA</li> </ul>	<b>7 April 2025</b>
19.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months	<b>8 April 2025</b>

### **Submission times for Deadlines**

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.

### **Publication dates**

All information received will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the Deadlines for submissions.

### **Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)**

Where an Applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a 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 Secretary of State. The ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017.

## Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

We have made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting:

### 1. Examination Timetable

The Applicant, in its Procedural Deadline A submission [PDA-001] requested that updates of the Book of Reference be provided at specified deadlines rather than at each deadline. The ExA have made a procedural decision on this matter detailed below and adjusted the timetable to accommodate the proposed submission timings.

Minor textual and format changes have been made but no other substantive changes have been made to the draft timetable.

### 2. Examining Authority's Written Questions

Our [written questions \(ExQ1\)](#) have been published alongside this Rule 8 letter. Whilst most of our written questions are directed at specific parties, no other party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question we ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

Some of our questions are directed to specific Statutory Parties which have not, at the time of writing, confirmed that they wish to become Interested Parties for the purposes of the Examination of the application.

All relevant Statutory Parties are requested to check our Written Questions carefully in order that they may identify and respond to any questions posed to them.

For the avoidance of doubt, Statutory Parties are defined as the parties listed in Schedule 1 to [The Infrastructure Planning \(Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions\) Regulations 2015](#). Statutory Parties, including relevant local authorities, that have not already registered to become an Interested Party should consider notifying the ExA of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party, under Section 89(2A)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 as soon as possible.

### 3. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

The Applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it will aid the smooth running of the Examination if all Interested Parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the Applicant in respect of their production. We set out in Annex F of our [Rule 6 letter](#) the SoCGs we request are submitted during the Examination of this application. Final signed versions of the SoCGs listed in the Rule 6 letter Annex F are requested to be submitted **by the Applicant to Deadline 8: All of the SoCGs should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft Development Consent Order.** Any Interested Party seeking that an Article or Requirement is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought.

The content of SoCGs will help to inform us about the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings during the Examination, and to enable us and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

#### 4. Local Impact Reports (LIR)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for local authorities](#).

Local Authorities, defined in section 56A of the Planning Act 2008, were invited to submit LIRs by **Deadline 1** (22 October 2024) in the Rule 6 letter.

#### 6. Changes to land interests

When the Applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the Applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the PA2008. The Examination Timetable includes various Deadlines for the submission of an updated Book of Reference and schedule of changes to the Book of Reference, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

#### 5. Additional Submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted by Procedural Deadline A, we have exercised our discretion and made a Procedural Decision to accept Additional Submissions from Castlegate Trustees Limited received on 30 September 2024 and Mr Leary received on 2 October 2024. These Additional Submissions are published on the [documents](#) section of the [project webpage](#).

#### 6. Historic Environment and Visual Impact Assessment

The Applicant in its Procedural Deadline A submission [PDA-001] requested that the timing of the additional information requested by the ExA under Procedural Decision 7 in Annex F of the Rule 6 letter be moved to Deadline 2 rather than submission at Deadline 1. At the Preliminary Meeting it was clarified by the Applicant this request also extended to the information requested under item 8. The ExA have made the procedural decision to agree to the submission of this information at Deadline 2 to give the Applicant sufficient time to produce the requested information.

In its Procedural Deadline A response [PDA-002] Newark and Sherwood District Council requested additional locations for photomontages, in particular in relation to the fields around existing viewpoints VP42 and VP43. The matter was discussed at the Preliminary Meeting and the Applicant agreed to provide additional photomontage(s) and requested a discussion with the District Council to agree the specific locations. The ExA have therefore taken the procedural decision to request further photomontage(s) from the suggested location, and that the information should be submitted by Deadline 2.

#### 7 Book of Reference

The Applicant in its Procedural Deadline A submission [PDA-001] requested that the examination timetable be amended to allow for an updated BoR to be submitted at Deadlines 1, 3, 5 and 8. This was further clarified at the Preliminary Meeting to suggest

that the updated BoR at Deadlines 3 and 8 would include a full land registry refresh, while updates provided at Deadlines 1 and 5 would identify any changes. The ExA has determined to make a procedural decision to agree these submissions and the nature of the information to be provided. It is further clarified that the ExA would not expect a submission if no changes were made.

## Arrangements for hearings

Our Examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions however the Examination Timetable reserves periods of time for hearings to be held (if required).

## Requests to participate at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) on or before **22 October 2024** (see **Deadline 1**).

Any request to participate in a hearing **should include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise;
- for Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the [Book of Reference](#) and the [Land Plans](#); and
- the [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

Requests to participate should be made using an **Event Participation Form** which will be provided with the notification of the hearing.

**Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend an Event, either virtually or in person.**

If no written requests to take part in an OFH or CAH are received by the above Deadline, we are not required to hold such a hearing, although we may choose to do so nonetheless.

We may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that we think need to be explored orally. The decision to hold an ISH about a particular topic is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

## Hearing agendas

For Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings the ExA will publish a detailed draft agenda on the project website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For Open Floor Hearings, an agenda may not be published.

## Procedure at hearings

The Examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for more information.

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 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.

## Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed.

## Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) and requests to attend

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI on W/C 2 December 2024.

As requested in **Annex F** of our Rule 6 letter, suggestions, including justification, for locations to be included in the ASI were submitted by Procedural Deadline A and have been published on the [project webpage](#).

We have reviewed the suggested locations including justification, for locations to be included in the ASI and request that the Applicant prepare a draft itinerary for the ASI.

The draft itinerary should be submitted by **Deadline 1**.

Comments on the Applicant's draft itinerary should be submitted by **Deadline 2**.

We will then review the comments received and the draft itinerary and may make changes to it. Our final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the project webpage at least 5 days before the ASI is due to take place, if one is required.



Please note that for logistical and safety reasons it may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany us for the whole ASI, however it should be possible for arrangements to be made for Interested Parties (or their representatives) to join the inspection at specified locations within the itinerary.

Requests by Interested Parties to attend the ASI should be provided by **Deadline 2** and should include confirmation of whether the request is to attend for the whole inspection or just specific locations. The request must be submitted separately from any other written submission including on the Applicant's draft itinerary.

Please select the appropriate Deadline and Submission Item under the ['Have your say'](#) **tab**. **Annex E** provides further information about the 'Have your say' tab.

The Interested Parties attending the ASI may include representatives of the Applicant, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, together with other Interested Parties (or their representatives). Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it.

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

**Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the ASI.**

## Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [project webpage](#).

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the [Documents tab](#) of the project webpage.

## The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#) (EL) which is accessible by clicking hyperlink on the Documents page. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document;
- each representation and submission made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference number which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. **Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.**

## Electronic deposit locations

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit location listed in the table below. You may need to bring a form of identification and register to use a computer at these locations.

The opening hours and availability of information technology set out in the table below may be subject to changes. Please check the current circumstances with the relevant locations before you attend.

Local authority	Venue/ address	Opening hours	Printing costs
Nottinghamshire County Council	Newark Library Beaumont Gardens, Balderton Gate, Newark NG24 1UW	Monday: 9am-6.30pm Tuesday: 9am-6pm Wednesday: 9am-6.30pm Thursday: 9am-6pm Friday: 9am-6pm Saturday: 9am-4pm Sunday: Closed	A4: 20p A3: 40p Black on white printing only.

## Information about the 'Have your say' page

The ['Have your say'](#) page is available on the [project webpage](#).

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either 2002 or A46N-AFP, A46N-S57, A46N-SP, A46N-ISP, A46N-APL, A46N-EIA. A46N. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered Interested Party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third party website eg technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions. 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.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate Submission item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items then please select the Submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the ['Have your say'](#) tab, please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.