



The Planning
Inspectorate

Preliminary Meeting Note

Application: Norfolk Boreas

Reference: EN010087

Time and date: 10:00 - 12 November 2019

Venue: The King's Centre, King Street, Norwich, NR1 1PH

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Frances Fernandes (FF) welcomed those present and introduced herself as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA). She also introduced Stephen Bradley, Peter Braithwaite, Annie Coombs, and Menaka Sahai as Panel members to examine the Norfolk Boreas application.

FF explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government on 20 September 2019. An amendment was made to appoint Stephen Bradley as a member of the Panel on 7 October 2019.

FF explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by Norfolk Boreas Limited ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

FF explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination would 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:

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

The full audio recording of this Preliminary Meeting is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#).

2. Examination Process

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

3. 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 B](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 11 October 2019 and asked for any observations on them.

A number of parties (listed below) had made written submissions in response to the [Rule 6 letter](#) containing comments in relation to principal issues. They were at the Preliminary Meeting and were invited to speak.

[Polly Brockis \(email of 3 November 2019\)](#). No further comments.

[Cawston Parish Council \(letter of 30 October 2019\)](#). No further comments.

[Norfolk Boreas Ltd \(letter of 4 November 2019\)](#). No further comments.

[North Norfolk District Council \(email of 4 November 2019\)](#). Geoff Lyon asked for confirmation that Norfolk Boreas was proposing to use Direct Current as the transmission technology (as had been the case for Norfolk Vanguard) and if the submissions from NNDC in relation to Norfolk Vanguard would be taken into account for Norfolk Boreas.

FF explained that the ExA would only examine what was before them and that any information that parties wanted the ExA to consider should be submitted to the Norfolk Boreas Examination.

Alison Shaw of Oulton Parish Council (OPC) asked if the ExA were aware of the proposed Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects.

The ExA advised that the Applicant should have considered all relevant projects when undertaking their cumulative impact assessment.

OPC raised a point on the allocation of the grid connection supplied by National Grid.

OPC also referred to a letter from George Freeman MP to the Secretary of State in relation to the potential of offshore ring main.

The ExA responded that it would be happy to receive any information that OPC thought was relevant and helpful to the Examination and invited them to submit this for Deadline 1.

Beverly Wigg of No to Relay Stations (N2RS) stated that she would like to see confirmation of the use of High Voltage Direct Current for the Norfolk Boreas Project.

Alice Spain of Necton Parish Council stated she supported the views given by Cawston Parish Council.

Jean Bass of Necton Parish Council stated that she had not been made aware of the proposals and asked if the Applicant could visit Necton.

The ExA encouraged all parties to meet outside of formal hearings.

4. Examination Timetable – Written Submissions

The ExA referred to draft dates for the submission of written documents in the draft timetable set out in Annex F of the Rule 6 letter, including:

- Statements of Common Ground;
- Written Representations;
- Local Impact Reports;
- Written Questions;
- Report on Implications for European Sites (RIES);
- Development Consent Order (DCO); and
- Compulsory Acquisition Schedule.

The ExA welcomed any additional suggestions from the parties present in relation to the draft timetable for written submissions beyond those comments already submitted in writing prior to the Preliminary Meeting. No comments were made.

5. Examination Timetable - Hearings and Site Inspections

The ExA explained the purpose of:

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

The ExA reminded those present that it had requested details of locations for site inspections in its Rule 6 letter and that these suggestions should be made by Deadline 1 of the Examination.

6. 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 F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

Geoff Lyon (NNDC) asked why issue specific hearings were being held so soon in the Examination process.

FF explained that this approach was not unusual. The ExA had published detailed agendas for both hearings in advance and wanted to understand the positions of the Applicant and Interested Parties at the outset of Examination given the

relationship between the Norfolk Boreas application for Development Consent and the Norfolk Vanguard application for Development Consent.

7. Any Other Matters

FF invited comments on the implications of the deferred decision by the Secretary of State for the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Windfarm to 31 March 2020.

The Applicant stated that they had addressed this at paragraph 3.3.6, in their letter dated 4 November 2019. Alison Shaw (OPC) stated that there were no hearings scheduled after 31 March 2020 and suggested that one could be reserved after this time in the event that Hornsea Project Three Offshore Windfarm was granted a Development Consent Order.

The ExA gave an overview of the responses received from transboundary stakeholders. No comments were made in relation to this topic.

The Marine Management Organisation reminded the ExA that it had made comments on the draft timetable in their letter dated 4 November 2019.

The Applicant also reminded the ExA that it had made suggestions on the draft timetable in its letter of 4 November 2019.

8. Close of Preliminary Meeting

FF thanked everyone for attending. She confirmed that on Tuesday 19 November the ExA would be publishing its Rule 8 letter which would provide details of the finalised Examination Timetable and any other procedural decisions.

FF closed the meeting.