



National Infrastructure Planning
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Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010087

Date: 11 October 2019

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 6

Application by Norfolk Boreas Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm

Notice of appointment of the Examining Authority and date, time and place of the Preliminary Meeting

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the lead member of a Panel who will be the Examining Authority (the ExA) to carry out an examination of the above application. I am Frances Fernandes and the other members of the ExA are Stephen Bradley, Peter Braithwaite, Annie Coombs and Menaka Sahai. A copy of the appointment notices can be viewed at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/?ipcsection=docs>

The ExA would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted us when preparing our proposals regarding how to examine this application.

Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

This letter is an invitation to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss the Examination procedure. It contains a number of important supporting annexes.

Date of meeting: Tuesday, 12 November 2019

Seating available from: 9.30am

Meeting begins: 10.00am

Venue: **The Kings Centre, 63-75 King Street, Norwich**

Access and parking: <https://www.kings-centre.com/venue-parking/>

Note: 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 wherever possible as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the Inspectorate as a government agency. If you have received a postcard but are able to receive communications by email, please confirm this with the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter, as soon as possible.

Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to us about the way in which the application is to be examined. At this stage the ExA is looking at the procedure and not the merits of the application. The merits of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts; which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed.

We wish to run a fair, efficient and effective meeting so that all relevant views can be heard. As such, we strongly encourage groups of individuals who have similar views on the procedure to choose one representative to speak for the group.

The agenda for the meeting is at **Annex A**. This has been set following our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues arising from our reading of the application documents and the Relevant Representations received. That assessment is set out in **Annex B**. As a result of this assessment we wish to hear at the meeting from the Applicant, Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and local authorities where they consider changes may be needed to the draft Examination Timetable set out in **Annex C**.

Up-to-date information about the project and the Examination can be obtained from: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/>. This is the address for the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website, from which the Planning Inspectorate will make copies of all Examination Documents available to the public. As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with this resource.

Attendance at the Preliminary Meeting

If you wish to attend the Preliminary Meeting please contact the Case Team using the details set out at the top of this letter. Please confirm this **no later than Monday 4 November 2019**.

It will help the management of the meeting and benefit everyone if as part of the above confirmation you also:

- tell us whether you wish to speak at the meeting and on which agenda items, listing points you wish to make; and

- notify us of any special requirements you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

The Preliminary Meeting provides a useful introduction to the Examination process. We will use it to make Procedural Decisions that will affect everyone participating in the Examination. The meeting provides you with an opportunity to have your say about procedural issues before these decisions are finalised. If you intend to play an active part in the Examination or you have questions about procedure it is useful to attend the meeting.

However, please note that **you are not required to attend the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the Examination**. If you are an Interested Party you will still be able to make a Written Representation and comments on the Written Representations made by other Interested Parties. You will also be able to participate in any hearings that are arranged. Should you no longer wish to be an Interested Party and do not wish to be involved in the Examination process, you can notify the Case Team of this in writing.

After the Preliminary Meeting

After the Preliminary Meeting you will be sent a letter setting out the finalised Examination Timetable. An audio recording and a note of the meeting will also be published on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Interested Parties have the right to request an Open Floor Hearing and those persons affected by any request for Compulsory Acquisition or Temporary Possession of their land or rights may request a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing. Any other Issue Specific Hearings are held at the discretion of the ExA and will be arranged if we feel that consideration of oral representations would ensure an issue is adequately examined. Our Examination will comprise of Written Representations about the proposal and oral representations made at any hearings, in addition to consideration of the application documents, policy and legal positions, site inspections and any other matters we consider to be relevant and important.

All relevant and important matters will be taken into account when we make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will take the final decision in this case.

Notification of hearings

The ExA has made the Procedural Decision to hold three hearings after the Examination of the application begins. These hearings are:

- A **Development Consent Order Issue Specific Hearing** on Wednesday 13 November 2019 at 10.00am at The Kings Centre, Norwich;
- An **Open Floor Hearing** on Wednesday 13 November 2019 at 7.00pm at the Kings Centre, Norwich;
- An **Environmental Matters including Habitats Regulation Assessment Issue Specific Hearing** on Thursday 14 November 2019 at The Kings Centre, Norwich.

Important information about these hearings is set out in **Annex D**.

If you wish to make oral representations at these hearings please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter. We will need to receive notice of your attendance **no later than Monday, 4 November 2019**.

It will help the management of these hearings and benefit everyone if you also:

- tell us whether you wish to speak at the hearings and set out the issues about which you wish to make oral representations; and
- notify us of any special needs you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

Other Procedural Decisions made by the ExA

In addition to the hearings notified above, the ExA has made some further Procedural Decisions which are set out at **Annex F**.

Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in this FAQ document: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Status-faq.pdf>

If your reference number begins with '2002', 'NORB-00' or 'NORB-AFP' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'NORB-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'NORB-OP' you are in Group C.

If having read the FAQ document published at the link above you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Award of costs

We also draw your attention to the possibility of the award of costs against Interested Parties who behave unreasonably. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance 'Awards of costs; examinations of applications for development consent orders' which applies to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. This guidance is available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/guidance/>.

Management of information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted by the Panel) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate, is published at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/>.

All Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex E**.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, we consider it necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information, please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

The ExA looks forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Frances Fernandes

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

Annexes

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- C** Draft Examination Timetable
- D** Notification of hearings
- E** Availability of Examination Documents
- F** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting**Date:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019**Seating available from:** 09.30am**Meeting start time:** 10.00am**Venue:** The King's Centre, Norwich.

9.30am	Seating available
Item 1 (10.00am)	Welcome and introductions
Item 2	The Examining Authority's remarks about the examination process including Relevant Representations, Additional Submissions and Section 51 Advice (Items 1,2 and 3 of Annex F)
Item 3	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – see Annex B
Item 4	Draft Examination timetable – see Annex C Submission of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements of Common Ground (see also Item 4 of Annex F) • Written Representations • Local Impact Reports • Responses to the ExA's Written Questions • Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) • Draft Development Consent Order and Explanatory Memorandum (see also Item 5 of Annex F) • Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Notifications relating to hearings and publication of hearing agendas
Item 5	Draft Examination timetable (continued) – see Annex C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site inspections (see also Item 6 of Annex F) • Issue Specific Hearings on the draft Development Consent Order (see also Annex D) • Open Floor Hearing(s) (see also Annex D) • Time period reserved for Issue Specific Hearings (see also Annex D) • Time period reserved for Compulsory Acquisition Hearings
Item 7	Any other matters
Item 8	Next Steps
Close of the Preliminary Meeting	

Please note: Please be available from the start and throughout the meeting. The agenda is subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. The ExA will conclude the meeting as soon as all relevant contributions have been made. If there are any additional matters to be dealt with or submissions take a considerable amount of time the ExA may change the order of the agenda items and may introduce breaks in the proceedings.

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the Initial Assessment of the Principal Issues prepared under s88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). This initial assessment has had regard to consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) of the application documents and of Relevant Representations received in respect of the application.

It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy after the Examination has concluded.

The order of the issues listed is alphabetic and does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the PA2008 are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not set out as separate Principal Issues.

It should be noted that a number of the Principal Issues set out below have an interrelationship and overlap and these will be reflected in the Examination.

It should also be noted that:

- whilst the effects of the proposal on the achievement of sustainable development including the mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change are not listed as specific Principal Issues; and
- whilst the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as specific Principal Issues;

the ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these objectives in mind.

1. Biodiversity, Biological Environment and Ecology – to include:

- i. Onshore effects on protected flora and fauna and designated sites.
- ii. Marine biodiversity.
- iii. Effects on marine mammals during construction, operation and decommissioning, including noise, collision risk, changes in food sources, electromagnetic fields, barrier and seasonal/timing effects.
- iv. Effects on fish.
- v. Intertidal habitat effects between high tide and low tide marks / subtidal effects below low tide mark.

- 2. Compulsory Acquisition** – to include:
 - i. Justification for compulsory acquisition and other powers.
- 3. Cumulative Effects of other proposals** – to include:
 - i. Cumulative effects.
 - ii. Phasing.
- 4. Fishing** – to include:
 - i. Construction, operation and decommissioning phase effects and mitigation measures. This to include temporal and seasonal effects, from offshore generating stations, cable arrays and the export cable corridor on fishing.
 - ii. Justification for safety zones and cable working zones during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- 5. Grid Connection** – to include:
 - i. Site selection.
 - ii. Viability of connection and progress with other licenses.
 - iii. Effects on other transmission lines.
- 6. HRA** – to include:
 - i. Marine mammals.
 - ii. Offshore ornithology; effects on birds including loss or change of habitats, collision risk, barrier and seasonal/timing effects and disturbance during construction, operation and decommissioning.
 - iii. Sandbank and Reef structures.
 - iv. Potential effects of drilling breakout on designated sites and species.
 - v. In-combination effects.
- 7. Landscape and Visual Effects** – to include:
 - i. Effect on landscape character and views.
 - ii. Landscape and visual methodology.

- iii. Justification for landfall and onshore substation locations.
- iv. Cable corridor.
- v. Good design.

8. Marine and Coastal Processes – to include:

- i. Coastal erosion effects.

9. Onshore Construction Effects – to include:

- i. Effect of noise and vibration.
- ii. Effects on human health.
- iii. Effects from dust and exhaust emissions.

10. Water Resources – to include:

- i. Effect on water resources and crossings of rivers, streams, canals and ditches, including measures to prevent pollution of aquifers.
- ii. Flooding and flood prevention measures.
- iii. Drainage and irrigation.

11. Navigation and shipping – to include:

- i. Baseline assessment for navigational risk.
- ii. Endangerment, obstruction and interference with shipping during construction, operation and decommissioning phases, including navigational effects of turbine arrays.
- iii. Effect on radar and search and rescue measures.

12. Socio-economic Effects – to include:

- i. Effects on agriculture, fishing, tourism and recreation.
- ii. Effects on jobs and skills.

13. Traffic and Transportation – to include:

- i. Effects from traffic during the construction phase.

- ii. Effects on public rights of way.
- iii. Effects on non-motorised users.

Draft Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (the ExA) is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

This primarily takes the form of consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1	Preliminary Meeting	Tuesday 12 Nov 2019
2	Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order	Wednesday 13 November 2019
3	Evening Open Floor Hearing	Wednesday 13 November 2019
4	Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Matters including HRA	Thursday 14 November 2019
5	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 8 Letter • Examination Timetable • A Compulsory Acquisition schedule • Written Questions 	Tuesday 19 November 2019
6	Deadline 1 Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of post-hearing documents including any written submissions of oral case • Updated draft DCO • Applicant's updated HRA Matrices to inform the RIES • Any other information as requested by the ExA 	Monday 25 November 2019
7	Deadline 2 Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Representations • Summaries of all Written Representations exceeding 1500 words 	Tuesday 10 December 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Impact Reports • Responses to ExA's Written Questions • Statements of Common Ground (including updates to those requested by 4th November 2019) • Schedule of Mitigation • Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing • Notification of wish to make oral representations at the Issue Specific Hearings in January 2020 • Notification of wish to speak at Open Floor Hearing • Any other information as requested by the ExA 	
8	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to ExA's Written Questions • Comments on Written Representations • Comments on LIRs • Comments on the updated HRA Matrices • Implications for the Norfolk Boreas Application for Development Consent of any SoS decision on recent Offshore Windfarm applications • Any other information as requested by the ExA 	Thursday 19 December 2019
9	Notification by the ExA of further hearings	By 31 December 2019
10	Reserved for DCO issue specific hearing	Tuesday 28 January 2020
11	Reserved for issue specific hearings	Wednesday 29 January 2020
12	Reserved for issue specific hearings	Thursday 30 January 2020
13	Reserved for ASI	Friday 31 January 2020

14	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of post-hearing documents including written submissions of oral case • Updated draft DCO • Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Any other information as requested by the ExA 	Wednesday 5 February 2020
15	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Written Questions (if required) 	Wednesday 12 February 2020
16	Notification by the ExA of further hearings / ASI (if required)	By Tuesday 18 February 2020
17	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to Further Written Questions • Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Any other information as requested by the ExA 	Wednesday 4 March 2020
18	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to Further Written Questions • An Updated 'Compulsory Acquisition' schedule • Updated Statements of Common Ground received on 4 November and at Deadline 2 • Any other information as requested by the ExA 	Friday 13 March 2020
19	Reserved for hearings / ASI	Tuesday 17 March 2020
20	Reserved for hearings / ASI	Wednesday 18 March 2020
21	Reserved for hearings / ASI	Thursday 19 March 2020
22	Reserved for hearings / ASI	Friday 20 March 2020

23	Deadline 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of post-hearing documents including written submissions of oral case • Updated draft DCO • Any other information as requested by the ExA 	Wednesday 25 March 2020
24	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES) 	Tuesday 31 March 2020
25	Reserved for issue of any R17 requests for further information	Wednesday 15 April 2020
26	Deadline 8 Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the RIES • Final Compulsory Acquisition schedule • Final Statements of Common Ground • Updated draft DCO • Response to R17 request • Any other information as requested by the ExA 	Wednesday 22 April 2020
27	Deadline 9 Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report • Final guide to application documents • Final updated version of the Book of Reference • Responses to comments on the RIES • Any other information as requested by the ExA 	Friday 1 May 2020
28	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.	Tuesday 12 May 2020

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions. An Examination Library will be kept up to date throughout the

Examination and can be accessed via the 'Documents' tab on the project webpage. Each document will be given a unique reference. These references will be used by the ExA during the Examination:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/>

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and/ or Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

Notification of hearings

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue	Access and parking
Wednesday 13 November 2019	Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order	10.00am	The King's Centre 63-75 King St Norwich NR1 1PH	Details of how to get to the venue can be found here
Wednesday 13 November 2019	Open Floor Hearing	7.00pm	The King's Centre	Information on parking near the venue can be found here
Thursday 14 November 2019	Issue Specific Hearing on environmental matters including HRA	10.00am	The King's Centre	

Information about hearings is included in the Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note 8.5: The examination: hearings and site inspections', available on the National Infrastructure Planning website here:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

If you wish to attend any of these hearings please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter **no later than Monday 4 November 2019**, stating:

- whether you wish to speak at the hearings and the issues about which you wish to make oral representations; and
- notifying us of any special needs you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

Seating will be available at the venue 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. The hearing will finish as soon as the Examining Authority (ExA) deems that all those present have had their say and all matters have been covered and no later than 5.00pm for the Issue Specific Hearings and 9.00pm for the Open Floor Hearing. Depending on the numbers wishing to speak at the hearing, it may be necessary for the ExA to limit the time allocated to each speaker.

Hearing agendas

Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition hearings the ExA will aim to 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 Open Floor Hearings agendas will not be published unless, in consideration of the number of participants notified to the Planning Inspectorate, the ExA decides that establishing a running order will facilitate the process on the day.

Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/>

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published at the above location.

For ease of navigation, please refer to the Examination Library which is accessible via a blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The Examination Library is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The Examination Library records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document;
- each representation made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the project webpage is also provided. Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the Examination Library when referring to any Examination documents in any future submissions that you make.

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the following locations. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification to use a computer at these locations.

Electronic deposit locations

Library/ address	Opening hours
North Walsham Library New Road North Walsham NR28 9DE	Monday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Tuesday: 8:00 am to 7:00pm Wednesday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Thursday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Friday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Saturday: 8:00am to 4:00pm Sunday: 10:00am to 4:00pm
Aylsham Library 7 Hungate Street Aylsham Norwich NR11 6AA	Monday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Tuesday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Wednesday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Thursday: 8:00am to 7:00pm

	Friday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Saturday: 8:00am to 4:00pm Sunday: 8:00am to 4:00pm	
Dereham Library 59 High Street Dereham NR19 1DZ	Monday: 9:15am to 5:00pm Tuesday: 9:15am to 7:00pm Wednesday: 9:15am to 5:00pm Thursday: 9:15am to 5:00pm Friday: 9:15am to 7:00pm Saturday: 9:15am to 4:00pm Sunday: CLOSED	
Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library The Forum Millennium Plain Norwich NR2 1AW	Monday: 10:00am to 7:00pm Tuesday: 10:00am to 7:00pm Wednesday: 10:00am to 7:00pm Thursday: 10:00am to 7:00pm Friday: 10:00am to 7:00pm Saturday: 9:00am to 7:00pm Sunday: 10:30am to 4:30pm	
Swaffham Library The Pightle Swaffham PE37 7DF	Monday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Tuesday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Wednesday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Thursday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Friday: 8:00am to 7:00pm Saturday: 8:00am to 4:00pm Sunday: 10:00am to 4:00pm	
Photocopy costs	Black and White	Colour
A4	Single-sided: 20p Double-sided: 40p	Single sided: 30p Double-sided: 60p
A3	Single-sided: 50p Double-sided: £1.00	Single-sided: £1.00 Double-sided: £2.00
Link to all council library locations		
https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries		

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

The Examining Authority (ExA) has made the following Procedural Decisions under Section 89(3) of the PA2008:

1. Comments on Relevant Representations

In order to assist with preparation for the Hearings programmed on 13 and 14 November 2019, the ExA requests the Applicant and other Interested Parties to provide any comments on the Relevant Representations by 4 November 2019. The Relevant Representations can be found here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/?ipcsection=relreps>

2. Comments on Relevant Representations submitted after the closing date

The ExA exercised its discretion to accept a number of representations that missed the closing date for receipt of Relevant Representations. The ExA requests the Applicant and other Interested Parties to provide any comments on these by 4 November 2019. They can be found here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/?ipcsection=docs&stage=3&filter1=Additional+Submissions>

3. Section 51 Advice

The ExA has accepted the Applicant's response to s51 Advice issued by the Planning Inspectorate at acceptance of the application. This can be found in the Examination Library under the section '[Additional Submissions](#)'.

4. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

In relation to some of the Principal Issues identified in Annex B, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the Applicant and certain Interested Parties.

Some SoCGs are requested on **4 November 2019** in advance of the issue specific hearings on the draft DCO and the Environmental Matters including HRA hearings programmed for 13 November and 14 November.

These SoCGs are to be prepared between the Applicant and:

Environment Agency, the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Marine water and sediment quality
- Marine geology and oceanic processes
- Onshore ground conditions and contamination

- Onshore water resources and flood risk
- Onshore ecology

Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Marine water and sediment quality
- Marine geology and oceanic processes
- Benthic and intertidal ecology
- Fish and shellfish
- Marine mammals
- Commercial fisheries
- Shipping and navigation

Natural England, the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Offshore ornithology
- Marine geology and oceanic processes
- Benthic and intertidal ecology
- Fish and shellfish
- Marine mammals
- Onshore ornithology
- Onshore ecology

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (The RSPB), the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Offshore ornithology

The Wildlife Trust, the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Marine mammals
- Onshore ecology
- Onshore ornithology

Other SoCGs are requested in line with the draft Examination Timetable at **Annex C**. These are requested by **Deadline 2** on 10 December 2019 and are to be prepared between the Applicant and:

Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Agency (Eastern IFCA), the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Benthic and intertidal ecology
- Fish and shellfish
- Commercial fisheries

Highways England, the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Traffic and transport

Historic England, the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Offshore and intertidal archaeology
- Offshore and intertidal cultural heritage
- Onshore archaeology
- Onshore cultural heritage

Maritime and Coastguard Authority (MCA), the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Shipping and navigation

National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) and VisNed, the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Commercial fisheries

National Farmers Union (NFU), the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Land use and agriculture

NATS, the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Aviation and radar

Orsted Hornsea Project Three, the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Traffic and transport
- Noise and vibration
- Construction areas
- Phasing and methods of co-operation

Trinity House, the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Shipping and navigation

Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), the topic list below does not preclude addition of other topics:

- Marine mammals

All of the SoCGs listed above should include reference to the Articles and Schedules in the draft DCO as relevant.

Any Interested Party seeking for an Article or Requirement to be reworded or additional provisions included, should provide in the SoCG the form of words which is being sought.

The ExA requests that all SoCGs (whether received for 4 November or 10 December) are updated at **Deadline 6**, 13 March 2020 with final SoCGs requested at **Deadline 8**, 22 April 2020.

The Applicant is also requested to prepare a Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground at **Deadline 2, Deadline 6** and **Deadline 8**.

The aim of a SoCG is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at an early stage in the examination process. It should provide a focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute or need not be the subject of further evidence. It can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information. The reasons for the differences and interpretation of the implications of a difference can then be expanded in the evidence. Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the Applicant and the other relevant Interested Party or parties, and submitted by the Applicant.

5. Draft Development Consent Order and Explanatory Memorandum

In view of the relationship between this application for Development Consent and the Norfolk Vanguard Offshore Wind Farm application for Development Consent made by the same Applicant, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of an updated draft Development Consent Order including Protective Provisions and Deemed Marine Licences and an updated Explanatory Memorandum.

This should be informed by and take account of the draft Development Consent Order submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 9 of the Norfolk Vanguard Examination. This should be submitted by **4 November 2019**.

6. Site Inspections

The Panel has undertaken a number of Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs); and intends to continue unaccompanied inspections of other publicly accessible locations at the substations site, along the proposed cable route and at the landfall zone. A full list of locations visited to date has been published and is available at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010087/EN010087-001020-NORB%20%E2%80%93%20Note%20of%20USI.pdfh>

The ExA will consider, as set out in the Examination timetable, any submissions on suggested site inspections. Nominations for locations to be inspected must be received by Deadline 1, 25 November 2019.

You must indicate the reason for the nomination and whether access to private land will be required. If access to private land is required please provide contact details for access. Any site inspections on private land will form part of the accompanied site inspections (ASIs). Please set out if there is any specific reason for the Panel to visit publicly accessible sites nominated for inspection as part of the ASI.

It would be helpful if nominations could be sent separately from any other written submission.