



HIGHWAYS ENGLAND

A428 BLACK CAT TO CAXTON GIBBET IMPROVEMENTS SECTIONS 91, 93 AND 94 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

RULE 13(6) OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

NOTICE OF OPEN FLOOR HEARINGS AND ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARINGS RELATING TO THE A428 BLACK CAT TO CAXTON GIBBET IMPROVEMENTS

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE: TR010044

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, at the dates, times and locations set out below open floor hearings and issue specific hearings will be held by the Examining Authority (appointed by the Secretary of State) for the examination of the application made by Highways England for a Development Consent Order ("the DCO") for the **A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements** ("the Application").

The Application was made to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) under sections 14(1)(h), 22(1)(a) and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 on 26 February 2021 and was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate for examination on 23 March 2021. The Application has been given the Planning Inspectorate reference number **TR010044**.

SUMMARY OF THE SCHEME

The Application seeks development consent for the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements in the East of England, located within the administrative areas of Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council.

The DCO would authorise a new 10 mile (16km) dual 2-lane carriageway from the Black Cat roundabout in Bedfordshire to Caxton Gibbet roundabout in Cambridgeshire, to be known as the A421 (new dual carriageway) and in addition approximately 1.8 miles (3km) of tie-in works (the Scheme).

The Scheme also includes the following components:

- A new three-level grade separated junction at Black Cat roundabout, with the A1 at the lower level, the new dual carriageway on the upper level and a roundabout between the two at approximately existing ground level. In addition to slip roads, a new free flowing link between the A421 eastbound carriageway and the A1 northbound carriageway will also be provided.
- A new grade separated all movements junction will be constructed to the east of the existing Cambridge Road roundabout to provide access to the new dual carriageway and maintain access to the existing A428.
- At the Caxton Gibbet roundabout, a new grade separated all movements junction will be constructed, incorporating the existing roundabout on the south side of the new dual carriageway and a new roundabout on the north side. The new dual carriageway will then tie-in to the existing A428 dual carriageway to the east of the new Caxton Gibbet junction.

- In the vicinity of the new Black Cat junction, direct access onto the A1 from some local side roads and private premises will be closed for safety reasons. A new local road will provide an alternative route. The existing Roxton Road bridge will be demolished and replaced with a new structure to the west to accommodate the realigned A421.
- New crossings will be constructed to enable the new dual carriageway to cross the River Great Ouse, East Coast Main Line railway, Barford Road, the B1046/Potton Road, Toseland Road and the existing A428 at Eltisley.
- The existing A428 between St Neots and Caxton Gibbet will be de-trunked and retained for local traffic and public transport with maintenance responsibility transferred to the local highway authorities.
- An alternative access will be provided to side roads at Chawston, Wyboston and Eltisley.
- There will be safer routes for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders.

The Scheme also involves changes to a number of existing utilities, including the diversion of a high pressure gas pipeline operated by Cadent Gas Limited which runs parallel to the East Coast Main Line east of the River Great Ouse in Tempsford, Central Bedfordshire (the Diversion). To the extent that the Diversion satisfies the criteria to be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under section 20 of the Planning Act 2008, the Diversion will be treated as an NSIP in its own right.

If the DCO is made by the Secretary of State it would allow Highways England, for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the Scheme, to the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme.

The DCO would also make provision for development, which would constitute associated development together with provisions in connection with several ancillary matters including the permanent construction and alteration of streets, the temporary interference with and the permanent stopping up of streets, public rights of way and private means of access in the vicinity of the Scheme and the classification of roads all included within the Scheme, the de-trunking (i.e. removal of trunk road status) of part of the existing A428, along with the amendment, disapplication and modification of relevant legislation.

HEARINGS

Annex E of the Examining Authority's letter dated 9 July 2021 contains a notification that certain hearings will take place. These hearings will be held at the date and time set out in the table below.

Date	Hearing Type	Time	Joining Details
<i>Wednesday 18 August 2021</i>	<i>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1)</i>	<i>Arrangements conference starts at 1:30 pm Hearing starts at 2:00 pm</i>	<i>Virtually via Microsoft Teams</i>
<i>Thursday 19 August 2021 (morning)</i>	<i>Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)</i>	<i>Arrangements conference starts at 9:30am Hearing starts at 10:00am</i>	<i>Joining instructions will be issued via email in advance of each hearing to parties who notified the Planning Inspectorate of their wish to speak at the hearing. A link to the 'live stream' (where</i>
<i>Thursday 19 August 2021 (afternoon)</i>	<i>Open Floor Hearing</i>	<i>Arrangements conference starts at 5:30pm Hearing starts at 6:00pm</i>	

			<p><i>the hearing can be followed live but without participation) will be posted on the Planning Inspectorate's project website (see website address below) the day before each hearing via a banner.</i></p>
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Reserved Hearing Dates

Date	Hearing Type	Time	Joining Details
<p><i>Tuesday 24 August 2021*</i></p>	<p><i>Issue Specific Hearing and/or Open Floor Hearing</i></p>	<p><i>Arrangements conference starts at 9:30am Hearing starts at 10:00am</i></p>	<p><i>Virtually via Microsoft Teams</i></p> <p><i>Joining instructions will be issued via email in advance of each hearing to parties who notified the Planning Inspectorate of their wish to speak at the hearing. A link to the 'live stream' (where the hearing can be followed live but without participation) will be posted on the Planning Inspectorate's project website (see website address below) the day before each hearing via a banner.</i></p>

***The Issue Specific Hearing and/or Open Floor Hearing scheduled for 24 August 2021 will only be held if required. If the Examining Authority does not require to hold this hearing, notification of the cancellation of the hearing will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's project website (see website address below) as soon as practicable.**

LOCATION OF THE HEARINGS — The hearings will be held virtually with participants attending at different locations, such as their home or office. A web address and/or telephone number will be provided on the Planning Inspectorate's project website (see below) or directly to pre-registered participants in advance of the hearings to allow access to the hearings by a tablet or computer connected to the internet and/or by telephone.

ARRANGEMENTS CONFERENCE — All participants will be required to attend an Arrangements Conference before each session of the hearing. This will be held with the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team 30 minutes before the start of each session. This gives time for the Case Team to admit everyone to the hearing.

CANCELLATION OF A HEARING — If any of the above hearings are no longer required, reasonable notice will be provided of the Planning Inspectorate’s decision to cancel a hearing by the posting of a banner on the Planning Inspectorate’s project website.

REQUEST FOR NOTIFICATION OF A WISH TO SPEAK AT A HEARING — Advance notice must be provided by email to the Planning Inspectorate’s Case Team of a wish to speak at a hearing: A428.Blackcat@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Participation in the hearings relies on the Planning Inspectorate providing you with a joining link or telephone number in advance. If you wish to participate in any of the hearings listed above, you must register with the Planning Inspectorate by **Tuesday 3 August 2021**.

Any hearings further to those listed above will be advertised by one or more further notices. In accordance with Rule 13(3) of Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, as amended, the Planning Inspectorate will also notify interested parties of the date, time and place fixed for each hearing.

For more information on the above hearings, the examination of the Application and full timetable (and any amendments to it), including how and when to register to speak at the hearings and how and when to make written submissions, please contact the Planning Inspectorate using the details at the end of this notice, or visit the Planning Inspectorate’s website where procedural decisions and notices of hearings are available to download:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet-road-improvement-scheme>

Annex E of the Planning Inspectorate’s letter dated 9 July 2021 provides further information on the above hearings and is available to download via the following hyperlink:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010044/TR010044-000516-Rule%206%20letter%20-%20Notification%20of%20the%20preliminary%20meeting%20and%20matters%20to%20be%20discussed.pdf>

Additional information about DCO hearings and examination procedure is included in the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 8 which can be found here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8.0.pdf>

If you intend to participate in virtual events held during this Examination, please read the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events, which contains important information about how virtual events will be held and how you can participate. Advice note 8.6 can be found here:

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

COPIES OF THE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Copies of the Application documents, including the draft Development Consent Order, the compulsory acquisition information (including the Land Plans, Book of Reference, Funding Statement and Statement of Reasons) and the Environmental Statement can be viewed and downloaded online at the Planning Inspectorate’s project website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet-road-improvement-scheme/>

The Application documents can also be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the following public locations:

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours
Milton Keynes Council	Milton Keynes Central Library 555 Silbury Boulevard Central Milton Keynes MK9 3HL	Monday: 09:00-17:30 Tuesday: 09:00-17:30 Wednesday: 09:00-17:30 Thursday: 09:00-17:30 Friday: 09:00-17:30 Saturday: 09:00-17:30 Sunday: Closed Limited number of computers available for public use at Central Library on a first come, first served basis
Bedford Borough Council	Bromham Library Springfield Drive Bromham MK43 8NT	Monday: 10:00-12:00 Tuesday: 14:00-17:00 Wednesday: 10:00-12:00 Thursday: 14:00-17:00 Friday: 10:00-12:00 Saturday: 10:00-13:00 Sunday: Closed
	Kempston Library Halsey Road Kempston MK42 8AU	Monday: 14:00-17:00 Tuesday: 10:00-17:00 Wednesday: 14:00-18:00 Thursday: 10:00-17:00 Friday: 14:00-17:00 Saturday: 09:30-16:00 Sunday: Closed
Central Bedfordshire Council	Sandy Library Market Square Sandy SG19 1EH	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 09:00-18:00 Wednesday: 09:00-18:00 Thursday: 09:00-18:00 Friday: 09:00-18:00 Saturday: 10:00-16:00 Sunday: Closed
Cambridgeshire County Council	St Neots Library Priory Lane St Neots PE19 2BH	Monday: 09:30-17:00 Tuesday: 09:30-17:00 Wednesday: 13:30-19:00 Thursday: 09:30-17:00 Friday: 13:00-17:00 Saturday: 09:30-16:00 Sunday: Closed
	Papworth Library Lower Pendrill Court Ermine Street North Papworth Everard CB23 3UY	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 10:00-14:00 Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 13:00-17:00 Friday: Closed Saturday: Closed Sunday: Closed

	Cambridgeshire Central Library 7 Lion Yard Cambridge CB2 3QD	Monday: 09:30-18:00 Tuesday: 12:00-18:00 Wednesday: 09:30-19:00 Thursday: 12:00-18:00 Friday: 09:30-18:00 Saturday: 10:00-18:00 Sunday: 12:00-16:00
	Cambourne Library Sackville House Sackville Way Cambourne CB23 6HL	Monday: 13:00-17:00 Tuesday: 09:00-13:00 Wednesday: Closed Thursday: Closed Friday: 09:00-17:00 Saturday: 09:00-13:00 Sunday: Closed
	Huntingdon Library Princes Street Huntingdon PE29 3PA	Monday: 09:30-17:00 Tuesday: 09:30-17:00 Wednesday: 09:30-19:00 Thursday: 09:30-13:30 Friday: 13:00-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-16:00 Sunday: Closed

Venue printing and copying charges will apply. Check with the location before you leave to confirm opening times, and whether you need to register as a library member in order to use a computer.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the Application, the hearings and how to take part in the Examination and any other matters covered in this notice may be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate or the Highways England A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements project team using the following contact details:

The Planning Inspectorate

As a result of ongoing Government guidance relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the Planning Inspectorate based at Temple Quay House is unable to receive postal submissions in a reliable way. Postal submissions made to the address below will therefore be subject to delay and the Planning Inspectorate cannot guarantee that they will be received in time to be considered.

Post: The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Email: A428.Blackcat@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Phone: 0303 444 5000

Website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet-road-improvement-scheme>

Please quote the Application reference number **TR010044** in any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate about this Scheme. Correspondence about this Scheme should be marked FAO Candice Patten.

Highways England

During the current Covid-19 period and in the interests of public health, Highways England requests that written correspondence is directed to the following email address:

Email: info@a428.co.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 5000

Post: A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements, Highways England,
Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7LW

Correspondence about this Scheme should be marked: "FAO A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements "

21 July 2021