



# Preliminary Meeting Note

**Application:** The Sizewell C Project

**Reference:** EN010012

**Time and date:** 10:15 am on Tuesday 23 March 2021 and  
10:00 am on Wednesday 24 March 2021

**Resumption of the Preliminary Meeting**

**Time and Date:** 10:00 am on Wednesday 14 April 2021

**Venue:** Virtual meeting online (Microsoft Teams, livestream  
and recording)

*This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed. Full digital recordings of the Meeting are available on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website, which is:*

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/?ipcsection=docs>

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Wendy McKay (WM) welcomed those present and introduced herself as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) appointed by the Secretary of State (SoS) to examine the application by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited ('the Applicant') for the Sizewell C Project.

Edwin Maund (EM), David Brock (DB), Neil Humphrey (NH) and Helen Cassini (HC) introduced themselves as members of the Panel forming the ExA to examine the application.

WM explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State on 24 June 2020.

WM explained that the ExA would be examining the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

WM explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the

National Infrastructure Planning website.

## 2. Digital recording

The full digital recordings and Transcripts of the Preliminary Meeting (Part 1) are available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#).

There were four sessions on Day 1 and four sessions on Day 2 of Part 1 of the Preliminary Meeting.

The sessions covered the agenda items as listed below:

### Day 1

Session 1: Agenda items 1 (0:04 – 18:25) and 2 (18:25 – 1:08:30) – Welcome and Introductions, Remarks about the Preliminary Meeting

Session 2: Agenda items 3 (0:04 – 43:28) and 4 (43:28 – continued in Session 3) –The ExA's remarks about the Examination process, Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

Session 3: Agenda item 4 (0:02 – continued in Session 4) - Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

Session 4: Agenda item 4 (0:07 – 52:03) - Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

### Day 2

Session 1: Agenda Item 5 (0:02 – continued in Session 2) - The Applicant's proposed changes to the application

Session 2: Agenda Item 5 (0:03 – 1:04:37) - The Applicant's proposed changes to the application

Session 3: Agenda Item 6 (0:10 – continued into Session 4) - Examination Timetable

Session 4: Agenda Item 6 (0:02 – 36:52), 7 (37:00 – 54:13) and 8 (54:18 – 1:01:22) - Examination Timetable, Procedural Decisions, Any other matters

## 3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further information relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Notice](#).

## 4. Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Further information can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4](#).

## 5. The ExA's remarks about the virtual Preliminary Meeting

The ExA outlined the reasons for holding this event virtually and its arrangements

in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ExA noted comments received that have raised concerns about the holding of this meeting, and later events virtually.

## **6. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues**

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 23 February 2021 and asked for any observations on them.

The ExA sought comments on the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues from Interested Parties in attendance.

The issues raised have been summarised and are not an exhaustive list:

- Coastal geomorphology.
- Community impacts.
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- Transport – Traffic impacts, congestion, overnight rail movements, increased local transport.
- Landscape impact and visual effects.
- Recreational displacement.
- Borrow pits.
- Flood risk modelling.
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) impacts of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) crossing.
- Cooling water system.
- Southern Park and Ride site and Northern Park and Ride site.
- Air quality, noise and vibration.
- Two village bypass.
- Hard and soft coastal defences, temporary and permanent Beach Landing Facilities.
- Operational issues and decommissioning issues.
- Mitigation and compensation discussions.
- Impact on the fishing industry, and recreational use of the beach and the sea.
- Changing political environment.
- Hydrogen production.
- Community Safety.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Carbon emissions.
- County wildlife site.
- Peat extraction and transportation.
- Terrestrial and marine ecology.
- Adequacy of electricity transmission lines and implications for the stability of the National Grid.
- Emergency planning.
- Yoxford roundabout.
- Acoustic Fish Deterrent systems (AFD).
- Global Warming.
- Childhood years impacts.
- Tourism.
- Coastal erosion.
- Sizewell Link Road.

These were duly noted and considered by the ExA.

## **7. The Applicant's proposed changes to the application**

The ExA briefly outlined the Applicant's proposed changes to the application.

The ExA welcomed comments from parties in attendance

The issues raised have been summarised and are not an exhaustive list:

- If the changes are accepted, then what is examined thereafter should be the application as changed.
- Content, that the changes would not make the proposal a fundamentally different project.
- Modelling work still to come for the coastal defences and the Beach Landing Facility.
- Decision to accept should be made sooner rather than later.
- Land take implications.
- Funding of the project.
- Heritage implications.
- Lack of engagement.
- Fair opportunity to have views heard and properly considered.
- In the interest of fairness, a need to re consult and add new Interested Parties.
- Greater impacts on the marine environment and greater restrictions on the recreational enjoyment of the heritage coast.
- Concerns surrounding the sea defences.
- Signposting document for the Environmental Statement.
- Concerns how the project can be examined in a six month timescale
- Should be examined in person not virtually.
- Delay to the Examination to allow for proper consideration of the changes along with the need for additional information currently missing from the application.
- Deliverability.
- Concerns about the additional rail movements overnight and the impact on passenger trains.
- Material change not non-material.

All comments received were duly noted and considered by the ExA.

## **8. Examination Timetable, Hearings and Site Inspections**

The ExA welcomed suggestions from the parties in attendance to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in [Annex D](#) of Rule 6 letter.

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue Specific Hearings
- Compulsory Acquisition Hearings
- Open Floor Hearings
- Accompanied Site Inspections
- Unaccompanied Site Inspections

The issues raised have been summarised and are not an exhaustive list:

- Representations were received regarding the date for the submission of Statement of Common Grounds and Written Representations

- Time of election sensitivity to be considered.
- Delay the start of the Examination until the summer or until after COVID-19 lockdown ends.
- Date for Deadline 2 to be pushed back.
- Post hearing submissions to follow all hearings, timetable doesn't currently reflect this.
- Short period of time between change request decision and first submission of Statements of Common Ground.
- Request for the Sizewell link road and the two village bypass to be subject specific hearings for the transport strategy and coastal processes.
- Request for Wickham Market, traffic impacts on Wickham Market and the surrounding parishes.
- Consider other meeting platforms such as Zoom.
- Face to Face hearings not virtual.
- Issue Specific Hearing on net zero.
- Site visit to the Hinkley C Site.
- Site visit from Southwold to Orford.

All comments received were duly noted and considered by the ExA.

The finalised Examination Timetable can be found in Annex A of the [Rule 8](#) letter dates 21 April 2021.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in our [Advice Note 8.5](#)

## 9. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations.

Procedural decisions can be found in [Annex E](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

The ExA sought comments on the Procedural Decisions.

The issues raised have been summarised and are not an exhaustive list:

- Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth and B1122 Action Group to have a Statement of Common Ground.
- Applicant to submit a navigation document at each deadline.

All comments received were duly noted and considered by the ExA

Interested parties were reminded that the adjournment period was to allow for the consideration of any written submissions by Interested Parties who did not, or could not, make oral submissions at Part 1 of the event. Any such written submissions were to be received by Procedural Deadline B on Wednesday 7 April 2021

## 10. Preliminary Meeting Part 1 Adjourned

WM thanked everyone for their attendance and engagement and adjourned the Preliminary Meeting at 16:25 hours.



# Note of the resumed Preliminary Meeting

**Application:** The Sizewell C Project

**Reference:** EN010012

**Time and date:** 10 am on Wednesday 14 April 2021

**Venue:** Virtual meeting online (Microsoft Teams, livestream and recording)

## 1. Resumption of the Preliminary Meeting and Welcome

Wendy McKay (WM) welcomed those present and the members of the Examining Authority (ExA) reintroduced themselves.

WM gave a very brief summary of the previous introductory remarks.

WM explained the appointment of the ExA was made under delegation from the Secretary of State on 24 June 2020 and that the ExA would examine the application made by the Applicant before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project should be made.

WM explained the purpose of the resumed Preliminary Meeting and noted that the Examination will commence after it closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website.

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further information relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Notice](#).

## 2. Digital recording

The full Digital recordings and Transcripts of the Preliminary Meeting (Part2) are available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#).

There were 4 sessions held for Part 2 - Resumption of the Preliminary Meeting.

The sessions covered the agenda items as listed below:



# The Planning Inspectorate

Session 1: Agenda items 9 (0:03 15:13) and 10 (15:13 – continued into session 2) – Welcome and Introductions, The Examining Authority’s consideration of written submissions received to Procedural Deadline B.

Session 2: Agenda item 10 (0:21 – continued into session 3) The Examining Authority’s consideration of written submissions received to Procedural Deadline B.

Session 3: Agenda item 10 (0:05 – 37:47) The Examining Authority’s consideration of written submissions received to Procedural Deadline B.

Session 4: Agenda items 11 (0:11 – 14:50) and 12 (14:50 – 17:42) Any Procedural Decisions made by the ExA and final remarks, any other matters.

### **3. The Examining Authority’s consideration of written submissions received to Procedural Deadline B**

The ExA briefly outlined Procedural Deadline B submissions received and issues raised.

The ExA welcomed comments from parties in attendance.

The issues raised have been summarised and are not an exhaustive list:

- Technical difficulties have deterred people from taking part in the resumed Preliminary Meeting.
- Whether events be blended, virtual or face to face, livestreaming of the events should continue.
- There is no urgent need to start the Examination immediately..
- Funding concerns.
- Delay the start of the Examination.
- Concerns surrounding East Anglia 1 North and East Anglia 2 Examination extension.
- Not being able to meet up with local residents has affected communications between Interested Parties.
- Push back date for submission of Statement of Common Grounds.
- Coastal geomorphology hearings to be held later into the Examination.

All comments received were duly noted and considered by the ExA.

### **4. Any Procedural Decisions made by the ExA and final remarks**

The ExA clarified the Procedural Decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and confirmed the closure of the Preliminary Meeting will be 14 April 2021, which will start the Examination.

The ExA stated that a full statement of reasons will be attached to the [Rule 8](#) letter.

The ExA sought comments on the Procedural Decisions.

No comments were made by parties in attendance.



## **5. Any other matters**

The Environment Agency queried when a decision on the Change request would be made.

The ExA confirmed a decision would be made no later than 21 April 2021 and a letter would be issued.

## **6. Close of the Preliminary Meeting Part 2**

WM thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and closed the Preliminary Meeting at 15:27 hours.