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To all Interested Parties, Affected  
Persons, Statutory Parties and Other  
Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010087

Date: 19 May 2020

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 98 and The Infrastructure  
Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8(3) and Rule 17**

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

**Notification of a new deadline for completion of Examination; variation to the  
Examination Timetable and request for information**

On 6 April 2020, the Planning Inspectorate asked the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to consider requests from a number of Interested Parties to extend the Examination period for Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm. The main reasons were:

- Due to Government Guidelines in relation to Coronavirus, several hearings needed to be postponed, potentially resulting in Interested Parties not being given a fair opportunity to participate in the Examination; and
- A number of Interested Parties no longer had the capacity to participate in the Examination process as a result of COVID-19 resource prioritisation.

The Planning Inspectorate proposed an extension of no longer than five months to the Examination period if the Secretary of State was so minded.

Taking these reasons into account, and after careful consideration, on 11 May 2020 the Secretary of State agreed to the extension. The Examination period is now reset and will conclude on or before 12 October 2020. The Secretary of State's letter is published in the Examination Library [[OD-012](#)].

In order to limit the spread of Coronavirus, the Planning Inspectorate has published and keeps up to date guidance on how it is responding to Government guidance. This can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance>.

In view of this, the ExA has adapted its approach to the remainder of the Examination. An updated Examination Timetable under Rule 8(3) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 is now appended to this letter at **Annex A**.

In addition to a further round of written questions, the revised timetable also includes a virtual Open Floor Hearing and a virtual Issue Specific Hearing. In order to facilitate these events, the ExA has divided the virtual hearings into sections. The Open Floor Hearing will take place over four days and focus on a specific geographical area each day. The Issue Specific Hearing will also take place over four days and focus on specific topics on each day. The ExA intends to publish agendas and joining instructions for the virtual hearings approximately two weeks in advance.

Virtual events are held using systems which enable people to participate from many remote locations such as their own homes or offices, by clicking on a link in an email invitation or dialling a phone number. Members of the public can observe by visiting a website or dialling a phone number. Virtual events enable the widest possible participation in an Examination, especially whilst social distancing and travel restrictions are in force. They are held on the same procedural and legal basis and are subject to the same provisions of the Planning Act 2008 as physical events.

A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document which provides more information about participation in virtual hearings is available here:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010087-002238>

An opportunity to try out a virtual conversation with the Case Team will also be offered. Please let the Case Team know if you would like to make use of this opportunity.

To enable you to take part in these virtual hearings, please complete the questionnaire here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mN94WIhvq0iTIpmM5VcIjU0UzTZLwutCmVtz9LvjAIIUOUFFMDNWQUwwSFVMWU1SMlhSWTcwU0g1US4u>

If you have difficulty in completing the questionnaire, please contact the Case Team at:

**Project email:** [NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:NorfolkBoreas@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

**Siân Evans (Case Manager):** 0303 444 5671

**Steven Parker (Case Officer):** 0303 444 5125

Responses to the questionnaire are requested by **Deadline 12, Tuesday 26 May 2020**.

Yours faithfully

*Frances Fernandes*

Frances Fernandes

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

## Annex A: Amendment to Examination Timetable

<p><b>26.</b></p>	<p>Publication by the Examining Authority (ExA) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule 8(3) change to the timetable and questionnaire on the use of teleconferencing and/or video conferencing technologies for hearings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 19 May 2020</b></p>
<p><b>27.</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline 12</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to the questionnaire on the use of teleconferencing and/or video conferencing technologies for hearings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 26 May 2020</b></p>
<p><b>28.</b></p>	<p>Publication by the ExA of notification of date, time and outline arrangements for virtual hearings on 30 June – 3 July 2020 and 7 – 10 July 2020 and of reserved virtual hearings on 14 - 17 July 2020 and 21 - 24 July 2020</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 2 June 2020</b></p>
<p><b>29.</b></p>	<p>Open Floor Hearing held on a geographic basis; running order and timing to be confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cawston area</li> <li>- Happisburgh area</li> <li>- Necton area</li> <li>- Oulton area</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 30 June 2020</b>  <b>Wednesday 1 July 2020</b>  <b>Thursday 2 July 2020</b>  <b>Friday 3 July 2020</b></p>
<p><b>30.</b></p>	<p>Issue Specific Hearing; running order and timing to be confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Offshore Ornithology</li> <li>- Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation</li> <li>- Marine Mammals</li> <li>- Draft Development Consent Order and other matters</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 7 July 2020</b>  <b>Wednesday 8 July 2020</b>  <b>Thursday 9 July 2020</b>  <b>Friday 10 July 2020</b></p>
<p><b>31.</b></p>	<p>Time reserved for Open Floor Hearing (if required)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 14 July – Friday 17 July 2020</b></p>
<p><b>32.</b></p>	<p>Time reserved for Issue Specific Hearing (if required)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 21 July – Friday 24 July 2020</b></p>

<p><b>33.</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline 13</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written summaries of oral contributions at Hearings (if required)</li> <li>• Post hearing submissions requested by the ExA (if required)</li> <li>• Any other information as requested by the ExA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Wednesday 29 July 2020</b></p>
<p><b>34.</b></p>	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fifth round of Written Questions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 11 August 2020</b></p>
<p><b>35.</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline 14</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to fifth round of Written Questions</li> <li>• Any other information as requested by the ExA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 25 August 2020</b></p>
<p><b>36.</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline 15</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on responses to fifth round of Written Questions</li> <li>• Any other information as requested by the ExA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 1 September 2020</b></p>
<p><b>37.</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline 16</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final draft DCO, Explanatory Memorandum and Schedule of Changes to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report</li> <li>• Final Guide to the Application</li> <li>• Final Note on Requirements and Conditions in the Development Consent Order</li> <li>• Final updated version of the Book of Reference</li> <li>• Final Statements of Common Ground</li> <li>• Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>• Any other information as requested by the ExA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 8 September 2020</b></p>
<p><b>38.</b></p>	<p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the new deadline set by the Secretary of State</p>	<p><b>By Monday 12 October 2020</b></p>