

Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm
PRELIMINARY MEETING – Tuesday 22 February 2022

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:00:01 - 00:00:04:08

Can I also just confirm with Mr Johansson that the live streaming of this event has commenced?

00:00:08:21 - 00:00:15:28

And yes, I can confirm that the livestream has commenced and the recording has started.

00:00:16:09 - 00:00:53:22

Lovely. Thank you ever so much. The time is now just after 10:00 o'clock, and I'd like to welcome you all to this preliminary meeting, which precedes the examination of the Hornsea project for Offshore Wind Farm. This is an application for development consent to construct, operate and maintain hornsey, for which would comprise of up to 180 wind turbine generators. Together with associated offshore and onshore infrastructure and all Associated Development Agency four would be located approximately 69 kilometres east of ahead and covered an area of approximately 496 square kilometers.

00:00:54:13 - 00:01:15:05

The wind farm will be connected to National Grid via an offshore export cable, which would make landfall east of Fraser Thorpe, where it would connect with onshore export cables, which would run in a southwesterly direction for approximately 40 kilometres to the proposed onshore substation, which would be constructed adjacent to the existing national grid substation at Creek, back near Cottingham.

00:01:16:22 - 00:01:51:06

Full details of the proposed development can be found in Chapter four of the environmental statement, which can be found on the Planning Inspectorate web page in the examination library at reference AP Dash zero one zero all in Schedule one of the Draft Development Council consent order, which can be found also an exam library at reference app Dash two zero three. The proposed development is a nationally significant infrastructure project or an sip for the purposes of the Planning Act 2008, as it would have a capacity of greater than 100 megawatts.

00:01:51:22 - 00:02:14:25

It is for this reason that the application force to be determined by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. I'm not going to use myself and the rest of the panel. My name is Joe Dowling. I'm a planning inspector and a chartered top planner. I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead member of the panel to examine this application. I'm not going to ask my friend, fellow panel members to introduce themselves.

00:02:16:20 - 00:02:23:08

Good morning. I'm Stephen Bradley. I have a background in architecture, capital, project development and heritage management.

00:02:24:29 - 00:02:29:23

Good morning, I'm Gavin Jones on the planning inspector and I'm a chartered time planner.

00:02:31:27 - 00:02:38:16

Good morning, my name's Rod McArthur, I'm a chartered architect with a background in large scale development and sustainable design practices.

00:02:39:27 - 00:02:49:08

Hello. I'm Andrew Marr. I have a background in ecology and environmental impact assessment, and I'm a chartered environmentalist on a chartered landscape architect.

00:02:50:23 - 00:03:23:09

I can confirm that all members of the essay have made a formal declaration of interest and that there are no known conflicts of interest with regard to us examining this application. Together, we constitute the examining authority or essay for this application. You will have already spoken to and heard from K.J. Johansson, who is the case manager for this project. He replaced the previous case manager, Liam Fetterman, who you may have had some correspondence from previously. Mr. Johanson is being supported today by Caroline Hopewell, André Riyaz.

00:03:23:26 - 00:03:36:25

Together, they make the case team for this project, and if you have any questions or queries, they should be your first point of contact. Their contact details can be found at the top of any letter you have received from us or on the project page of the National Infrastructure website.

00:03:38:10 - 00:03:57:00

Before I consider the items on the agenda for this meeting, I now need to deal with some additional housekeeping matters to those raised by Mr Johansson in the arrangements conference. As far as I'm aware, no requests to be made for any special measures or arrangements to enable participation in this preliminary meeting. Can I just check that that is the case?

00:03:59:28 - 00:04:31:15

But as I've already mentioned, this event is being live streamed and it is also being recorded, as was explained in my letter of the 24th of January 2022, because the digital recordings that we make are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain your personal information and to which the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, applies to the planning inspectorate. Practice is to retain and publish recordings for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the Development Consent Order.

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Consequently, if you participate in today's preliminary meeting, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that you therefore consent to the retention and publication of the digital recording. The essay will only ask you for information to be placed on the public record that is important and relevant to the planning decision. It will only be in the rarest of circumstances that you might be asked to provide personal information of the type that most of us would prefer to keep private or confidential. Therefore, to avoid the need to edit the digital recordings, what we would ask you to do in the first instance is to try not to add information into the public record that you would wish to keep private or that is confidential.

00:05:15:15 - 00:05:18:22

Does anyone have any questions with regards to this matter?

00:05:20:21 - 00:05:55:00

I. Can I repeat the requests made in the arrangements conference that in order to minimize background noise, you make sure your phone is switched off or turned to silent and that you stay muted with your camera turned off unless you are speaking as this is a virtual meeting. It has to be structured in such a way that questions are points that you may wish to raise can be done so at the relevant points in the proceedings. When we get to those points, I would ask that if you want to speak, you switch your camera on and either use a razor hand function on MS teams or ask to speak at the appropriate time.

00:05:56:07 - 00:06:29:06

Can I also remind people that the chat functional teams will not work? So please do not try to use this to ask any questions or to post any comments. If you do not manage to ask your question or racial points at the relevant point in time, there will be an opportunity at the end of the meeting. Future racists under item seven on the agenda. Any other matters? Depending on the length this morning's meeting, we will adjourn for a break at appropriate points in the agenda. For those of you, the talks participating in the meeting, you will need to switch off your camera and microphone for the duration of the break.

00:06:29:25 - 00:06:54:18

For those people watching the livestream, we will have to stop the livestream in order to give us clear recording files. As a result, at the point at which we commence the meeting and restart the live stream, you will need to refresh your browser page to view the restarted stream. I will remind you of these arrangements again, should we need to adjourn? Are there any comments or questions on end regarding any of the points I've just made?

00:06:56:29 - 00:06:57:14

No.

00:06:59:11 - 00:07:30:12

You are all here today because you are the applicant or representatives of the applicant, you represent the local authority or neighbouring authority. You represent bodies that are statutory parties you send to relevant reputable representation and have thus become an interested party. You are an individual or a body affected by the application of the compulsory acquisition of lands or rights Overland's. You have been given other person status or a combination of any of these categories. There may also be people here who are not covered by any of those descriptions.

00:07:30:23 - 00:07:53:23

Whichever you are, you are all very welcome. This meeting will follow the agenda as set out in my letter of the 24th of January 2020, to which I shall refer to from now on as the Rule six letter. I hope you have a copy of this letter to hand. If you do, can you please turn to Annex A, which sets out the agenda for this morning's meeting, and if I could ask Mr. McArthur to bring it up on the screen as she was?

00:07:56:05 - 00:08:26:11

At this point. Lovely, as you will see, we're currently on item one of that agenda. The letter and agenda are also available on the project page of the national infrastructure website, the address of which is at the top of my letter. The Rule six letter itself can be found in the examination library at reference PD Dash zero zero five. So let me briefly explain why we are here today. We're here to focus on the way in which we intend to examine this application.

00:08:26:19 - 00:09:00:29

We will be discussing only the procedural aspects of this examination today. This meeting is not about giving evidence, and we are not discussing either the merits or any concerns that you may have regarding the application itself. These matters will only be considered once the examination of the application begins, which follows the close of this preliminary meeting, which will be tomorrow, Wednesday, the 23rd of February 2022. Hopefully, by the end of this meeting, you'll be comforted that there will be sufficient opportunities throughout the examination for you all to express your views.

00:09:02:08 - 00:09:27:08

This is a working meeting in running it, we intend to run it fairly and efficiently, allowing everyone who wishes to do so to participate. However, we will endeavor to make sure that you and our contributions are as to the point and as focused as possible, so that we make the best use of the time

available and allow anyone who wishes to speak an opportunity to do so. I hope that you will support us in this endeavor.

00:09:29:08 - 00:10:04:28

Notes are being taken of this meeting, and these were placed on the project page of the national infrastructure website and deposited at the locations listed in Annex F, the Rule six letter as soon as practicable after the close of the preliminary meeting. As already mentioned, digital recordings are being made of today's meeting. These two will be placed on the project page of the national infrastructure website as soon as practicable. With this in mind, it would be enormously beneficial. Tweet to us if each time you speak, you can state your name and if you're representing someone who it is, you represent, could you also let us know how you would like to be referred to, i.e.

00:10:05:00 - 00:10:36:10

Dr. Mrs Mas Mr. Please also bear in mind that the only official records of today's proceedings are the notes and the digital recordings. Tweets, blogs and similar communications arising out of this meeting will not be accepted as evidence in the examination of this application. So thank you. So if we can stop sharing the agenda now, I'm now going to move on to ask people to introduce themselves. The case team has provided me with a list of those interested and other parties who have expressed a wish to be heard today.

00:10:37:00 - 00:11:10:23

Those persons are people representing the following organisations. We have representatives from Neustadt who are the applicant East Riding of Yorkshire Council Walking's and Parish Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Holderness Fishing Industry Group, the East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull Joint Local Access Forum, National Grid Carbon Ltd, BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd and Mr and Mrs Transfield and their representatives.

00:11:10:26 - 00:11:13:20

Can I just check that there is no one I have missed?

00:11:18:22 - 00:11:53:01

I. OK, I'm going to now ask those of you who are participating in today's preliminary meetings, introduce yourselves to the examining authority and the people who are watching the livestream of this event. I have already mentioned when I state your organization's name, if you could unmute yourself and if you have your camera turned off, switch it on, then introduce yourself stating your name and as have mentioned how you'd like to be referred to. And if you are representing someone who it is, you represent. So I'm going to start with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

00:11:53:03 - 00:11:55:24

Do we have a representative from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council?

00:11:57:13 - 00:12:02:14

Madam. Yes, I'm Jennifer Jones representing East Riding of Yorkshire Council and its misdoings.

00:12:02:28 - 00:12:03:24

Lovely. Thank you.

00:12:05:29 - 00:12:09:19

And then do we have a representative from Warkentin Parish Council?

00:12:13:02 - 00:12:16:15

You, too. Yes, I am. Jamie, often so

00:12:17:01 - 00:12:18:08
welcome to Parish Council.

00:12:19:13 - 00:12:27:21
Thank you, and you're Mr. Appleton, aren't you? Yes. OK, and then have we got some representatives from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds?

00:12:32:19 - 00:12:42:11
Hi, my name is Andrew Dodge, I'm from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and it's Mr Todd, and I'll be the only person in the RSPB speaking today.

00:12:43:08 - 00:12:43:23
Thank you.

00:12:45:09 - 00:12:49:16
Do we have any representatives from the Holderness Fishing Industry Group?

00:12:51:13 - 00:12:55:19
I knew they were intending today come today, but I don't know if they have arrived.

00:12:58:07 - 00:12:59:09
OK, we'll move on.

00:13:03:10 - 00:13:09:09
Do we have the representative from the East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull Joint Local Access Forum.

00:13:11:00 - 00:13:16:17
Yes, it's a Dr. Andrew Hudson, and I recommend it rather represent the Joint Legal Actions Forum.

00:13:17:16 - 00:13:26:26
Thank you very much, Mr. Dr Herson. Okay. And then can I have the representative from National Grid Carbon Limited, please?

00:13:29:18 - 00:13:39:09
Good morning, madam, I'm Gary Sick, a partner at Adult Sugar at LP Lip-syncing National Grid Co. Ltd. and I'm Mr. Thank you.

00:13:41:05 - 00:13:47:25
And then can we have anyone who's representing BP Exploration Operating Company Limited?

00:13:49:17 - 00:13:54:27
Good morning, my name's Maxwell Harrison. I'm representing BP, and that's Mr. Harris.

00:13:55:23 - 00:14:02:27
Thank you, Mr. Harrison. And then do we have Mr. Mrs. Transfield and or their representatives?

00:14:05:09 - 00:14:12:21
Good morning, madam, it's Richard Cresswell here, I'm representing Mr. and Mrs. John Sayles, who are not here, and it's Mr. Cresswell.

00:14:13:05 - 00:14:13:20

Thank you.

00:14:15:12 - 00:14:18:21

Before we turn to the applicant, can I just check that I've not missed anyone?

00:14:23:13 - 00:14:30:23

No, if I can then ask the applicant to introduce themselves and their team, if anyone else from the team is speaking.

00:14:33:07 - 00:14:58:04

Yes, thanks, madam. My name is Amy Sterling, I'm an associate at Pinsent Masons, and I will be representing our state Hornsea project for a limited data is the applicant, as you've noted, for the Authority for Offshore Wind Farm Order and Mr. Sterling is fine. I'm a company today by Mr. Jimmy Baldwin, who's it? Project Development Director arrested for Hornsby. Four, And Mr. Bowden's fine thanks.

00:14:59:19 - 00:15:00:06

Thank you.

00:15:02:20 - 00:15:07:29

What can I just confirm that I've now heard from everyone who wishes to participate in today's event?

00:15:10:29 - 00:15:15:09

Thank you. So I'm just going to turn to item two on the agenda.

00:15:18:04 - 00:15:51:25

Whilst the preliminary meeting, this application is taking place virtually, the format, content and procedure will be very similar to traditional face to face preliminary meetings that we've held pre-pandemic the previous development consent order examinations. The purpose of this meeting is to establish the procedures and timetable for the examination of the proposed development in order to minimise video conferencing fatigue. In Annex B of All Rules six letter, the EXR has set out in detail the purpose of the preliminary meeting and how it intends to carry out the examination for expediency.

00:15:51:27 - 00:16:29:15

I'm going to assume that everyone has read this and therefore I do not propose to spend time reading it out now. It is important to the examining authority that you are clear in your understanding of the process. Therefore, if there is anything you are unclear about or on which you need clarity, then please do ask before I ask if there are any or any questions regarding the examination process. I just want to take the opportunity to advise you of the current approach regarding the holding of events, the public health restrictions. As we all know regarding the holding of in-person and in-person events that were in place because of the COVID 19 pandemic have in the main been lifted.

00:16:29:28 - 00:16:59:27

However, going forward, the Planning Inspectorate guidance is that rather than returning to solely in-person events in order to enable everyone to participate, events should be held either wholly or partially virtually. To clarify wholly virtual is what we are doing today, where all participants are online. Partially virtual, which is often also referred to as a blended event, is where people can attend either in-person at a physical venue or dial physical venue and attend virtually.

00:17:01:12 - 00:17:26:07

Before I ask if anyone has any questions regarding the examination, if you have any specific points to make regarding the draft timetable hearings or deadlines. Please note that these will be considered

under item five and six on the agenda. Can I therefore ask, with the exception of the format of future events, which I shall deal with separately on the basis of the information set out in Annex? Are there any questions about the way in which the ESEA intends to examine this application?

00:17:30:18 - 00:18:00:20

No, so I'm just going to turn to the format of events. A note from responses received at the procedural deadline that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council examined library reference PDL 004 and Natural England Exam Library reference PDL zero zero six are both indicated that they are happy to attend events virtually. Does anyone else have any observations which they wish to make about whether events should be held wholly or partially virtually? If you'd like to

00:18:02:15 - 00:18:03:08

say yes.

00:18:03:12 - 00:18:34:20

Stirling Amy Stirling on behalf of the applicant, yes is the applicant preference for substantive hearings where various technical matters largely, for example, issue specific hearings to be held in person, or at least with the applicant having the ability to attend in person. And I'll be there. I'll ask and also recognises the benefits of ensuring that people can also participate and attend factually and those processes. So we sort of favour a blended approach for the substantive hearings.

00:18:35:13 - 00:18:40:22

And can I just ask what benefit that has over why that why you need to be in the room?

00:18:41:29 - 00:18:57:15

I think we just would find it preferable to allow when experts are speaking and we feel that the evidence flows freely and better rather than a disjointed approach. Amongst our own team.

00:18:58:22 - 00:19:05:02

But bearing in mind that obviously it could still be destroyed, given that people will have to dial in virtually.

00:19:06:03 - 00:19:23:03

If people have to dial in virtually, yes, is a preference would have been impersonal to be recognized, particularly with the number of holidays, etc., which are unavoidable, almost an examination timetable that and the blended approach and. We'll have to be used, but yeah,

00:19:24:15 - 00:19:57:04

maybe I can just take the opportunity to explain one of the things that's come out of the COVID 19 pandemic is that the Planning Inspectorate has acknowledged that in order to enable participant participation of all participants, so for example, particularly interested parties and third parties who may have jobs that they have to attend during the day or may have mobility issues or may have concerns about COVID, there will or we will not have a single in-person in-person event anymore.

00:19:57:06 - 00:20:22:02

We have to have the ability to enable those people to be part of the process in order that it's fair. And so we will always have the opportunity for people to dial into events so there will never be an just an in-person event for this examination anyway going forward. So I just want to make that very clear. So the opportunity is a blended event or a wholly virtual event.

00:20:22:26 - 00:20:35:11

Yes. Thank you, Stirling, if that's completely understood just yet. Just to reiterate that against preference is to be able to present its evidence in person, but it's OK that the blended approach will be taken forward.

00:20:36:16 - 00:20:44:04

OK, I think you have so much on that. Does anyone else? I notice that we got a hand up. So Mr. Dodge, what would you like to say?

00:20:45:13 - 00:21:03:03

Just that just to confirm that we're of a similar view to those expressed by a striking and natural England that we would prefer virtual events for the various reasons that you've set out and and that they set out to. So just just another voice in support of virtual events.

00:21:03:18 - 00:21:04:03

Thank you.

00:21:06:01 - 00:21:11:20

Does anyone else want to say anything about the possibility of running events, either virtually or partially virtually?

00:21:14:15 - 00:21:28:02

I've got no other hands up, so in that case, we'll take those thoughts away and consider those moving forward. And I'm not going to hand over to Mr Bradley, who will deal with the next item on the agenda.

00:21:30:09 - 00:21:36:25

Good morning. Could we have the. List of principal issues up on screen now.

00:21:40:29 - 00:21:53:24

So this now item three in the agenda. Our initial assessment of principal issues, it might be useful for you to have Annex C of the Rule six letter in front of you. But this is a shortened version of the

00:21:55:09 - 00:22:29:08

main headings of the principal issues, and the detail is within the Annex C.. Now, this list is broadly based on the matters set out in the national policy statements for energy, renewable energy and for electricity networks infrastructure. But it's not an exclusive list of issues, and some may overlap in deed or interrelate. It provides the framework of issues for the examination going forward, although it doesn't preclude the EXR from amending the list at a later stage in the process.

00:22:31:07 - 00:22:39:25

If any additional issues come to the excise attention which appear to be important and relevant, they will also become part of the examination.

00:22:41:19 - 00:22:51:13

So we're seeking to establish in this meeting if there are any additional issues which any party would like to raise, which might, will, should affect the structure of the examination.

00:22:53:03 - 00:23:01:15

As already indicated, it's not our intention to make any procedural decisions today, but we will listen and consider your comments after the meeting.

00:23:03:23 - 00:23:17:00

I'll now invite submissions, and I'll give the applicant chance to speak at the end. The agenda item, but we've had a request from RSPB to speak on this agenda item. Mr Dodd, would you like to now speak?

00:23:19:22 - 00:23:36:22

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Bradley. Yes, we've asked to speak on this item and item five. And we do see that they're linked insofar as they relate to offshore ornithology matters, which fall under the Habitat Regulations Assessment Principle issue,

00:23:38:19 - 00:24:11:00

the timing and nature of the provision of further information by the applicant during the course of the examination, which was obviously under item five to two. US interacts with the level of detail that may be relied upon in the draft TCO in the team's marine licence conditions and any associated outline plans, and whether or not any additional requirements or conditions might be necessary. So in that respect, we very strongly support submissions have already been made by natural England and relevant representation. All zero to nine.

00:24:11:24 - 00:24:47:08

And just to kind of just to hopefully just draw this out, we see it as a golden kind of a golden thread really between the level of confidence we have in the impact assessment side of things through any discussions and agreement on the predicted adverse effects into the appropriate nature scale of any compensation, which then leads to the matters under discussion here in terms of the principal issues and the draft DCO and any conditions and requirements that may flow flow from that. I'm not sure I'd take your guidance as to when to raise the point we had on the matter five.

00:24:47:10 - 00:25:05:06

But I felt I could raise it here because it feels like it links with with this, with this item. So I'm happy to defer it to two to item five of the agenda. If that would, that would help. I think it would be more helpful in Item five. Let's stick to principle issues

00:25:05:13 - 00:25:08:14

list at the moment. OK, that's fine. Thank you.

00:25:10:03 - 00:25:14:20

Good, thank you. We study it, I see Mr. Crystal has his hand up.

00:25:18:16 - 00:25:53:10

Mr. Chris, thank you and apologies if I'm in the wrong place with this, but I'm not entirely sure what that is. I wouldn't want to miss the opportunity, but please do tell me if I if I'm coming into to early the main that my client, as I'm representing Mr. Mrs. Rumsfeld and my clients live very close to the onshore substation. And as I've set out in their relevant representation, there are a number of issues that they are concerned about, but there's also a very key

00:25:55:10 - 00:26:27:08

procedural issue in it relating to the pre consultation and indeed the fact that they were excluded from the initial consultation in error. It seems that does not appear to be one of the principal issues, but I noticed that various others of the interested parties have also raised queries in relation to consultation. And therefore I just wanted to to check to see whether or not that should be a principal issue or or indeed how that's going to be dealt with.

00:26:27:16 - 00:26:31:00

Again, I apologize if authorized to early in the meeting.

00:26:32:06 - 00:26:32:21

Thank you.

00:26:34:03 - 00:26:43:14

We won't consider this obviously evidence at this meeting, but it's certainly of relevance to raise in future. We will take away your point and consider it carefully.

00:26:44:21 - 00:26:45:06

Many thanks.

00:26:45:18 - 00:26:54:20

Thank you, Mr Russell. Are there any other people present who wish to raise? And I think on principle issues, I'm looking for hands up.

00:26:57:00 - 00:27:06:19

No, I don't see anything else. So in that case, Mr Baldwin Sterling, for the applicants with the applicant, like to wish to add anything.

00:27:07:17 - 00:27:30:09

Thanks, Amy Sterling on behalf of the applicant. No, nothing further. To add other than that, of course, would be responding to the relevant representations at deadline one, including concerns over pre-application consultation and the government's intention made by Mr. Krisel on behalf of his clients and happy to discuss anything and more detail it later days after that.

00:27:31:23 - 00:27:40:10

Thank you, Mr. Nick. Thank you. I'll now hand over to Mr. Dowling, who will deal with gender for which procedural decisions taken by the Excite.

00:27:42:09 - 00:28:16:09

Thank you. And I'd now like you to ask that you turn to Annex E of the Rule six letter where you will note the examining authority has made a number of procedural decisions and provides full detail behind these requests, and I therefore do not propose to repeat that now. Since Rule six letter was submitted. That means no further additional submissions that the examining authority has accepted into the application, and this includes a letter of representation from Hull City Council, which his reference as zero zero one in the examination library.

00:28:16:24 - 00:28:42:23

A written submission from the Holderness Fishing Industry Group reference A.S. Dash zero two five and a written submission from the National Federation of Fishermen's Organizations reference as Dash zero two six. In addition, the examining authority has accepted a number of documents from the applicant, which was submitted in response to Section 51 advice issued by the Planning Inspectorate on the 26th of October 2021

00:28:44:18 - 00:29:11:18

that is referenced PD Dash zero zero three. These can be found at. These responses can be found in examination library under references as a Dash 002 through to A.S. Dash zero two for any responses to these submissions should be submitted at deadline one. But in the interim, does anyone have any procedural questions regarding the acceptance of any of the submissions?

00:29:19:18 - 00:29:51:01

In addition, at the procedural deadline on the 11th of February, the examining authority received correspondence from the applicants BP Exploration Operating Company Limited as the operator, the Northern Insurance Partnership, Carbon Dioxide Transportation and Storage Project split as solicitors on behalf of any energy brackets and S.A. Ltd, East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The Marine

Management Organisation Natural England and the RSPB. This correspondence can be found in examination.

00:29:51:03 - 00:30:04:17

Lybia references Piddle Dash zero zero one through to piddle zero zero seven. The matters raised in this corresponds with regards examination, timetable and deadlines will be dealt with when we reach that item on the agenda.

00:30:06:02 - 00:30:39:05

But I'm going to deal first with some of the correspondence from the applicant, which was submitted at PDL Dash zero zero one. In addition to the points it raised regarding the timetable and deadlines, the applicant raised a further two point that it wished to raise at this meeting, which I will deal with now, and that was regarding a schedule of changes and a statement of common ground in particular, whether one was required with the National Farmers Union for the benefit of everyone at this meeting. Can I just ask Mr. Stirling on behalf of the applicant to very briefly outline what they are requesting with regards to using a schedule of changes?

00:30:41:02 - 00:31:20:06

Yes, Amy Sterling, on behalf of the applicant. Thank you. Yes. As you and the examining authority and others you have reviewed, the Planning Speech Project web page will have noted that in the response to Section 51, advise the Act and took the approach of providing schedules of change to application documents that previously been submitted. And the applicant is proposing to take a similar approach throughout the examination and effectively. What the schedule change does is note the changes proposed, for example, by the tracked change of particular paragraphs to an application document which has been submitted.

00:31:20:24 - 00:32:00:07

And it is proposed that the schedule of change for each document will be a rolling schedule of change. So you'll be able to see which changes are being proposed at that particular deadline, plus all changes that have gone before. And but that will avoid having to resubmit the application document and clean and track change to each deadline should update speed required. However, the applicant would of course, be willing to update the main document to ensure that all the changes are compiled into one document at any point during the examination on request of the examining authority and certainly before the end of examination.

00:32:03:03 - 00:32:09:11

Can I just before I ask if anyone else wants to respond on the matter, can I just have a couple of questions myself?

00:32:11:05 - 00:32:41:21

First one is, can you just advise how that would make the documents accessible to all people who want to participate in the examination, given the complexity of some of the documents and the amount of changes that may be required to them as a result of the examination process, i.e. how easy it use, the schedule changes alongside an electronic document, given all of these documents are electronic.

00:32:42:27 - 00:33:16:14

Is it me selling on behalf of the applicant and the way that the schedule of change would work for any given document, that would be the most, the person reviewing the documentation would only have to look at two documents. So the original document and the most recent version of that schedule of change, which would then read all of the changes, we actually think that that's probably more accessible than having to try and track the various versions of documents which may be uploaded and through the examination process, including, you know, clean versions and track change versions.

00:33:16:24 - 00:33:46:21

So we'd like to change the image to be more accessible. Of course, we welcome comments on that approach. It is noted that should the schedules of change become unwieldy, for example, that we're more than happy to update the document, as I say, that requires that the examining authority or indeed any stakeholder indicates that they are finding the process difficult. But of course, happy to review it aims to streamline the documentation rather than cause further confusion. So is welcome welcome any observations on the approach.

00:33:48:02 - 00:33:59:00

And can I just clarify? I think I know from a procedural decision, but the assumption is that at the end of the examination, you would produce a clean set, a document up to up to date set of documents.

00:33:59:11 - 00:34:00:08

Yes, that's correct.

00:34:01:13 - 00:34:11:24

OK, thank you. Can I just ask at this point if anyone wants to respond on this suggestion by the applicant that they use schedule of change rather than updated documents throughout the examination?

00:34:19:12 - 00:34:52:01

No, no one wants to respond in that case. Thank you for providing me additional explanation following this meeting, the expanding authority will consider the matter further and advise you of its decision in the rule 8 letter that will be issued as soon as possible after this meeting. Before talking about statements of common ground in general, I can confirm having considered the matter further, that the examining authority is of the opinion that a statement of common ground with the National Farmers Union would not be necessary, and this will be formally confirmed in the Rule eight letter.

00:34:52:24 - 00:35:11:05

If I can now ask Amy Sterling on behalf of the applicant to outline what it was that the applicant wanted to raise on this matter, and in doing so could. I also asked that she respond to the request made by the solicitors on behalf of any energy brokers S.A. Ltd. for a statement of common ground with all the offshore oil and gas operators.

00:35:11:21 - 00:35:12:06

Thank you,

00:35:13:25 - 00:36:11:20

Amy Sterling on behalf of the applicant. Thanks, madam, for confirming that a statement common ground was no longer being sought with the National Farmers Union that has resolved the submissions we wanted to make on that point, which was that we weren't progressing a statement common grounds at this time because we felt that our concerns raised. The pre-application consultation had been adequately addressed and we noted that no doubt representation had been made. So we consider that one now to be closed, which is and so in relation to the submission made by AMD on behalf of Neal, am I a position statement with a joint position of statement between the applicant and Neal has been provided to me and comments are awaited and it is intended that that would be submitted at deadline to two of the examination in relation to the other parties referenced in Neo's letter and the Enbridge Petroleum Harbor Energy.

00:36:11:22 - 00:36:37:27

I'm praying. Of course, they didn't make a similar request and the applicant is in commercial negotiations with these parties and will be providing an update on those negotiations and the

responses to relevant representations at Daily One. And at present, it's not anticipated that a similar joint position statement will be required with those parties. But if it is required, we will aim to provide those a deadline to.

00:36:39:08 - 00:36:47:08

OK. Can I just ask you to clarify for the benefit people who are new to the process, what the difference between a joint position statement and a statement of common ground is place?

00:36:49:27 - 00:36:54:12

Yes, and you said half of the act and broadly similar. It's.

00:36:56:29 - 00:37:27:11

The joint position statement tends to not narrate because it's more appropriate for commercial negotiations where the detail of the commercial interests between the parties can't be rehearsed as in statements of common ground setting out, such as details of matters agreed and not agreed by, gives us a flavor as it were of the status of negotiations between the parties and the key issues which are under negotiations without necessarily disclosing each party's commercial position.

00:37:29:11 - 00:37:40:21

Thank you. I don't think we have anyone here from any know to who would want to respond, but does anyone want to want to respond on that matter?

00:37:44:19 - 00:37:48:10

Does anyone want to raise any points with regards to statements of common ground in general?

00:37:52:07 - 00:37:55:03

I'm assuming from the sign in a night, so

00:37:55:15 - 00:38:16:24

just to confirm, say instead on behalf of Africa that we do have a few other comments on statements of common ground, but I am not sure if we will be discussing that under other items that one particular one we noted and our response to Rule six was the statement of common ground saw in relation to endurance. I'm not sure if you'd like to hear my submissions on that now

00:38:17:06 - 00:38:21:12

or I might as well. I think it's an appropriate points in the agenda. So want?

00:38:22:24 - 00:39:14:06

Yes. It was just really to make the examining authority where we finish it. When the Vilsack's was issued that the government presentation by BP hadn't yet been submitted just to confirm that the applicant is progressing. Position statement with BP, who, as we've already noted, is the appointed operator on behalf of the licence holder of the carbon storage licence being Equinor Carbon S.A., who essentially National Grid Carbon and BP. And as the appointed operated applicant feels, it is most appropriate to progress the position statement with BP, they must go that will be being submitted at deadline one of the examination and that basis the applicant isn't progressing at position statement at the moment with the other parties, particularly Drax and Shell, who are not part of any P.

00:39:14:14 - 00:39:33:03

But as far as we understand it, potential customers of the NFP project. So yes, it was just to make the Examiner authority aware that the position statement with BP is operator will be submitted a deadline one and that is the and the only one which will be submitted then.

00:39:33:27 - 00:39:47:00

Okay. Given we've got representatives from both National Grid and at BP here today, I'm going to ask them to respond in a second. But can I just come back to your place? You said it wasn't being progressed with Drax. What was the other party because

00:39:47:22 - 00:39:51:09

we know Shell had already made it. Also, we don't have a representation.

00:39:51:29 - 00:40:03:00

Okay, thank you. So if I can ask if anyone from either BP or National Grid want to respond on what they've just heard with regards to that position statement? Andrew Dodge.

00:40:06:08 - 00:40:13:23

Sorry, I'm I'm representing the RSPB, so I'll wait for the. Else to from BP or National Credit Service Provider.

00:40:16:12 - 00:40:19:28

This is Mr. Harrison from BP. I came Mr. Harris.

00:40:21:15 - 00:40:30:27

Yes, so we did submit relevant representation and apologies, I'm new to the whole development consent order process.

00:40:32:12 - 00:40:41:02

And we were informed that it would be taken into account the first deadline in March, but we wouldn't be granted kind of interested party status at this moment.

00:40:42:21 - 00:40:49:07

I can confirm that legal teams between the applicant and BP

00:40:50:29 - 00:41:00:21

in conversation about this position, statement or statement of common ground. I apologize. I don't know which one it is, but I can go back and

00:41:02:14 - 00:41:09:06

find out the answer and discuss this with our team. But I believe that that is the intention. I just need to confirm it with the legal team.

00:41:10:17 - 00:41:20:14

OK. And if you could get back to us as soon as possible on that, that would be great. No, later the deadline one. Yes.

00:41:22:03 - 00:41:26:16

So does anyone from National Grid won't say anything at this point?

00:41:28:15 - 00:41:46:13

But Gary Sick, too, on behalf of National Grid Carbon Limited, just to see Madam. Our interest is specifically in relation to the terrestrial carbon capture underground storage network, so we wouldn't be anticipating being involved in anything around a northern insurance partnership.

00:41:47:05 - 00:41:47:24

I think.

00:41:50:27 - 00:41:57:23

OK, if we can come to the very patient Mr. Dodd on behalf of the RSPB, thank you.

00:41:57:25 - 00:42:31:02

Thank you, Mrs. Dowling, sir. I just wanted to note, I know from the preliminary timetable that the deadline for the initial statements of common ground is set at the 8th of March. And just just like for the record, that we have not yet been approached by the applicant to on an initial statement of common ground, I will aim to fully understand that they will have a huge amount of work on their plate. But I just wanted to note, for the record, that that deadline is now looking unlikely from our perspective anyway, like I try to be.

00:42:31:16 - 00:42:34:06

Yeah, but obviously we recognize the process taking a common

00:42:34:08 - 00:42:35:22

ground process and fully understand it.

00:42:35:24 - 00:42:38:16

So we'll work with the applicant throughout throughout the examination.

00:42:39:03 - 00:42:54:28

Yes, it is very much an iterative process, but at the end of the day, the sooner that these can be resolved, the better. So if I can just ask Mr. Sterling if she anything, she wants to come back on at this point, from what she's heard from the representatives of any IBP and the RSPB.

00:42:56:03 - 00:43:05:18

And thanks just Amy Sterling on behalf of the applicant and just to confirm, yes, the draft statement of common ground with the RSPB, I understand from my client will be sent today.

00:43:06:18 - 00:43:07:21

OK, thank you.

00:43:09:11 - 00:43:14:11

So is there anything else with regards to statements of common ground that anyone wants to raise at this point in time?

00:43:16:09 - 00:43:16:24

No.

00:43:18:03 - 00:43:52:16

So again, as I've mentioned before, the expanding authority will discuss this matter further following this meeting and advise you of our decisions on what has been discussed and suggested in the Rule eight letter in relation to the point raised by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council in its submission. Pedalled Dash zero zero four regarding issues surrounding the submission of that local impact report. The examining authorities satisfied with the approach that's being proposed and this will be confirmed in the Rule eight letter. Can I just confirm at this stage if there's anything further that the council wishes to raise on this matter? Mrs Downes?

00:43:53:20 - 00:43:56:25

Jennifer Dempsey certainly wouldn't actually cancel at no or nothing further

00:43:56:27 - 00:44:26:11

to raise at this time. Thank you. The matters raised by Natural England in PDL zero zero six and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in PDL zero zero seven will be considered under the next item on the agenda with regards to timetabling and deadlines. So having discussed the specific procedural issues raised in submission, made the procedural deadlines. Is there anything else other than matters relating to the timetable deadline that anyone wants to raise at this point in the meeting?

00:44:31:11 - 00:44:53:21

No. So can I just remind you that interested parties are asked to submit any written comments that they may wish to make on any of the additional submissions or the documents submitted at the procedural deadline by deadline one? I'm now going to hand over to Mr. Mom, who will talk about the draft timetable for the examination hearings and site inspections.

00:44:56:06 - 00:45:25:27

Thank you, Sterling. darling I'm going to deal with items five and six on today's agenda together. I'm going to look at the draft examination timetable, which is at Annex D to the examining authorities rules six letter. And then I'll move on to the proposed dates and formats for the hearings and site inspections. You might find it helpful to have an Annex D of our Rule six letter in front of you if you have it, and I'm going to ask Mr McCarthy to share the draft timetable on the screen, please.

00:45:33:29 - 00:45:41:13

Thank you. Hopefully, you can all see that now. Again, this is a condensed version, the full version is in the Rule six letter.

00:45:44:00 - 00:46:18:05

As you whole seen the draft timetable and in the interests of brevity, I don't intend to go through all of it in full. However, I am going to put out some of the key points before inviting comments from you. I'll deal with the proposed examination timetable first and site inspections and then hearings. So firstly, the proposed examination timetable, the timetable in front of us here is provisional. Having heard your comments today, the examining authority will consider any proposed changes and as soon as practicable after this meeting issue.

00:46:18:07 - 00:46:21:00

A Rule eight letter to finalize the timetable,

00:46:22:25 - 00:46:54:25

you'll see a provision in the draft timetable for the examining authority to issue written questions. The intention is for the first written questions to be issued alongside the Rule eight letter that they may follow shortly afterwards, depending on circumstances. It's an examining authority considers it necessary. More than one round of written questions may be issued. Most of you will be aware this is quite unusual for a case of this size and complexity, and a further round of written questions is provisionally pencilled in for the 30th of May.

00:46:56:21 - 00:47:09:19

The examining authority can also issue specific requests for information from named parties of any point during the examination. If this is considered necessary, this would be done through the issue of a Rule 17 letter.

00:47:11:20 - 00:47:28:08

As you can see, the examination is structured around a series of timetable deadlines being a primarily written process. These are the dates by which most of the critical information will need to be submitted. The submissions will be collated on the next working day and subsequently published.

00:47:29:27 - 00:47:36:21

The examining authority considers essential the deadlines are met to facilitate a fair and efficient examination.

00:47:39:00 - 00:48:16:12

Deadline one is currently timetabled for the 8th of March. This is when the examining authority will be expecting to receive written notifications from parties who wish to speak. One of the subsequent hearings would like to attend an accompanied site inspection should one be held. Could any parties intending to submit a request to attend any of these events, please read the information in the examining authorities Rule six letter and its annexes very carefully to ensure that you understand the reasons and procedures around each and to make sure your representation is directed along the most appropriate channel.

00:48:18:25 - 00:48:30:03

Deadline one is also the deadline for local impact reports from the relevant local authorities. Comments on the published relevant representations and initial statements of common ground, amongst others.

00:48:32:10 - 00:48:51:05

Moving on, Deadline two is provisionally program for the 29th of March. This is when interested parties would need to submit their full written representations at this deadline. The examining authority also expects responses to its first written questions and any comments on the local impact reports.

00:48:53:25 - 00:49:10:23

As you will see, the draft timetable includes a further six deadlines when the examining authority requires the submission of specified information for expediency. I do not intend to go through these in detail now, but if you intend to be involved in the examination, please do familiarize yourself with them.

00:49:13:07 - 00:49:37:26

For the avoidance of doubt, the examination timetable specifies that the precise deadline for submission of information is at 23:59 on each of the specified dates. The time is common to all parties, so ensures fairness. It also reflects the circumstances for parties who are working or otherwise occupied in the daytime and who rely on evenings to work on their representations.

00:49:39:13 - 00:49:55:09

Now, in relation to that, we have noted a request in the applicants procedural deadlines submission dated the 10th of February that this be changed to six p.m. in the evening starting. Does your team wish to make any further comments on this at this stage beyond those in your letter?

00:49:57:08 - 00:50:19:06

Amy Sterling, on behalf of the applicant. No, just to confirm the rationale for requested change was its commitment to the health and well-being of its employees, which it felt would be best served by a 6pm deadline, albeit your comments in relation to other parties who may have irregular working hours are noted.

00:50:21:26 - 00:50:26:27

Thank you. Does anybody else in the meeting have a comment about this deadline time at this stage?

00:50:30:04 - 00:50:41:09

I haven't heard anything that's in your hand, so I'll take it as no. OK, thank you, Mr. I will take the representation away and we will confirm our final position, not in our rule8 letter.

00:50:44:09 - 00:50:54:02

The applicants procedural deadlines submission also draws the examining authority's attention to the proximity of some of the proposed deadlines and events to public holidays, including Easter

00:50:55:21 - 00:51:08:27

Natural England is not with us today, but we have seen a concern raised in its procedural deadline letter dated the 9th of February around its resourcing of attendance, with any hearings held during the week commencing 25th of April.

00:51:10:22 - 00:51:16:15

So in relation to Easter and holidays again, the Stones is a team wish to and I think further to your letter at this stage

00:51:17:25 - 00:51:57:15

Amy Sterling on behalf of the applicant. Just to reiterate what we said, no said we are willing and able to meet the timetable. As daft as we know that Easter is a particularly constrained time. There are several either school or public holidays and April, May and also this year, now in June. And we're keen to maintain the examination timetable insofar as possible and for the efficient running of the six month period. We note, as is also noted, to believe in Natural England's response that the ability for participants to attend virtually may go quite some way to mitigate the difficulties which public and school holidays may cause for hearing.

00:51:58:28 - 00:52:04:04

But nevertheless, we felt it was worth bending to examining authorities attention in case anyone else didn't. Thank you.

00:52:05:27 - 00:52:37:15

Thank you, that's all noted. I'm. As you want to, I think everybody should be aware, we're constrained by the legislation here to a maximum of six months for the examination, so we actually have very little wriggle room available to move things around. But looking at that point on the timetable and natural England's resourcing issues, if it's possible, the examining authority will go and look at the schedule for any issue specific hearings that are likely to involve Natural England for later in the week commencing the 25th as of April 25th of April.

00:52:37:17 - 00:53:10:05

Sorry. So let's say maybe we can schedule the ones that might involve Natural England for Wednesday or Thursday or Friday, which may help a little or if it is possible, we will look to carry over one or two to the following week. And again, as mysteries just mentioned, there's an additional bank holiday and that one too. So we try to do that slightly later in the week, potentially Wednesday or Thursday. We'll take those thoughts away and we'll see if we can make any revisions and we'll give a decision again and not to a final timetable in the rule letter.

00:53:10:13 - 00:53:19:27

Did anybody else wish to make any points on that? I'm going to come back to the RSPB specific request in a moment. But does anybody else have a comment on the deadline dates?

00:53:24:12 - 00:53:56:25

I haven't heard anything, so I shall move on. So, Mr. Carter, the RSPB procedural deadlines submission to the 14th of February raises a couple of matters in relation to Agenda Item five. You've requested clarification from the applicant in respect of offshore ornithology. And what further documents will be submitted to the examination and what deadlines? Now we appreciate the reason for the request. But I do think the detail of this needs to be left until we have started the examination.

00:53:58:29 - 00:54:36:28

Do you have anything further to add on what was in your letter in relation to that? Not in detail. I mean, just to respond to your observation that will cause us problems in terms of time typing out our staff resource. I mean, where the complexity of this particular application in response spot in respect of offshore ornithology matters means we as an organization just might be true of Natural England, but I'll speak just for the RSPB means we are consulting multiple many more colleagues than we would normally otherwise do and drawing them in to discuss specialist matters.

00:54:37:12 - 00:55:10:21

And therefore the sooner we can get interest, really, all we're asking for from the applicant is an indicated indicative timetable as to when they expect to submit further documentation, which from line discussions with them. We are expecting there to be further information at some point, but we don't know the timings of that and therefore we can't schedule our resources. So it's really just seeking clarification to help us engage with the examination as effectively as possible. So the sooner the soon as possible.

00:55:10:23 - 00:55:38:11

And I would be interested to see kind of hear what the applicants response is and kind of what their plans are, but they may not be able to say in detail now, but with say it was just a request to help us help them and the examination. And if it's done, as I said, we do appreciate the reasons behind your request, I think we are teetering on the brink between our examination matters and procedural matters. But Mr. Did you wish to make anything any comments further on that today?

00:55:39:14 - 00:56:08:03

Yes, Amy, standing on behalf of the African Hope, a vision message that we will be providing a list of the offshore ornithology related submissions that at this point we anticipate making and to examination at Divine One, along with related deadlines for those submissions, and hopefully also to reassure Mr. Doe that the deadline for those submissions is either deadline one or deadline to as currently program, so they will be made available early in the examination process.

00:56:10:07 - 00:56:28:09

Thank you, Mr. That's very useful, and I hope that ratio you, Mr Dolan, give you some indicators. Yes, just like to thank Mr Ling and yourself for that clarification. That's very helpful. Thank you. Anybody else wish to comment on this matter again, bearing in mind, we're dealing with the examination procedure here on its merits.

00:56:31:28 - 00:57:07:19

No, I don't hear anything there, so thank you very much for all of that. Coming back to you, Mr. Dodge, you've raised the second point in your procedural deadlines submission in relation to the timing of the proposed issue specific hearing on the draft DCO. We have seen your point and we'd note that the week commencing the 18th of July is reserved in the draft timetable for further hearings if required. This could include a further compulsory acquisition hearing, if necessary. We also note that the timetable as drafted, includes a request to the applicant to produce updated versions of the draft DCO at each major deadline.

00:57:10:00 - 00:57:11:14

Anything you wish to add, Mr. Sterling.

00:57:14:22 - 00:57:47:24

It's stunning. Yes, so Amy said it on behalf of the Afghan, and we actually did have a point in relation to the draft just to make the examining 30 where that we actually intending to provide the first update and responds to their representations act like one in the 1st of March. That's really a reflection of a number of suggestions that were made by Natural England and the IMO, and they relevant

representations relating to the issue drafting, many of which have been taken on board. So we felt it was to do with all of those at once and submit the updated draft if there's like one.

00:57:50:01 - 00:57:52:13

Thank you, wish to add, Mr. Dodd.

00:57:54:29 - 00:58:29:18

And not not at this stage. That's very helpful clarification on the updated this year. And obviously our I think our comment was just in terms of the opportunity to respond to any recommendations that the examining utilities commentary on the DCI and whether that be an opportunity after the 28th of July date for that to be put into the examination for for any last look, kind of almost last minute hearing if there methods still to be discussed, but obviously that you have to,

00:58:29:24 - 00:58:31:19

obviously that's within your discretion.

00:58:31:21 - 00:58:48:09

So yes, certainly we take that point away, but you will have ample opportunity. I believe that the deadlines to send in any written representations on that you wish to make towards the last two deadlines. Thank you. Does anybody else wish to comment specifically on the draft DACA issue specific hearing?

00:58:51:04 - 00:58:58:02

Or indeed, before I move on, then to site inspections and hearings, does anybody else wish to comment on the timetable?

00:58:59:22 - 00:59:01:19

Any other comments at all on the timetable?

00:59:03:13 - 00:59:12:18

I don't see any hands. I don't hear anything, so I'm going to move on. So secondly, I'm moving on to agenda item six and firstly, the site inspections.

00:59:14:17 - 00:59:45:28

The examining authority carried out a series of unaccompanied site inspections from public land on the 9th and the 10th of February. During these inspections, the examining authority was able to view the majority of the proposed onshore and coastal locations for construction works and the proposed development and the wider landscape, environmental and social contexts. Notes and route maps of the inspections were published on the 15th of February and can be viewed on the project page of the National Infrastructure website.

00:59:46:16 - 00:59:57:25

So do not propose to go into them in any detail now. For reference, the examination library numbers are zero zero one and zero zero two.

00:59:59:11 - 01:00:05:22

It is possible that further unaccompanied site inspections may be undertaken during the course of the examination.

01:00:07:10 - 01:00:29:27

Now, given the extent of coverage that the unaccompanied site inspections gave the examining authority, it is considered unlikely that would be necessary to visit those sites or areas again getting

therefore unaccompanied site inspection would only be necessary to view any remaining land where there is no public right of access or where there is no clear view from public viewpoints.

01:00:31:25 - 01:01:13:15

The draft examination timetable includes a deadline for suggested prospective locations for any accompanying sites inspection. And this is the eighth of March. If anybody wishes to make any such suggestions, they must be received in writing by that deadline. Please, can I ask that you study the unaccompanied site inspection maps and notes before writing in to avoid suggesting any repeat visits? In your submission, please also provide detailed explanation of why you consider an accompanying inspection to that location is required, including what could be viewed there, why it is important and what would need to be done to arrange access.

01:01:15:28 - 01:01:29:05

If required and accompanied site inspection has been timetable for the week commencing 18th of July. Any request to attend any such site inspection must be received by deadline one, which is the 8th of March.

01:01:31:10 - 01:01:36:21

Does anybody have any questions or comments in relation to site inspections before I move on to the hearings?

01:01:41:03 - 01:01:47:17

Nothing heard that, so I'm going to move on finally to this part of the agenda, I'm going to move on to deal with hearings.

01:01:50:04 - 01:02:22:13

Looking at the proposed timetable, you'll see that the examining authority is proposing to hold an open floor hearing in the evening of Monday, the 11th of April 2020, to an open floor hearing is generally the best opportunity for individuals, community representatives and local interest groups to put their views verbally to the examining authority. This hearing will be held virtually online on Microsoft Teams. The provisional deadline for requests be had at this or any future open floor hearing is the 8th of March 2022.

01:02:24:04 - 01:02:46:00

Please do read all of the introductory information about hearings and virtual events set out in the examining authorities Rule six letter of the 24th of January, including its annexes. If you have any questions or require any assistance with the technology used for this virtual meeting, the case team will be able to help you and their contact details on the project web page.

01:02:48:24 - 01:03:23:09

Other hearings may be requested by interested parties, are they deemed necessary by the examining authority? You'll see that the draft timetable includes an issue specific hearing on the draft development consent order on the 12th of April and a compulsory acquisition hearing on the 13th of April. Again, these will be virtual meetings. In addition, the week commencing the 25th of April is research for a set of further issues specific hearings, they already discussed the possibility of focusing these at the end of the week and potentially carrying one or more days forward the following week.

01:03:24:22 - 01:03:30:25

The examining authority's current intention is to announce the topics and formats and to confirm the dates for these

01:03:32:11 - 01:03:36:22

issue specific hearings in the second week if they're to be held in the Rule eight letter.

01:03:39:18 - 01:03:50:00

If interested parties wish to be heard at any of these hearings, they must notify the examining authority in writing by Deadline one, which again is the 8th of March 2020 to

01:03:52:01 - 01:04:08:19

the week commencing the 18th of July, as reserved in the examination timetable for additional hearings. If it becomes apparent to the examining authority that they are necessary, topics and formats will be announced by the examining authority in good time ahead of the dates and an opportunity to register would be offered.

01:04:10:29 - 01:04:15:28

Examining authorities aiming to issue agendas for all of the hearings at least five days in advance.

01:04:18:18 - 01:04:29:21

We've already dealt with the procedural deadline comments from the applicants and others in relation to the timetabling of some of these hearings. But are there any other points about the proposed hearings that those present wish to raise?

01:04:33:24 - 01:04:45:18

I haven't seen any hands, not in there, so I'm going to move on. Finally, I want to take the opportunity to reiterate the importance of ensuring that information is submitted in accordance with SEC deadlines.

01:04:47:21 - 01:05:13:14

Cross-examining authority has the discretion to accept late submissions into the examination. It is only likely to do so in exceptional circumstances. Late submissions can jeopardize the examination timetable and could restrict the ability of other parties involved in the examination to respond to the information. So it is very important for you to note that if you do submit something late, there is always the possibility that it may not be accepted into the examination.

01:05:15:15 - 01:05:32:21

So that completes items five and six on the agenda. Thank you all for your comments and participation. Examining authority will be considering your requests and suggestions as the timetable is finalized for the rule later, and I will now come back to Ms Dowling for Item seven. Any other matters?

01:05:34:08 - 01:05:44:20

Thank you, Mr Mon. So moving on to Item seven on the agenda. Are there any other relevant items that anyone wishes to raise this raise at this point in the meeting?

01:05:48:08 - 01:05:48:23

No.

01:05:50:12 - 01:06:37:03

Well, that leads me on to Item eight, which is the close of the preliminary meeting. I'd like to thank you all for contributing so fully and peacefully this morning. The essay very much looks forward to commencing examination of this application. May I remind you that both notes and a digital recording of the proceedings today will be made available as soon as practicable on the project page of the National Infrastructure website. Likewise, we will aim to issue our rule8 letter with a confirmed examination timetable and first set of written questions. As soon as possible, after the close of this meeting, the time is now 6:49, and I'd like to thank you all for your participation this morning and

announce that this preliminary meeting for the Hornsea Project for Offshore Wind Farm is now closed.