

Planning Act 2008 – section 91

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham project

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) dealing with environmental matters relating

Agenda for virtual ISH2: Thursday 19 August 2021, 10:00am

Notification of the date, time and joining instructions for the virtual ISH2 was provided in the [Examining Authority's letter](#) dated 14 July 2021.

Arrangements Conference

Please join at **9:30am**. The Case Team will admit you from the lobby and register your attendance.

Where necessary a break will be provided during ISH2 in recognition of the fatigue associated with on-screen communication during virtual events.

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing

2. Air quality

- Difference between Environmental Management Plan Rev 2 and Rev 3
- Dust control and management matters
- Construction vehicle numbers and effects

3. Biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment

- Biodiversity Net Gain clarification
- Effects on bats
- Adequacy of protected species surveys, including for Great Crested Newt
- Lingwood Community Woodland mitigation matters
- Landscape and Ecology Management Plan provisions
- Protected species licence matters
- Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and clarification relating to mitigation
- Other clarifications on HRA matters

4. Climate change

- Cumulative effects matters

- Implications of a recent High Court decision on a legal challenge to the Government's Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2)

5. Cultural heritage

- Difference between ES Chapter 6: Cultural Heritage Rev 1 and Rev 2
- Effects on designated and non-designated heritage assets
- Effects on archaeology and adequacy of surveys
- Explanation of ES Tables 6-2 and 6-3 and results
- ES Chapter 6 page number errors

6. Geology and soils

- Agricultural Land Classification survey and how secured
- Reinstatement of agricultural land and soil measures

7. Review of issues and actions arising

- The ExA will address how any actions placed on the Applicant are to be met

8. Any other matters

9. Closure of the hearing

Notes on participation, conduct and management of the hearing

All IPs are invited to attend issue specific hearings. The event will also be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the event date.

Each IP is entitled to make oral representations at the Hearing. However, this is subject to the Examining Authority's (ExA) power to control the Hearing.

The ExA would find it helpful for the following attendees to participate in ISH2 into the environmental matters:

- Highways England (the Applicant) - including representatives of the Applicant who are in a position to discuss the matters on the agenda;
- Norfolk County Council;
- Broadland District Council;
- Environment Agency;
- Natural England;
- Historic England; and
- Any other IPs with an interest in the environmental matters.

Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the hearing will be conducted to ensure that legal representation is not required.

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that it is the ExA that will probe,

test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA.

The virtual event will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. Hearings will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The ExA may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a Hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. Should the consideration of the issues take less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the Hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to.

If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at any Hearing, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day. Alternatively, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to further written questions.

All Examination documents are provided with a unique identification number for referencing purposes shown in square brackets [].

The evidence presented orally at ISH2 should be included in post-hearing submissions and submitted by **Thursday 9 September 2021 (Deadline 4)**.

Purpose of ISH2

The main purpose of ISH2 is to undertake an examination of various environmental matters. In particular:

- To review environmental impact considerations, including matters arising from the application documentation and representations relating to:
 - Air quality;
 - Biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment;
 - Climate change;
 - Cultural heritage; and
 - Geology and soils

Contingencies

The ExA will endeavour to hear all participants. If the ISH2, or parts of it, is unable to proceed, for example for technical reasons, then the ExA may adjourn incomplete business to reserved hearings later in the Examination Timetable. Notice of any adjournments will be provided on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Microsoft Teams

The ISH2 will take place virtually using Microsoft Teams. Further information about virtual events in relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.6: Virtual examination events:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-6-virtual-examination-events/>

Further information, including a short video regarding taking part in a Planning Inspectorate virtual event, can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-virtual-events-guide-to-participating>

Please contact the Case Team if you have any questions about using Microsoft Teams or if you would like to test your access arrangements:

A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlingham@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

0303 444 5000