



Department
for Transport

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
Email: transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: TWA/25/APP/01

27 October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

**TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992: THE PROPOSED CAMBRIDGESHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL AND GREATER CAMBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP CAMBRIDGE
SOUTH EAST TRANSPORT ORDER**

Further to our letter of 6 June 2025 informing you of our decision to hold a Public Local Inquiry into the application for the above-mentioned Order, we are writing to let you know that the Secretary of State has decided under Rule 23 of the Transport and Works (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2004 to temporarily place the Inquiry into abeyance until 31 March 2026.

Rule 23 states:

The Secretary of State may at any time in any particular case allow further time for the taking of any step which is required or enabled to be taken by virtue of these Rules, and references in these Rules to a day by which, or a period within which, any step is required or enabled to be taken shall be construed accordingly.

The abeyance has been requested by Cambridgeshire County Council following new matters coming to light in connection with the proximity of the Scheme to a gas pipeline. The issue was raised in the Statement of Case submitted on behalf of National Gas Transmission plc (NGT). Following engagement with Cambridgeshire County Council, NGT have agreed to undertake a feasibility study into potential alternative design solutions, and it is anticipated that this study will take approximately three months to complete.

The Secretary of State has, therefore, decided to allow further time before the Pre-Inquiry Meeting is announced and the Inquiry opened to enable the feasibility study to be undertaken, and the outcome known. Please note that the Inquiry is not cancelled but will be held in abeyance until 31 March 2026 before the Secretary of State being required by Rule 13 to give written notice of date and notification of Inquiry.

We will issue the Statement of Matters to all parties along with details of the Inquiry as soon as the outcome of the feasibility work is known and new timings can be proposed. If the

outcome of the feasibility study is known sooner than 31 March 2026, we will not delay the process any more than necessary and will write out to you again to update you on progress.

Yours faithfully,

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit