



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application: The Net Zero Teesside Project

Reference: EN010103

Time and date: Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 10.00am

Venue: Virtual Event (Microsoft Teams) and the Lecture Theatre, Higher Education Block, Redcar and Cleveland College, Corporation Road, Redcar, TS10 1EZ

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed. Details of the application can be found at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/the-net-zero-teesside-project/>

1. Welcome and Introduction

Kevin Gleeson welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors, the Examining Authority (ExA) and Susan Hunt and Beth Davies as panel members to examine the Net Zero Teesside Project application.

The ExA explained their appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 26 October 2021.

Mr Gleeson explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by Net Zero Teesside Power Limited and Net Zero North Sea Storage Limited ('the Applicants') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

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

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the [project-specific page](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Audio recording

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

3. General Data Protection Regulation

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

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

4. Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008); further info can be found in [Advice Note 8.4](#).

The ExA asked the Applicants to engage in dialogue both with Parties attending the PM, and with others attending virtually, to try to make progress where matters are still in dispute. This was particularly important in relation to matters of compulsory acquisition and temporary possession.

The ExA explained that as the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions had been lifted it was decided to hold blended events this week. However, the Examining Authority will continue to review the most appropriate format for future events which may be blended or virtual and it would welcome any comments on how events should be conducted.

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 11 April 2022 and asked for any observations on them.

The ExA explained that a list of the 14 main headings of the Principal Issues within [Annex C](#) provides an initial framework of issues for the Examination of this proposal, though it does not preclude the ExA from amending the list by removing or adding to the proposed principal issues at a later stage in the process.

Mr Henderson from BDB Pitmans representing South Tees Development Corporation (STDC), the Tees Valley Combined Authority and Teesworks Limited made three submissions: STDC / Teesworks to be added specifically to the list (Issues 6 and 11) to reflect the extent and importance of the Freeport site; regarding Issue 13, further consideration is required in relation to access to the STDC site via Tees Dock Road; and the quantity and location of storage to be added to the issue of Construction Waste Management.

Dr Boswell from Climate Emergency Planning and Policy made two submissions in relation to Item 3 which referred to the Environmental Impact Regulations and cumulative assessment of carbon emissions and greenhouse gas emissions.

Ms Morag Thompson solicitor, on behalf of Anglo American Woodsmith Limited (AAWL), requested that AAWL be included in the list of projects in Issue 11 as well.

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 I](#) of the [Rule 6](#) Letter.

Statements of Common Ground

The ExA emphasised that the aim of a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is to agree factual information, to identify where there is agreement and where the differences lie between parties at an early stage in the examination process. At section 2 of [Annex I](#), a number of Interested Parties are listed with whom the Applicants are expected to prepare a SoCG

Mr Henderson commented that STDC and Teesworks are effectively the same entity and therefore their SoCG will be consolidated.

Mr Phillpot QC, on behalf of the Applicants, proposed to produce three additional SoCG, with North Sea Transition Authority, Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning and National Highways.

Local Impact Reports

The ExA highlighted that Part 4 of [Annex I](#) sets out the request for Local Impact Reports from the relevant local authorities, which are Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The ExA stated that whilst the Order limits do not extend to Hartlepool Borough Council, it is in close proximity and the landscape and visual, and ecological effects extend into the Borough. The ExA expects the Applicant to liaise with Hartlepool Borough Council on these matters at the earliest possible opportunity.

The ExA reminded those present that the Local Impact Reports should be submitted by draft Deadline 1 (26 May 2022).

Acceptance of Additional Submissions into the Examination

The ExA stated that following the acceptance of the application, the Applicants submitted a range of documents on 24 September 2021. The ExA accepted these Additional Submissions which have been published on the project website and are also listed at [Annex I](#).

The ExA highlighted that the Applicant also submitted a change request on 29 April 2022. Thirteen changes are proposed, all of which had been subject to a non-statutory consultation exercise. The ExA made a procedural decision on the 6 May 2022 to accept the change request.

Mr Phillpot, on behalf of the Applicants, indicated that an amended Planning Statement would be submitted at Deadline 1 (26 May 2022) to include updates to Government policy and legal submissions on case law.

7. Examination Timetable

The ExA confirmed that the draft dates for hearings and deadlines for submission of written documents are all set out in [Annex D](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter, which also includes dates for the ExA to issue documents such as its further written questions, its proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO and the Report on Implications for European Sites.

Mr Phillpot, on behalf of the Applicants, suggested that Interested Parties be requested to provide any comments on the changes by Deadline 1 of the Examination (26 May 2022). Furthermore, the Applicant will submit written suggestions for certain dates to be included in the timetable based on the Compulsory Acquisition Regulations arising from the change request.

Ms Thompson and Mr Henderson requested that instead of Deadline 1, Deadline 2 (9 June 2022) could be considered for comments on the changes that were accepted on 6 May 2022 by the ExA, which is the same deadline as their Written Representations.

Mr Phillpot on behalf of the Applicants enquired about the deadline for receiving oral submissions from the PM and ISH1, ISH2, CAH1. The ExA confirmed that it will be Deadline 1 (26 May 2022).

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

The Examination Timetable will be finalised in the Rule 8 letter which will be published as soon as practicable after the PM.

8. Hearings and Site Inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

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

The ExA confirmed that it had already undertaken an Unaccompanied Site Inspection, on 1 March 2022, from publicly accessible land. The notes are available to view on the project page of the website [\[EV-001\]](#) and they explain that the inspection was undertaken principally in order to view the location of the proposed Power Capture and Compression site from a number of viewpoints as well as a general overview of the Order land and wider area. However, the majority of the Order land is not publicly accessible. Therefore, an early Accompanied Site Inspection has been arranged for **12 May 2022**.

The ExA highlighted that it had reserved a date for a further ASI to be undertaken later in the Examination if necessary. This is timetabled for the week commencing **5 September 2022**.

The ExA explained that the draft Timetable makes no assumptions how future Hearings will be held, but we will give as much notice as possible regarding whether they will take place as a blended event like the PM, or fully virtual via Microsoft Teams.

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. These were duly noted and considered by the ExA.

Mr Phillpot, on behalf of the Applicants, and David Pedlow, on behalf of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, commented that they were content with blended events.

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

9. Any Other Matters

The ExA asked attendees for any further comments.
No comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

The ExA thanked the attendees for their participation and reiterated that the Examination will start with Issue Specific Hearing 1 at 2.00pm on 10 May 2022.

The meeting ended at 10:58am.