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e-mail: A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

All Interested Parties and Statutory Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010037

Date: 23 September 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

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

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction

Procedural Decision to close the Preliminary Meeting in writing, Examination Timetable and Procedure

This letter provides you with the Examination Timetable, details of the publication of the Written Questions from the Examining Authority (ExA) and other important information about the Examination. All documentation associated with this project, including the Preliminary Meeting Part 1 digital recording, can be found using this link:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction/?ipcsection=overview

## **Procedural Decision on the Preliminary Meeting**

I have considered the comments and representations made at **Procedural Deadline B** (Friday 17 September 2021) and decided that there are no procedural matters which need to be explored orally. As a result, in accordance with paragraph 7.5 of the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice Note 8.6</u> (Virtual examination events), I do not consider there is a need to reconvene the Preliminary Meeting and have made a Procedural Decision to formally close the meeting in writing, marking the commencement of the Examination.

#### The Examination Timetable

I have made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A.** 



The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in the Rule 6 letter dated 20 August 2021. In finalising the Examination Timetable, I have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made at the Preliminary Meeting and in representations submitted in advance.

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, I may disregard them.

A 'Make a Submission' tab is available on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website which provides a portal through which parties will be able to make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the 'Make a Submission' portal is provided at **Annex E** to this letter.

Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 12MB. Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable. 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.

If I consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will only be sent to those persons who were invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvements project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

#### **Other Procedural Decisions**

**Annex B** contains important details and clarifications about our other Procedural Decisions made at, or following, the Preliminary Meeting. These include:

- The acceptance of Additional Submissions;
- Changes to the draft Examination Timetable;
- Statements of Common Ground; and
- Site Inspections

#### **Written Representations**

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **Deadline 1 (Wednesday 13 October 2021)** in the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**). In addition, for Deadline 1, the relevant Local Authorities are invited to submit Local Impact Reports.

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues discussed at the Preliminary Meeting and included in our <u>Rule 6 letter</u>. Nor are they restricted 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 why¹. This is required by Rule 10(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations "the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions". This is required by government Guidance on the examination if applications for development consent.

Further written submissions will be requested by the ExA at various points in the Examination. Any Written Representations, and any further written submissions requested by the ExA during the Examination which 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.

## **ExA's Written Questions**

I have compiled my first round of Written Questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed through the following link:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction/?ipcsection=overview

Answers to ExQ1 must also be provided by **Deadline 1 (Wednesday 13 October 2021)** in the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

If you require a hard copy of my ExQs, please contact the Case Team who will send you a copy.

#### **Hearings**

The Examination Timetable at **Annex A** includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and I 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 an additional deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to attend the notified hearing(s).

**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.

#### Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in this <u>FAQ document</u>.

If your reference number begins with 'THKN', 'THKN-0', 'THKN-AFP', 'THKN-S57' 'THKN-APP' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'THKN-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'THKN-OP' you are in Group C.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Required under Rule 10(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



If having read the FAQ document you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

#### Award of costs

You should be aware of the possibility of the award of costs against parties who behave unreasonably. To assist understanding of what 'unreasonable behaviour' means in the context of an Examination under the Planning Act 2008, you may find it helpful to read the government guidance <a href="Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders">Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders</a>. It is in everyone's interest that information is brought forward as early as possible in the examination process, so you are encouraged to do so.

#### **Management of information**

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted by the ExA) and a record of any advice which has been provided, is published at:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction/?ipcsection=docs

All Examination documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D**.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, I may consider it necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information, please view our <a href="Privacy Notice">Privacy Notice</a>.

I look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

M Shrigley

#### **Examining Authority**

#### **Annexes**

- **A** Examination Timetable
- **B** Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- **C** Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- **D** Availability of Examination documents
- **E** Electronic 'Make a submission' portal

This communication does not constitute legal advice. Please view our <u>Privacy Notice</u> 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.

Updated documents including the Compulsory Acquisition Schedules and draft Development Consent Orders should be submitted by the Applicant as both clean and track changed versions.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1	Deadline 1 For receipt by the ExA of:	Wednesday 13 October 2021
	<ul> <li>Comments on Relevant Representations</li> <li>Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>Local Impact Reports (LIR) from Local Authorities</li> <li>Written Representations (WRs)</li> <li>Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs)</li> <li>Statement of Commonality for SoCG</li> <li>Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>Guide to the Application</li> <li>Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP)</li> <li>Notification of wish to speak at an Issue Specific Hearing</li> <li>Notification from any Affected Person of wish to speak at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</li> <li>Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing</li> <li>Nominations of suggested locations and justifications for site inspections for consideration by the ExA</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules (EPR)</li> </ul>	
2	Deadline 2 For receipt by the ExA of:	Tuesday 26 October 2021
	<ul> <li>Responses to the ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1)</li> <li>Comments on LIR(s)</li> <li>Comments on WRs</li> </ul>	

3	<ul> <li>The Applicant's revised draft         Development Consent Order (draft DCO)</li> <li>Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>Comments on any additional         information/submissions received by         Deadline 1</li> <li>Any further information requested by the         ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> <li>Hearings</li> <li>Dates reserved to hold any:</li> </ul>	w/c 15 November
	<ul> <li>Open Floor Hearing (OFH) (if required)</li> <li>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (CAHs) (if required)</li> <li>Issue Specific Hearing(s) (ISHs) (if required)</li> </ul>	
4	Deadline 3 For receipt by the ExA of:	Tuesday 23 November 2021
	<ul> <li>Comments on responses to ExQ1</li> <li>Post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case</li> <li>The Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>Progressed SoCGs</li> <li>Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 2</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>	
5	Publication of:	Tuesday 30
	<ul> <li>Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required)</li> <li>Notice to hold an Accompanied Site Inspection in the week commencing Monday 17 January 2022 (in the event the ExA considers it necessary)</li> </ul>	November 2021
6	Deadline 4	Monday 6 December 2021
	<ul> <li>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</li> <li>An updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 3</li> </ul>	

	<ul> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>	
7	<ul> <li>Deadline 5</li> <li>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul> <li>Responses to ExQ2 (if required)</li> <li>The Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>Updated Compulsory Acquisition         Schedule</li> <li>Progressed SoCGs</li> <li>Progressed Statement of Commonality         for SoCG</li> <li>Applicant's suggested draft Itinerary for         an ASI (if required)</li> <li>Comments on any additional         information/submissions received by         Deadline 4</li> <li>Any further information requested by the         ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Monday 20 December 2021
8	Accompanied Site Inspection (only if deemed to be required by ExA)	w/c 17 January 2022
9	<ul> <li>Deadline 6</li> <li>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul> <li>Comments on responses to the ExQ2 (if required)</li> <li>An updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>The Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 5</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Tuesday 18 January 2022
10	Hearings  Dates reserved to hold any:  Open Floor Hearing (OFH) (if required)  Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (CAHs) (if required)  Issue Specific Hearing(s) (ISHs) (if required)	w/c 31 January 2022

11	Deadline 7	Thursday 10
	Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:	February 2022
	<ul> <li>Post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case</li> <li>Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>The Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>Progressed SoCGs</li> <li>Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 6</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>	
12	Publication of:	Monday 21
	<ul> <li>The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required)</li> <li>The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO/Commentary on the draft DCO (if required)</li> </ul>	February 2022
13	Deadline 8	Thursday 3 March
	Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:	2022
	<ul> <li>Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO/Commentary on the draft DCO (if issued)</li> <li>An updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 7</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>	
14	Deadline 9	Monday 14 March
	Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:	2022
	<ul> <li>Comments on the RIES (if issued)</li> <li>Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report</li> <li>Final Explanatory Memorandum</li> <li>Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (identifying any unresolved objections)</li> <li>Final SoCGs</li> </ul>	

	<ul> <li>Final Statement of Commonality also listing matters not agreed (in circumstances where a SoCG could not be finalised)</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 8</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>	
15	<ul> <li>Final Guide to the Application</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 9</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>	Friday 18 March 2022
16	The ExA is under duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months  Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed	Wednesday 23 March 2022

## 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 otherwise stated or instructed by the ExA.

#### **Publication dates**

All information received will be published on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions. An Examination Library will be kept up to date throughout the Examination and can be accessed via the 'Documents' tab on the project webpage. Each document will be given a unique reference. These references will be used by the ExA during the Examination:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction/?ipcsection=docs

## **Hearing agendas**

Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition hearings the ExA will aim to 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 agendas will not be published unless, in consideration of the number of participants notified to the Planning Inspectorate, the ExA decides that establishing a running order will facilitate the process on the day.

#### 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 relevant Secretary of State.

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

## **Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority**

## 1. Close of the Preliminary Meeting

The Examining Authority (ExA) has considered the comments and representations made at **Procedural Deadline B** (Friday 17 September 2021) and has decided that there are no procedural matters which need to be explored orally. As a result, in accordance with paragraph 7.5 of the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.6 (Virtual Events), the ExA does not consider there is a need to reconvene the meeting and that the meeting is now formally closed, marking the commencement of the Examination.

## 2. Acceptance of Additional Submissions

The ExA has made a Procedural Decision following the Preliminary Meeting to accept into the Examination the following documents as Additional Submissions:

- [AS-008] Highways England on behalf of The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) stating that HSE do not intend to raise a representation.
- [AS-009] Ramblers' Association: Norfolk Area commenting on Work No.35 the replacement pedestrian bridge across the A47. Comments relating to pedestrian, mobility vehicles, cyclists, and horse rider use.
- [AS-010] Ministry of Defence confirming its safeguarding position.
- [RR-030] A letter from a member of the public raising a variety of climate change and environmental concerns.

## 3. Examination Timetable

Following the Preliminary Meeting Part 1, I have made the decision to incorporate the following amendments to the Examination Timetable as previously set out in my Rule 6 letter:

- Scope to include hearings within w/c 15 November is now incorporated within the timetable instead of w/c 8 November to avoid any potential hearing clashes with other related Development Consent Order proposals currently being considered. The actual date of any hearing(s) (if/where required) will be confirmed by notification to all Interested Parties.
- Deadline 5 is now pushed back to Monday 20 December 2021.
- To ensure the overall timetabling remains efficient and effective Deadlines 3 and 4 are now Tuesday 23 November and Monday 6 December, respectively, taking into account the first two changes described above.

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

I acknowledge the response from the Applicant [PDA-001] that it is preparing SoCGs with the following parties:

- Natural England
- National Grid
- Network Rail

- Cadent Gas
- Anglian Water
- Environment Agency
- Norfolk County Council
- South Norfolk Council
- Historic England
- Big Sky Developments Ltd

It was noted at the Preliminary Meeting that drafts of the above will need to be submitted in accordance with relevant draft timetabling requirements detailed in Annex A.

Additionally, with respect to the ExA's Initial Assessment of Principal Issues established in the Rule 6 letter, I note the response of Norfolk County through RR-001 highlights its concerns to include the potential taking on of responsibilities for assets and new infrastructure. This matter will be considered during the Examination.

## 5. Site Inspection(s)

I have already visited some of the broad improvement locations proposed by the application, unaccompanied on 19 and 20 August 2021. A copy of my Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) notes detailing the areas visited can be found on the project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

I do anticipate that further site inspection(s) will need to be undertaken by the ExA also factoring the responses received by **Deadline 1 (13 October 2021)** towards any suggested viewpoints.

To that end, I appreciate that views of all land areas involved is not possible from public areas. Therefore, it may be the case that suggested viewpoints known at Deadline 1 can be accessed unaccompanied with access granted/made available by relevant landowners. I would therefore like to invite responses on that possibility together with the submissions anticipated for Deadline 1.

The use of photographs and aerial photographs or even drone footage can also potentially be submitted to inform the Examination, covering areas of land where public views are not possible.

A note of any further USIs will also be made available on the project page of the National Infrastructure Website once undertaken. Considering the application documents and the Relevant Representations received to date I will only hold an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) in the latter half of the Examination Timetable should I decide that one is required considering the responses by Deadline 1, other timetabling matters, and public health controls in play at the time.

Should any land areas subject to access constraints (detailed at Deadline 1 or otherwise) be able to be viewed earlier within the Examination Timetable this will assist the Examination in dealing with the issues arising for all parties.

Annex C

#### Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings

Interested Parties (IP) 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). I would like to remind IPs of the request to receive notification in this regard on or before **Wednesday 13 October 2021** (Deadline 1, Annex A).

I anticipate holding the hearings virtually using the methods as set out in the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice Note 8.6: Virtual examination events</u>. However, I do not discount the possibility of some physical events within the examination should those be feasible.

If no written requests to hold a CAH are received by the above deadline, I am not required to hold such a hearing; although I may choose to do so nonetheless. I may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that I think need to be explored orally. The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all IPs, providing at least 21 days' notice.

If an IP wishes to attend an OFH or ISH they should indicate which topics in their Relevant Representation or Written Representation, they wish to address at the hearing. Similarly, any Affected Person wishing to attend a CAH should identify clearly the plots of land about which they wish to speak.

Notifications from IPs in respect of the above should be sent separately from any other written submission, and appropriately titled to allow us to quickly identify which event the notification relates to.

#### Procedure at hearings

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. Any oral representations must be based on either the Relevant Representation or Written Representation made by the person by whom, or on whose behalf, the oral representations are made.

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. The examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions, and I will decide whether a hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important I consider an issue or topic to be.

#### **Hearing agendas**

I will aim to publish a draft agenda with the notification of hearings on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

#### **Availability of Examination Documents**

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction/?ipcsection=overview

All further documents submitted during the Examination will also be published at the above location.

For ease of navigation, please refer to the Examination Library (EL) which is accessible via a blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

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

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the project webpage is also provided. Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.

#### **Electronic deposit locations**

Documents may potentially (subject to any local access issues at the time) be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the following locations. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification to use a computer at these locations. Please contact the venue before travelling to check their opening hours and availability given the impact from Coronavirus may affect arrangements.

Local Authority	Library/ address	Opening hours
Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what- we-do-and-how-we-work/have- your-say/contact-norfolk-county- council	Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW	10am-7pm Monday- Friday, 9am- 5pm Saturday
Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what- we-do-and-how-we-work/have-	Hethersett Library, Queens Road, Hethersett, Norwich NR9 3DB	10am-1pm and 2pm – 5pm Monday Wednesday and Friday, 2pm-7pm

your-say/contact-norfolk-county- council		Thursday and 10-2pm Saturday
Printing costs	Black and white	Colour
A4	Black/white A4 - 20p https://www.norfolk.gov .uk/libraries-local- history-and- archives/libraries/your- local-library/printing- and-copying	Colour A4 - 50p
A3	Black/white A3 - 30p	Colour A3 - £1

# Link to all council library locations

https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/locations-and-opening-times/costessey-library

If you require a hard copy of the application documents please contact the Applicant by email at <a href="mailto:A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk">A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk</a> or by telephone on 0300 123 5000.

Annex E

## Electronic 'Make a submission' portal

The Planning Inspectorate will be using an electronic portal, which parties will be able to use to make their written submissions at the relevant deadline.

A 'Make a submission' tab will become available on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure website. The portal operates on a system where submissions are separated in accordance with the deadline submissions type requested (see the Examination Timetable at **Annex A**). Please ensure documents are submitted respective to the associated deadline and are the relevant document submission types. Where this is not possible, please use the 'Other' drop down option.

Interested Parties 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. Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable. 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.

We would encourage everyone in the first instance to use the 'Make a submission' portal to make your submissions however, if necessary, Interested Parties will be able to send electronic copies of their submission via email to the project mailbox, <a href="mailto:A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk">A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk</a>, on or before the applicable deadline.

If you experience any issues when using this portal, please contact a member of the Case Team to assist. The Inspectorate will be monitoring the use of the portal.

Any feedback is much appreciated and will help the Inspectorate identify and prioritise future service enhancements for our customers.