



Your ref: TR010040

FAO Mr A Hutson
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

A47 Blofield to North Burlingham
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Road
Bedford
MK41 7LW

24th May 2021

Dear Mr Hutson,

**APPLICATION BY HIGHWAYS ENGLAND FOR AN ORDER GRANTING
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE A47 BLOFIELD TO NORTH BURLINGHAM
PROJECT (TR010040)**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO RULE 6 LETTER

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In advance of the Preliminary Meeting in respect of the application for the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Order (the Application), this letter addresses a number of matters raised in the Examining Authority's (ExA) notice of the Preliminary Meeting (the Rule 6 Letter), to be discussed further at the Preliminary Meeting if necessary.

2. Statements of Common Ground

- 2.1. Since acceptance of the Application, Highways England has been working towards producing a number of Statements of Common Ground (**SoCG**) with statutory and non-statutory consultees in relation to the Scheme, as follows:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Historic England
- Norfolk County Council
- Broadland District Council
- Statutory Undertakers including Anglian Water Services Limited, BT Openreach, Cadent Gas Limited, UK Power Networks, Virgin Media and Vodafone

- Blofield Parish Council

2.2. Highways England will endeavour to meet the deadlines imposed in relation to submission of the SoCGs.

3. Timetable for Examination

3.1. Highways England has the following comments on the ExA's timetable.

3.1.1. Item 10 – Deadline 4

Submission of documentation including written summaries of oral submissions and related documentation, on Tuesday 7 September, is very close to the potential close of the hearings that may be scheduled for 1 – 3 September. It is anticipated that complying with the 7 September deadline could be challenging for both Highways England and other parties. Highways England would suggest that Deadline 4 could be moved to Friday 10 September without impacting significantly on the Examination timetable.

3.1.2. Lines 15 and 16 – Hearings and Deadline 7

Depending on how many hearings are required in the week commencing 15 November 2021, the time scale for submission of documentation by Deadline 7 on Monday 22 November 2021 could also prove to be very challenging. Highways England notes that the ExA intends by the end of the week following Deadline 7 to publish its preferred DCO. Highways England would therefore suggest that, were it to be possible, hearings be brought forward into the week commencing 8 November 2021.

3.1.3. Lines 17 and 18

If the change suggested above is made then it may be possible to extend the time between line 17 and Deadline 8. Deadline 8 includes some significant and important documentation, including comments on the proposed revisions to the DCO provided by the ExA on 26 November. If it were possible to bring forward line 17 by a day or two then this would greatly assist and it may also potentially allow for the change suggested below.

3.1.4. Line 19 – Deadline 9

The gap between Deadlines 9 and 10 is also potentially challenging. Bringing Deadline 9 forward to either 15 or 16 December would greatly benefit all parties, particularly if submissions are not made until late on Friday 17 December. This would in effect lead to the risk that Deadline 9 documents are not available to all parties until mid-morning on Monday 20 December 2021, with submissions due for Deadline 10 the day after. Bringing forward Deadline 9 by even a day would greatly assist.

3.2. It will assist all parties' preparation to have full agendas for all hearings as soon as is practicable and in good time prior to a hearing. This will enable Highways England to better assist the ExA in hearings.

3.3. Highways England would be grateful if the ExA is able to provide an early indication of the precise nature of any additional Issue Specific Hearings (ISHs) in order for Highways England, and stakeholders, to secure the availability of appropriate experts for the respective hearings.

4. List of proposed attendees at the Preliminary Meeting and Subsequent Hearings

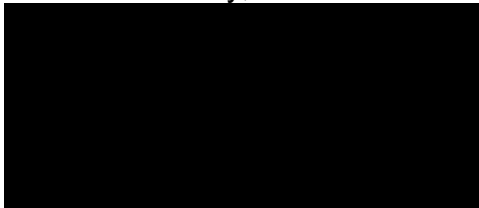
4.1. Highways England will attend the Preliminary Meeting and proposes to address the ExA on the matters set out in this letter. The list of proposed attendees on behalf of Highways England is enclosed at Schedule 1.

4.2. Highways England will also be attending all hearings listed at Annex D of the Rule 6 letter and, following receipt of the agendas, Highways England will produce a list of proposed speakers and present this to the ExA at the start of the relevant hearing.

5. Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

5.1. Highways England's suggestions for ASI are to be found at Schedule 2.

Yours sincerely,



Nikki Rowley-Todd
Project Manager
Highways England

SCHEDULE 1
List of Applicant Attendees at Preliminary Meeting

	Attendee	Email	Organisation
1.	Philip Robson (Barrister – consultant to WBD, Speaker at PM)	██████████@wbd-uk.com	Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP
2.	Richard Guyatt (Speaker at PM on dDCO/ overall procedure)	██████████@wbd-uk.com	Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP
3.	Stephen Dagg	██████████@wbd-uk.com	Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP
4.	Sarah Holmes	██████████@wbd-uk.com	Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP
5.	Nikki Rowley (Project Manager)	██████████@highwaysengland.co.uk	Highways England
6.	Phil Fouche (Senior Project Manager)	██████████@gallifordtry.co.uk	Galliford Try
7.	Tim Sayers (Project Manager)	██████████@gallifordtry.co.uk	Galliford Try
8.	Sophie May (Project Manager)	██████████@sweco.co.uk	Sweco
9.	Mark Murphy (EIA and HRA)	██████████@sweco.co.uk	Sweco
10.	David Battershill (Traffic and Transport)	██████████@sweco.co.uk	Sweco
11.	Jacque Critchley (DCO Lead)	██████████@carterjonas.co.uk	Carter Jonas

SCHEDULE 2
Applicant's Suggestions for Accompanied Site Inspections

Area	Locations	Purpose/Works No.
Blofield	Junction of Yarmouth Road/Blofield Allotments	To view works to the Yarmouth Road/A47 Junction, Blofield Allotments and installation of relocated Cadent Gas main Works 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12
Blofield/Waterlow	Waterlow	to view location for proposed infiltration basin compounds and diverted gas main Works 5, 8, 11, 13, 14
North of A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham	High Noon Lane	Location of works to High Noon Lane and other associated accesses Works 1, 2, 8, 9, 12
Between Blofield and North Burlingham	Yarmouth Road	Location of proposed Blofield Overbridge Works 1, 2, 9, 11, 15 and 17
Lingwood Road, North Burlingham	Lingwood Road	Junction of existing A47 and Lingwood Road to see locations of Works 1, proximity of Poplar Farm Works 1, 4, 21
North Burlingham	Footpath 3 at its junction with existing A47	To view proposals regarding new access tracks and rights of way network Works 1, 14A, 14B, 23
North Burlingham/Lingwood Lane	Lingwood Lane	To view proposed A47 main line and construction compounds Works 1, 23, 25, 26, 26A, 27

Area	Locations	Purpose/Works No.
North Burlingham	Proposed location of B1140 overbridge – on existing A47	To view proposed junction arrangements on the northern side of the realigned A47 Works 1, 29, 31, 33, 34, 37, 38
Acle Road, North Burlingham/Lingwood	Acle Road south of existing A47	To view southern part of proposed location of B1140 overbridge and associated junction works Works 1, 26C, 32, 34, 35, 39, 40, 41
Areas north of Burlingham – Acle	Junction of Acle Road and existing A47	To view the proposed location of tying into existing A47 and associated works Works 1, 31, 39, 40, 44
North Burlingham/Acle	Layby north of existing A47	Proposed closure of existing layby and associated utility diversion works Works 1, 43, 44