Planning Inspectorate

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All interested parties, statutory parties and any other person invited to the preliminary meeting

Our Ref: WA010002

Date: 17 November 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam

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

Application by Southern Water Services Limited for an order granting development consent for the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

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
- A request for statements of common ground
- A request for local impact reports (LIR) from local authorities (or updates to draft LIRs submitted at the pre-examination stage)
- Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (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 on the documents page on the project webpage of the Find a National Infrastructure Project website.

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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 we have 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' page on the project webpage on or before the applicable deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the 'Have your say' page.

If we consider it necessary to vary the examination timetable during the examination, notification will be sent to interested parties, statutory parties and other persons invited to the preliminary meeting. The changes will be published on the project webpage.

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** 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.

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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.

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. These include the following changes to the draft timetable:

- Deadline 3 now 7 January 2027
- Date of publication of ExA's final itinerary for the accompanied site inspection (ASI) now 7 January 2027
- Dates reserved for any issue specific hearing (ISH), or any open floor hearing (OFH) now w/c 18 January 2027
- Dates reserved for any ASI now w/c 25 January 2027

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 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 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 ASI in the week commencing **25 January 2027.** We will consider each suggested site location, including those provided in the applicant's draft itinerary (expected to be submitted at deadline 1), 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' page is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the examination. Further information about the 'Have your say' page is provided at **annex E** to this letter.

You can also use the 'Get updates' button on the project webpage 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.

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

Wendy McKay

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 and accompanied site inspections
D Examination documents
E Information about the 'Have your say' tab

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our Privacy Notice before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.

Examination Timetable

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.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	**Preliminary Meeting (PM)**	**11 November 2026 at 10am**
2.	**Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)**	**11 November 2026 2.30pm**
3.	**Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1), on water environment**	**12 November 2026 at 10am**
4.	**Issue by the ExA of:** • the examination timetable	**As soon as practicable after the PM**
5.	**Deadline 1** For receipt by the ExA of: • comments on relevant representations (RR) • summaries of all RR exceeding 1500 words • written summaries of oral submissions made at the PM or hearings • written representations (WR), including summaries of any WR exceeding 1500 words • requests to be heard at any subsequent OFH to be held after OFH1 • requests by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a CAH • notification by any statutory parties who have not submitted an RR of their wish to be considered as an interested party • any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 • comments on any further information/ submissions accepted by the ExA **From Local Authorities** • Local Impact Report (LIR) **From the applicant**	**23 November 2026**

	• the applicant's draft itinerary for an accompanied site inspection (ASI) • National Policy Statement (NPS) Accordance Table • draft s106 agreement (if any) • draft Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) requested by the ExA **If changes have been made:** • updated SoCGs previously submitted • updated Land Rights and Negotiations Tracker • updated Guide to the application • updated Book of Reference (BoR) • updated Schedule of Changes to the BoR • updated draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO • updated Explanatory Memorandum (EM) • updated Planning Policy Statement • updated Case for the Project • updated Consents and Licences Position Statement	
6.	**Publication of** • the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1)	**2 December 2026**
7.	**Deadline 2** For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to ExQ1 • comments on the applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI • comments on WR • comments on draft SoCGs • comments on LIR • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 • comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by **deadline 1**	**16 December 2026**
8.	**Deadline 3** For receipt by the ExA of:	**7 January 2027**

	• responses to comments on WR • responses to comments on RR • comments on responses to ExQ1 • comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline • responses to any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	
9.	**Publication by the ExA of:** • the ExA's final itinerary for the ASI (if required)	**7 January 2027**
10.	**Dates reserved (if required) for:** • any ISH • any OFH	**Week commencing 18 January 2027**
11.	**Dates reserved (if required) for:** • any ASI	**Week commencing 25 January**
12.	**Deadline 4** For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to comments on ExQ1 • post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral submissions made at the hearings • comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline • responses to any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 **From the applicant if changes have been made:** • updated Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) • updated Land Rights and Negotiations Tracker • updated Guide to the application • updated Book of Reference (BoR) • updated Schedule of Changes to the BoR • updated draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO • updated Explanatory Memorandum (EM) • updated Planning Policy Statement • updated Case for the Project	**2 February 2027**

	• updated Consents and Licences Position Statement • updated NPS Accordance Table	
13.	**Publication by the ExA of:** • ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) (if required)	**16 February 2027**
14.	**Deadline 5** For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to ExQ2 (if required) • comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline • responses to any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	**2 March 2027**
15.	**Week reserved (if required) for:** • any ISH • any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) • any OFH • any ASI	**Week commencing 15 March 2027**
16.	**Deadline 6** For receipt by the ExA of: • post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral submissions made at the hearings • comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline • responses to any further information requested by ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 **From the applicant if changes have been made:** • updated SoCGs • updated Land Rights and Negotiations Tracker • updated Guide to the application • updated Book of Reference (BoR) and • updated Schedule of Changes to the BoR • updated draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO • updated Explanatory Memorandum (EM) • updated Planning Policy Statement	**30 March 2027**

	• Updated Case for the Project • updated Consents and Licences Position Statement • updated NPS Accordance Table	
17.	**Publication by the ExA of** • ExA's third written questions (ExQ3) (if required) • the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO	**7 April 2027**
18.	**Deadline 7** For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to ExQ3 (if required) • comments on the ExA's schedule of changes to the dDCO, if issued • comments on any submissions received at the previous deadline • responses to any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	**21 April 2027**
19.	**Deadline 8** For receipt by the ExA, from the applicant, of: • **the final draft DCO** Final draft DCO to be submitted by the applicant in the SI template Applicant to 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 draft DCO**,** with no header or cover page • final SoCGs • final Statement of Commonality of SoCG • list of matters not agreed where SoCG could not be finalised • final Guide to the Application in clean and tracked versions • final BoR and schedule of changes to BoR • final Land Rights and Negotiations Tracker • final EM • final Planning Policy Statement	**4 May 2027**

	• final Case for the Project • final NPS Accordance Table • final signed and dated section 106 (if any) **For receipt by the ExA, from any IP, of:** • any interested party's closing statement (if desired) of final position regarding matters that they have previously raised during the examination including outstanding matters not resolved to their satisfaction • comments on any additional information/submissions received by deadline 7 • responses to any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	
20.	**Deadline 9** For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	**10 May 2027**
21.	**Close of examination** The ExA intends to close the examination on this date. See 'Note about the close of examination date'.	**11 May 2027**

Note about the close of examination date

The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the preliminary meeting. The ExA may however decide to close the examination earlier if it considers that the application and relevant matters have been examined adequately.

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.

Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)j./

We have made a number of procedural decisions following the preliminary meeting:

1. Examination timetable

We confirm that the deadlines proposed in [PD-005], relating to the documents listed below, are as set out in the final examination timetable in Annex A. This includes dates relating to:

- The preparation and submission of local impact reports (LIR) by Local Planning Authorities – (Deadline 1 – 23 November 2026).
- A collated National Policy Statement (NPS) Accordance Table (Deadline 1 – 23 November 2026).
- The submission by the applicant of a draft itinerary for the accompanied site inspection (Deadline 1 – 23 November 2026).

We have also applied the following changes to the draft Examination Timetable at Annex D to the Rule 6 letter dated 6 October 2026:

- Deadline 3 – date changed from 5 January 2027 to 7 January 2027.
- Date of publication of ExA's final itinerary for the ASI changed from 5 January 2027 to 7 January 2027.
- Dates reserved for any ISH or any OFH changed from week commencing 11 January 2027 to week commencing 18 January 2027.
- Dates reserved for any ASI changed from week commencing 11 January 2027 to week commencing 25 January 2027.

2. 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. The timetable establishes **deadline 1** for the submission of draft SoCGs, but where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed by deadline 1 draft versions of that SoCG are to be submitted by **deadline 2**. Final signed versions of the SoCGs listed below are requested to be submitted **by the applicant** to **deadline 8**:

1. SoCG between the applicant and National Highways.
2. SoCG between the applicant and Portsmouth Water Limited.
3. SoCG between the applicant and Network Rail Infrastructure Limited.
4. SoCG between the applicant and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

5. SoCG between the applicant and Gosport Borough Council.

All of the SoCGs listed above should cover the relevant articles, requirements and schedules in the draft DCO. Any interested party seeking that an article, requirement or schedule 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 in advance of them taking place.

3. 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, are invited to submit LIRs (or updates to draft LIRs submitted at the pre-examination stage) by **deadline 1**.

4. 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. They should inform them that information about how to do this can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's advice for members of the public: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process.

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. Status of the Applicant's Examination Documents

We request that the applicant provides, at each deadline, an updated 'Status of the Applicant's examination documents' document which provides a list of the most up-to-date status of the documents submitted, including which copies have been superseded in whole or in part. A final version must be submitted before the close of the examination. All examination documents submitted should include a version number and date.

6. Request for a National Policy Statement (NPS) Accordance Table

The ExA requests that the applicant provides a separate NPS Accordance Table in a similar format as that included, for example, in the NPSWRI section of Table 10.2 ES Chapter 10 [APP-089] to incorporate policy compliance with all relevant NPSWRI policies including those set out in the Planning Policy Statement and the individual ES Chapters. The NPS Accordance Table should provide details of the relevant NPSWRI paragraph reference, a summary of policy requirements and where that is addressed in the evidence. We request that the applicant provides the first version of an NPS Accordance Table

collated in a single document by deadline 1, and updates at the deadlines specified in the examination timetable. A final version must be submitted at deadline 8.

7. Use of artificial intelligence in submissions

The Planning Inspectorate has issued guidance for submitting information that has been generated or altered by AI.

We announced at the preliminary meeting that if any party uses AI to create its submission, it is important to let us know. All parties should specify which AI systems or tools have been used, the source of the information that the AI system has based its content on, and what parts of the submitted information or representation AI has been used to create or alter.

Where you have used AI systems to summarise, substantially rewrite or add commentary to information which goes beyond a simple factual description, this can affect the accuracy and interpretation of the underlying data. In addition to telling us that you have used AI, as with all other information submitted to us, it is your responsibility to ensure that it is fit for purpose, accurate, complete and not misleading.

By following this guidance, you will help the ExA to understand the origin and accuracy of the information submitted, thereby supporting our fair and impartial examination of the application.

Please note:
If you do not declare the use of AI in any evidence submission where it has been used or remove evidence such as watermarks the ExA reserves the right to reject the submission, and this could be considered to be unreasonable behaviour leading to an award of costs.

Where AI is used in the production of any further submissions this should be made clear at the top of that submission.

8. Additional submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted by procedural deadlines A and B, we have exercised our discretion and made a procedural decision to accept additional submissions from the following:

- Submission made by National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc [AS-023]
- Submission made by Historic England [AS-024]
- Submission made by Fareham Borough Council [AS-025]
- Submissions made by Fisher German LLP on behalf of Exolum Pipeline System Ltd [AS-026 and AS-031]
- Submission made by TB Fowler MRICS on behalf of Mr and Mrs Cross [AS-027]
- Submission made by Marine Management Organisation [AS-028]
- Submission made by Portsmouth City Council [AS-029]
- Submission made by Save Our Island [AS-030]

- Submission made by TB Fowler MRICS on behalf of Mr B and Mrs J Cross [AS-032]
- Submission made by Andrew Newbery [AS-033]
- Submission made by Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) [AS-034]

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).

Hearing agendas

High-level agendas for any hearings will be published alongside any notification on the project webpage to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate.

For ISHs and CAHs 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 OFHs an agenda may not be published.

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 23 November 2026 (see **deadline 1**).

Interested parties are additionally required to confirm to the ExA in writing of their wish to take part in any OFH or CAH that is arranged in the light of those requests and any further issue specific hearings (ISH) that is held. The deadline(s) for this will be published with the notification of the hearing.

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 CAHs, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the Book of Reference and the Land Plans
- The Examination Library reference number (with paragraph/ page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to

The ExA will provide reasonable notice of the time, date and place of any hearings to all interested parties.

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).

Hearing agendas

High-level agendas for any hearings will be published alongside any notification on the project webpage to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate.

For ISHs and CAHs 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 OFHs an agenda may not be published.

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 23 November 2026 (see **deadline 1**).

Interested parties are additionally required to confirm to the ExA in writing of their wish to take part in any OFH or CAH that is arranged in the light of those requests and any further issue specific hearings (ISH) that is held. The deadline(s) for this will be published with the notification of the hearing.

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 CAHs, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the Book of Reference and the Land Plans
- The Examination Library reference number (with paragraph/ page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to

The ExA will provide reasonable notice of the time, date and place of any hearings to all interested parties.

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.

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)

The draft examination timetable at **annex A** to this letter includes a time reserved for an accompanied site inspection (ASI), if required, during week commencing 25 January 2027. As requested in **annex B** 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.

The applicant is requested to prepare a draft itinerary for the ASI to be submitted by **deadline 1.** This should include:

- relevant locations referred to in the relevant representations received
- any other locations at which the applicant has predicted likely significant environmental effects which cannot be inspected on an unaccompanied basis

- the locations suggested by interested parties submitted by **procedural deadline A**

Comments by interested parties on the applicant's draft itinerary must be submitted by **deadline 2**.

We will then review the comments received and the draft itinerary and may make changes to it. The ExA 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. The ExA 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.

Our final itinerary for the ASI (if required) will be published on the project webpage on or before **7 January 2027**.

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 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. The deadline(s) and arrangements for notification by interested parties of attendance will be published with the formal notification of the ASI after **deadline 2.**

The interested parties attending the ASI will include representatives of the applicant, 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 the ASI is 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.

Examination documents

The application documents and relevant representations can be inspected on the project webpage.

How to stay up to date

All further documents submitted in the course of the examination will also be published on the documents page of the project webpage.

You can also sign up to get email updates.

If you have any questions about the process, examination events or how to access the documents, you can email HampshireWaterProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or contact us on 0303 444 5000.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the Examination Library (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue link at the top of 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
- 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**.

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 letter or email from The Planning Inspectorate). If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do have not 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, for example technical reports, media articles and so on. 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' page please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.