



The Planning Inspectorate

Preliminary Meeting Note

Application: Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation
Reference: WW010003
Time and date: 9:30am on 17 October 2023
Venue: Hilton Cambridge City Centre and virtually (Microsoft Teams)

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed. Recordings of the event are available on the [project webpage](#).

1. Welcome and Introduction

Alex Hutson welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the Panel and introduced Paul Burley and Helena Obremski and confirmed that together, they constituted the Examining Authority (ExA).

The ExA explained the appointment was made, on 1 August 2023, by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The ExA explained the process and that it would be examining the application made by Anglian Water Services Limited (the Applicant) before making a recommendation to the SoS for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the Proposed Development should be made.

The ExA explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the [project page](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Digital recording

The [digital recording](#) of the PM is available on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further information relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Note](#).

4. The ExA's Remarks about the Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the Examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further information can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4](#).

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 19 September 2023 and asked for any observations on them.

Margaret Starkie on behalf of Save Honey Hill Group confirmed the group would expand on the information provided in its initial Relevant Representation during the Examination of the application, including on the principle of the Proposed Development which includes the scope of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO), local development plans, demolition and remediation, Compulsory Acquisition, permits and elements of the Environmental Statement, including carbon and alternatives.

Dr Alan James on behalf on CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough confirmed concerns regarding development in the Green Belt, agricultural land, carbon emissions, flood risk assessments and housing delivery targets.

The ExA noted all comments made and asked that any issues that arise following the PM be submitted at Deadline 1 on 20 November 2023.

6. Procedural decisions

The ExA set out the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of PA2008 and asked for any observations. Procedural decisions can be found in [Annex H](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

The Applicant commented on the extent of the Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and requested that the drafting of precise wording within the dDCO be omitted from the SoCG as it would be included in updated dDCO submissions. The ExA noted this though highlighted that it would be helpful to identify any matters in dispute as part of the SoCG.

The Applicant provided an overview of the Change Request which was submitted on 16 October 2023, with references [AS-137 to AS-168] in the [Examination Library](#). The ExA confirmed that this had been received and would be published before a decision is made in due course as to whether the Change Request would be accepted.

The draft Examination Timetable in the Rule 6 letter makes provision for a Compulsory Acquisition schedule. In its written submission [[PD-002](#)], the Applicant suggested a table layout to fulfil this. The ExA explained that a table template will be set out in Annex A of the ExA's First Written Questions and the Applicant should have regard to the template, and that it would be helpful to identify which plots under each entry would be subject to which powers (i.e. freehold acquisition, rights or temporary possession).

The Applicant confirmed an updated Flood Risk Assessment will be submitted at Deadline 5 and that the Environment Agency has confirmed this deadline is acceptable. The Applicant will endeavour to submit it as early as possible and will keep it under review and update the ExA accordingly.

7. Draft Examination Timetable

The ExA noted the written requests to amend the draft Examination Timetable, contained in [Annex D](#) of the Rule 6 letter and welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

The Applicant summarised the proposed changes made in its [Procedural Deadline A submission](#) on 10 October 2023.

The Applicant referred to the list of documents to be submitted at each deadline and specifically a dDCO at Deadline 1, 2 and 3. It noted that the deadlines were close together which may impact on the opportunity to comment and provide a written submission. The ExA confirmed documents only need to be submitted when changes have occurred.

The Applicant requested a specific date for the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI). The ExA explained that a decision on whether an ASI is required would be taken after Deadline 1 on 20 November 2023.

The Applicant referred to the submission of the Explanatory Memorandum and requested confirmation of the deadline dates. The ExA confirmed that it should be submitted at appropriate deadlines, for example, when providing an updated dDCO.

Margaret Starkie and Ian Gilder on behalf of Save Honey Hill Group described requests they made in writing on 6 October 2023 [\[PDA-003\]](#). They asked for changes to Deadlines 2, 3 and 6 and for provision to be made for comments on the Local Impact Reports (LIRs) to be moved to beyond 6 December 2023. They also requested a further Issue Specific Hearing on the principle of the Proposed Development to be scheduled after comments have been made on the LIRs.

The Cambridgeshire Local Planning Authorities (Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) confirmed there will be no updates to the emerging Local Plan or the North-East Cambridge Area Action Plan until after a decision has been made on the Development Consent Order application.

The Cambridgeshire Local Planning Authorities submitted a written response [\[AS-169\]](#) on 13 October 2023 and commented on the tight deadline dates between Deadline 2 and 3 and explained they need to have the appropriate governance approval before submitting statements.

The Applicant raised concerns over hearings being postponed on the week commencing 8 January 2024 and Deadline 3 being put back as this would have an impact on the Examination Timetable and potentially the completion of the Examination.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

8. Hearings and Site Inspections

The ExA explained the purpose of the Issue Specific, Compulsory Acquisition and Open Floor Hearings, and ASIs and Unaccompanied Site Inspections. The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for these events.

The Applicant queried the group sizes of ASIs and whether there was an upper limit. The ExA confirmed there was no upper limit, though recognised there may be some implications

for group sizes if visiting an operational waste water treatment plant, which would be addressed in due course, if necessary.

The Applicant, Save Honey Hill Group and Dr Alan James on behalf of CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough confirmed their preference to hold blended events for any future hearings.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.5](#).

9. Any other matters

No further comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

The PM was closed at 10:53am.