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All Interested Parties;
Statutory Parties; and
any Other Persons invited to the
Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

EN010109

Date:

27 January 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) – Section (s) 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules (EPR) 2010 – Rules 8, 9, 13 and 16

Application by Equinor New Energy Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project

Examination Timetable and procedures and Notification of Hearings

This letter is being issued under Rule 8 of the EPR (Rule 8 letter). The purpose of this Rule 8 letter is to provide important information about the Examination of this application following the representations made in writing and orally at the Preliminary Meeting. This letter includes:

Rule 8 main letter

1. Examination Timetable
2. Making your submission
3. Examining Authority's First Written Questions (WQ1)
4. Notification of Hearings
5. Format of Examination Events
6. Notification of Accompanied Site Inspection
7. Post Hearing Actions
8. Other Procedural Decisions made by the ExA
9. Managing Examination correspondence
10. Your status in the Examination
11. Awards of costs
12. Management of information



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| Annex A | Examination Timetable |
| Annex B | Notification of Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection |
| Annex C | Other Procedural Decision |
| Annex D | Availability of Examination Documents |
| Annex E | Guidance on using the Submissions Portal |

1. Examination Timetable

The ExA has made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A** to this letter.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in the Rule 6 Letter, dated 13 December 2022. In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the Preliminary Meeting. A list of the main changes we made to the draft Examination Timetable is set out at **Annex A** to this letter.

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of Deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All Deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the Deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, we may disregard them.

If we consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will be sent to Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and Other Persons invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website \(project webpage\)](#).

2. Making your submission

We request that all parties make their submissions using the [Make a Submission tab](#) on the [project webpage](#) on or before the applicable Deadline. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 12MB. Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the [Make a Submission tab](#).

3. Examining Authority's First Written Questions (WQ1)

The ExA has prepared written questions (WQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions are published on the project webpage and can be accessed at the following link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010109-000711>



All parties are requested to check WQ1 carefully in order that they may identify and respond to any questions posed to them.

Statutory Parties, including relevant local authorities, that have not already registered to become an Interested Party should consider notifying the ExA of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party, under Section 89(2A)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 as soon as possible. For the avoidance of doubt, Statutory Parties are defined as the parties listed in Schedule 1 to [The Infrastructure Planning \(Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions\) Regulations 2015](#).

Responses to WQ1 must be provided by **Deadline 1, 20 February 2023**. Please see the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**). If you require an editable Microsoft Word version of WQ1, please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter. If you require a hard copy of WQ1, please contact the Case Team who will send you a copy.

4. Notification of Hearings

We have made a Procedural Decision to hold the following Hearings.

1. Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3) on onshore environmental matters, including the draft Development Consent Order (if required), on Wednesday 22 March 2023
2. Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4) on onshore environmental matters, including the draft Development Consent Order Virtual Issue Specific Hearing (ISH2) (if required), on Thursday 23 March 2023
3. Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1), including the draft Development Consent Order (if required), on Wednesday 29 March 2023
4. Open Floor Hearing (OFH2) (if required), on Wednesday 29 March 2023 (evening)
5. Issue Specific Hearing (ISH5) on offshore environmental matters, including the draft Development Consent Order (if required), on Thursday 30 March 2023
6. Issue Specific Hearing (ISH6) on offshore environmental matters, including the draft Development Consent Order (if required), on Friday 31 March 2023

The ExA is providing early notice of Hearings in cognisance of the resource implications of preparing and participating in Hearings. Equally, we request parties to notify us as soon as possible, no later than **Deadline 1, 20 February 2023** of their intention to attend the Hearings that they have been requested at. While we cannot compel any party to attend, knowing early if key parties will be present at particular Hearings (or not) can influence the detailed agenda and the length of the Hearings, in a way that makes better use of Examination resources and of the time of the parties that are present.



Important information about these Hearings is contained in **Annex B**, including outline draft agendas and parties requested to attend the Issue Specific Hearings.

5. Format of Examination Events

All Hearings will be Blended events. Blended events allow attendance both in-person and virtually through Microsoft Teams. It is expected that both blended and fully virtual events will form part of the Planning Inspectorate's future operating model. Please see the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note [8.5: The Examination: hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual examination events](#) for more information. These Advice Notes are updated periodically to align with the most up to date Government guidance and Planning Inspectorate's working practices.

6. Notification of Accompanied Site Inspection

We have made a Procedural Decision to hold an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI2), scheduled to take place on Friday 24 March 2023 and this is set out in **Annex A** and **Annex B**.

If you wish to nominate a site for ASI2, you must do so by **Deadline 1, 20 February 2023**. The Applicant is to submit its proposed itinerary for ASI2 to the ExA by **Deadline 2, 7 March 2023**. The ExA will publish the confirmed itinerary at least five working days before ASI2. If you wish to attend ASI2, it is important that you register by the date specified in the ExA's confirmed itinerary.

The ExA has conducted unaccompanied site inspections in November 2022 [EV-001] and January 2023 [EV-027] and visited site during the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI1) [EV-004] in January 2023. We will not re-visit any of these locations. To inform the Applicant's preparation of the proposed itinerary for ASI2, the ExA wishes to outline its priority: the site and immediate surrounds of National Grid Norwich Main Substation, including access into the premises, the point of connection for the Proposed Development and the land upon which the proposed substation would be built. For this purpose the Applicant is requested to arrange access to parts of the site that are not publicly accessible from relevant parties.

The Applicant's proposed itinerary should have regard to the ExA's priority, any locations proposed by other parties at Deadline 1, as well as those locations favoured by the Applicant.

7. Post Hearing Actions

The ExA noted several actions for the Applicant and other parties during the Issue Specific Hearing 1 on 18 January 2023 and Issue Specific Hearing 2 on 20 January 2023. As the ExA stated at both Hearings, the ExA has incorporated the post Hearing actions and other issues emerging at the Hearings in WQ1. As such there will be no further issue of post Hearing actions.



8. Other Procedural Decisions made by the ExA

Important details about other Procedural Decisions we made at, or following, the Preliminary Meeting is at **Annex C**. These include:

1. Written Representations are requested from Interested Parties, other persons and statutory parties, in line with Rule 10 of the EPR, to be submitted by Deadline 1, **20 February 2023**;
2. Amendment of the status of Norwich City Council pursuant to s43 of PA2008;
3. Local Impact Reports are requested from host and neighbouring, lower and upper tier Local Authorities, in line with s60 and s56A of the PA2008 to be submitted by Deadline 1, **20 February 2023**;
4. Accepting additional submissions from Perenco [AS-038], Jonas Seafood [AS-037], and the Applicant [AS-036]; and
5. Decision to treat some specific parties as if they were Interested Parties, on account of specific circumstances.

9. Managing Examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the [project webpage](#).

A [Make a submission tab](#) is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the 'Make a submission' portal is provided at **Annex E** to this letter.

There is also a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'E-mail updates'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the Examination.

10. Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's document [What is My Status in the Examination?](#)



If your reference number begins with '2003', 'SHDE', 'SHDE-0' 'SHDE-AFP', 'SHDES57' 'SHDE-APL' you are in Group A. If your reference number is 'SHDE-OP011' you are also in Group A; see Other Procedural Decisions made by the ExA in Section 10 here, and **Annex C** to this letter. If your reference number begins with 'SHDE-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'SHDE-OP' you are in Group C. The meaning and purpose of those groups are explained in the document published at the link above.

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

11. Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#).

12. Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this Examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#). Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D** to this letter.

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

We look forward to working with all parties in the Examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Menaka Sahai

Lead Member of the Examining Authority



ANNEX A: Examination Timetable

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

Please note:

1. The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions and oral representations made at Hearings.
2. The time for submission of requested documents is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.
3. All information received will be published on [project webpage of the National Infrastructure website \(project webpage\)](#) as soon as practicable after the Deadlines for submissions.

Addressing requests made at the Preliminary Meeting

The ExA has sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made at the Preliminary Meeting and in representations submitted in advance of that meeting. The ExA has balanced the requests of parties with the needs of the ExA to facilitate a timely and thorough Examination. A summary of the ExA's considerations are:

- Publication of the ExA's Second Written Questions moved forward by two days to Wednesday 12 April 2023, to allow parties more time to respond;
- Deadline 6 moved back by 3 days to 10 July 2023, to allow parties more time to respond; and
- The time for submission of requested documents has been kept at 23:59 to ensure fairness to all parties and that parties that require evenings to work on and submit documents are not prejudiced.

Hearing agendas

Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings the ExA will publish a draft agenda on the [project webpage](#) on the National Infrastructure Planning website at least five working days in advance of the Hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For Open Floor Hearings agendas may not be published.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State may rely on the

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

| Item | Matters | Date |
|------|--|--|
| 1. | <p>Procedural Deadline A</p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of wish to observe or speak at the Preliminary Meeting including details of which agenda items to discuss • Confirmation of wish to speak at Issue Specific Hearings 1 and 2, including details of topics of discussion • Confirmation of wish to speak at Open Floor Hearing 1, including details of topics of discussion • Confirmation of attendance at the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) 1 • Proposed ASI1 itinerary from the Applicant. • Any written submissions about how the application is to be examined • Receipt of additional application material from the Applicant | <p>Thursday 5 January 2023</p> |
| 2. | <p>Preliminary Meeting</p> | <p>Tuesday 17 January 2023</p> <p>10:00am</p> |
| 3. | <p>Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)</p> | <p>Tuesday 17 January 2023</p> <p>2:00pm</p> |
| 4. | <p>Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Strategic Off-shore Matters, including Development Consent Order</p> | <p>Wednesday 18 January 2023</p> <p>10:00am</p> |
| 5. | <p>Accompanied Site Inspection 1</p> | <p>Thursday 19 January 2023</p> <p>08:30</p> |

| Item | Matters | Date |
|------|--|---|
| 6. | Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on Strategic On-Shore Matters, including Development Consent Order | Friday 20 January 2023 10.00am |
| 7. | Issue by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Examination Timetable Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Examining Authority's First Written Questions (WQ1) | As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting |
| 8. | Deadline 1 (D1) For receipt by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases as requested by Examining Authority • Responses to Relevant Representations • Written Representations (WR), including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words • Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (WQ1) • Applicant's Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Statements of Common Ground • Applicant's Statement of Commonality • Local Impact Reports from relevant Local Authorities • Nominations for sites for Accompanied Site Inspection in March 2023 • Requests for further Open Floor Hearing • Requests for Compulsory Acquisition Hearing • Confirmation of wish to attend and speak at the Hearings 22-24 and 29-31 March 2023, including details of topics of discussion | Monday 20 February 2023 |

| Item | Matters | Date |
|------|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules <p>Updates from the Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide to the Application • Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • Explanatory Memorandum • Schedule of changes to dDCO | |
| 9. | <p>Deadline 2 (D2)</p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to Relevant Representation • Comments on Written Representations • Comments on responses to the Examining Authority’s First Written Questions (WQ1) • Comments on the Local Impact Reports • Comments from Affected Persons on Applicant’s Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Applicant’s proposed Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI2) itinerary • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D1 • Any other information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules | Tuesday 7 March 2023 |
| 10. | <p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for (if any are required)¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI2) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH2) • Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3) | Wednesday 22 to Friday 24 and Wednesday 29 to Friday 31 March 2023 |

| Item | Matters | Date |
|------|---|--------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4) • Issue Specific Hearing (ISH5) • Issue Specific Hearing (ISH6) • Open Floor Hearing (OFH2) | |
| 11. | Publication by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Written Questions (WQ2) (if required) | Wednesday 12 April 2023 |
| 12. | Deadline 3 (D3) For receipt by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions to the hearings (if held) • Responses to the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions (WQ2) (if WQ2 is issued) • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D2 • Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Updates from the Applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements of Common Ground • Statement of Commonality • Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • Explanatory Memorandum • Schedule of Changes to dDCO • Compulsory Acquisition Schedule | Tuesday 2 May 2023 |
| 13. | Deadline 4 (D4) For receipt by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's WQ2 (if WQ2 is issued) | Tuesday 16 May 2023 |

| Item | Matters | Date |
|------|---|-----------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D3 • Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules | |
| 14. | Publication by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Written Questions (WQ3) (if required) • The Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order | Friday 26 May 2023 |
| 15. | Deadline 5 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the Examining Authority's Third Written Questions (WQ3) (if WQ3 is issued) • Responses to the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • Comments on any other information and submissions received at Deadline 4 • Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Updates from the Applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements of Common Ground • Statement of Commonality • Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • Explanatory Memorandum • Schedule of Changes to dDCO • Compulsory Acquisition Schedule | Tuesday 13 June 2023 |
| 16. | Publication by the Examining Authority of: | Friday 16 June 2023 |

| Item | Matters | Date |
|------|--|---------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report on Implications for European Sites (REIS) and any associated questions (if required) | |
| 17. | <p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for (if any are required)²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accompanied Site Inspection • Open Floor Hearing • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing • Issue Specific Hearings | w/c 19 June 2023 |
| 18. | <p>Deadline 6 (D6)</p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to Examining Authority's WQ3 (if WQ3 is issued) • Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • Comments on any other information and submissions received at Deadline 5 • Comments on the RIES (if published) • Post-Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case as requested by Examining Authority (relevant only if the Hearings are held) • Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules | Monday 10 July 2023 |
| 19. | <p>Deadline 7 (D7)</p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D6 • Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules | Monday 17 July 2023 |

| Item | Matters | Date |
|------|--|----------------------------|
| | Final Updates from the Applicant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Statements of Common Ground • Final Statement of Commonality • Final Guide to the Application • Final draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in the Statutory Instrument (SI) template with the SI template validation report • Final Explanatory Memorandum • Final Schedule of changes to dDCO • Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Final updated Book of Reference | |
| 20. | Close of Examination by the Examining Authority The Examining Authority is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months. | Monday 17 July 2023 |

ANNEX B: Notification of Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection

Hearings are a valuable tool to test the evidence and can progress the Examination at pace because it provides an opportunity to seek views from different parties and facilitate a multi-party dialogue within a short space of time. To make most of the Hearings to further the Examination of the case, the Examining Authority (ExA) makes two requests from parties:

Notification of attendance

The ExA is providing early notice of Hearings in cognisance of the resource implications of preparing and participating in Hearings. Equally, we request parties to notify us as soon as possible of their intention to attend the Hearings that they have been requested at. While we cannot compel any party to attend, knowing early if key parties will be present at particular Hearings (or not) can influence the detailed agenda and the length of the Hearings, in a way that makes better use of Examination resources and of the time of the parties that are present.

Preparation for Hearings

The ExA will aim to issue a detailed agenda for the Hearings, at least five working days before the Hearing date. This is the optimum time to provide parties for preparation, and to ensure the ExA is at a reasonably advanced in its considerations, to elevate the most pertinent matters for discussion at the Hearings. We ask that the Applicant and other parties come prepared to the Hearings with responses supported with evidence where necessary. In light of the matters raised at the first round of Hearings in January 2023, the ExA's first written questions and the submissions that will be received at Deadline 1, the Applicant and all parties should have a reasonably comprehensive picture of the matters that are emerging as important and being pursued in this Examination. It follows, that the Applicant's and parties' preparation for the Hearings should be ongoing and not wait until the issue of the detailed agendas.

Rule 13 notification of Hearings

The ExA is providing notice of the following Hearings under Section (s) 91, 92, 93 and 94 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), and Rule 13 and 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (EPR).

| Date | Hearing | Time | Joining |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Wednesday 22 March 2023 | Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3) on onshore environmental matters, including the draft Development Consent Order (if required) | Hearing starts: 10:00 am Seating available at venue from: 9:00 am | The Hearings 22-23 March 2023 will be held at: Main Auditorium The Kings Centre |

| Date | Hearing | Time | Joining |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:00 am | 63-75 King Street Norwich NR1 1PH |
| Thursday 23 March 2023 | Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4) on onshore environmental matters, including the draft Development Consent Order (if required) | Hearing starts: 10:00 am Seating available at venue from: 9:00 am Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:00 am | The Hearings can also be attended by virtual means using Microsoft Teams . Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered |
| Friday 24 March 2023 | Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI2) (if required) | Meeting time: 8:15 am Start time: 8:30 am | To be confirmed |
| Wednesday 29 March 2023 | Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1), including the draft Development Consent Order (if required) | Hearing starts: 10:00 am Seating available at venue from: 9:00 am Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:00 am | The Hearings 29-31 March 2023 will all be held at: Fishmongers Recital Hall Gresham's School Cromer Road Holt NR25 6EA |
| Wednesday 29 March 2023 | Open Floor Hearing (OFH2) (if required) | Hearing starts: 7:00 pm Seating available at | The Hearings can also be attended by virtual means using Microsoft |

| Date | Hearing | Time | Joining |
|---|---|--|--|
| | | venue from: 6:00 pm Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 6:00 pm | Teams. Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered |
| Thursday 30 March 2023 | Issue Specific Hearing (ISH5) on offshore environmental matters, including the draft Development Consent Order (if required) | Hearing starts: 10:00 am Seating available at venue from: 9:00 am Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:00 am | |
| Friday 31 March 2023 | Issue Specific Hearing (ISH6) on offshore environmental matters, including the draft Development Consent Order (if required) | Hearing starts: 10:00 am Seating available at venue from: 9:00 am Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:00 am | |
| NOTE: If any of the above Hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage , providing reasonable notice to all parties of the decision to cancel them. | | | |

Hearing agendas

For the Issue Specific Hearings and the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) the ExA will publish a detailed draft agenda on the [project webpage](#) at least five working days in advance of the Hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

To enable participants, make a decision about attending Hearings, the ExA is providing an outline agenda here for some of the Hearings. The ExA is also requesting attendance from some parties, as listed here, at those Hearings. The ExA requests all parties, including the requested attendees to confirm if they will attend these Hearings by **Deadline 1, Monday 20 February 2023**.

| Outline agenda | Requested attendees |
|---|---|
| <p>ISH on Wednesday 22 March 2023</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction effects – Onshore 2. Noise and Vibration 3. Traffic and Transportation 4. Water Quality and Resources 5. Draft Development Consent Order | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant • Environment Agency • National Highways • Local Highway Authority (Norfolk County Council) |
| <p>ISH on Thursday 23 March 2023</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development scenarios 2. Land use 3. Socio-economic 4. Landscape 5. Seascape 6. Design 7. Draft Development Consent Order | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant • National Grid • Natural England • Local Planning Authorities (North Norfolk District Council, South Norfolk District Council and Broadland District Council) |
| <p>ISH on Thursday 30 March 2023 (if required and subject to change)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ornithology 2. Marine Mammals 3. Construction effects – Offshore 4. Draft Development Consent Order | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant • Natural England • Marine Management Organisation • Royal Society for the Protection of Birds |
| <p>ISH on Friday 31 March 2023 (if required and subject to change)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benthic ecology 2. Shipping and Navigation 3. Fishing and fisheries 4. Civil and Military Aviation 5. Oil and Gas and other offshore infrastructure and activities 6. Draft Development Consent Order | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant • Natural England • Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority • Marine Management Organisation • Maritime Coastguard Agency • UK Chamber of Shipping • NATS • Defence Infrastructure Organisation • Perenco • Independent Oil and Gas |

Registering to attend and participate the Hearings

If you intend to attend and participate in the Hearings, you must register by **Deadline 1, Monday 20 February 2023** and provide all the information requested.

It is important that notifications from parties to participate in Hearings is submitted separately from any other written submission. Please select the appropriate Deadline and Submission Item under the [Make a submission](#) tab and ensure the submission is titled appropriately to allow us to quickly identify which event the notification relates to. **Annex E** provides further information about the Make a submission tab. Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support to attend a Hearing.

Attendance and participation at the Hearings

Any request to attend and participate in any Hearing **must include** the following information:

- name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- confirmation of the Hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the topics on which you wish to speak and brief details of the matter(s) that you would like to raise; and
- the [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/ page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Observing the Hearings

If you wish to observe the Hearings in person and at the physical venue, you are still required to register by **Deadline 1, Monday 20 February 2023**.

However, if you wish to observe virtually then you do not need to register. You will be able to either:

- watch a livestream of the event via a link to the livestream which will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
- watch the recording of the event which will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

All Hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the close of the Hearing. The recordings allow

any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed.

Procedure at Hearings

The Examination will principally be a written process (see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)), supplemented where necessary by various types of Hearings. Please refer to the [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#) as these provide important information about Hearing procedures.

The procedure to be followed at Hearings is set out in Rule 14 of the EPR. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of Interested Parties or Other Persons giving evidence and **will not allow cross-questioning** between parties.

Attendance at Accompanied Site Inspection 2

If you wish to nominate a site for ASI2, you must do so by **Deadline 1, 20 February 2023**. The Applicant is to submit its proposed itinerary for ASI2 to the ExA by **Deadline 2, 7 March 2023**. The ExA will publish the confirmed itinerary at least five working days before ASI2. If you wish to attend ASI2, it is important that you register by the date specified in the ExA's confirmed itinerary.

The Panel would like to remind all attendees that the purpose of ASI2 is to view the site and surroundings as referred to in the written submissions. No oral or written representations regarding the merits of the Proposed Development should be made at ASI2.

Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it; householders, occupiers and landowners may refuse to allow some persons accompanying the ExA onto their land. Under those circumstances, the ExA will decide whether or not to proceed with that part of ASI2.

ANNEX C: Examining Authority's Procedural Decisions

The Examining Authority (ExA) has made a number of Procedural Decisions under Section (s) 89(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), which are recorded here.

1. Written Representations

In the letter issued under Rule 6 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules (EPR) 2010 (Rule 6 letter) [PD-006], the ExA notified all Interested Parties and other persons that Written Representations were due on Deadline 1, **Monday 20 February 2023**. That date still stands. All Interested Parties and other persons are now invited to submit Written Representations at Deadline 1.

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in the ExA's Initial Assessment of Principal Issues or the content of ExA's First Written Questions. Any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a Written Representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the Examination (see paragraph 74 of [Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent](#)).

Any Written Representations, and any further written submissions requested by the ExA in the course of the Examination which exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made. Representations must not include hyperlinks to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. Please see the [Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) for further information about Written Representations.

We have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the Examination. Please see the Examination Timetable (**Annex A**).

2. Amendment of the status of Norwich City Council pursuant to s43 of PA2008

Following the Preliminary Meeting [EV-006] [EV-007] and the submission by the Applicant that a Statement of Common Ground would not be pursued with Norwich City Council, the ExA reviewed the status of Norwich City Council (NCC) in the Examination.

The Applicant's consultation report [APP-029] confirms that initially NCC was considered a 'B' host authority but was later recategorized as an 'A' authority, on the basis that the Proposed Development did not fall within the administrative area of NCC and yet NCC shared a border with neighbouring 'B' host authorities.

The s55 checklist issued at the time of acceptance of the application [PD-002] and the subsequent Rule 6 letter [PD-006], inaccurately described NCC as a 'B' authority. The ExA therefore makes a Procedural Decision to correctly categorise NCC as a boundary 'A' authority. Notwithstanding, NCC may, under Section 60(2) of the Planning Act 2008, submit a Local Impact Report to the Examination by **Deadline 1, 20 February 2023** should it wish to.

3. Local Impact Reports (LIR)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see our [Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports](#). In the Rule 6 letter [PD-006] we notified Local Authorities that LIRs were due on Deadline 1, **Monday 20 February 2023**. That date still stands. LIRs are requested from the following host lower and upper tier Local Authorities, in line with s60 and s56A of PA2008.

The host 'B' authorities:

1. Broadland District Council
2. North Norfolk District Council
3. South Norfolk Council

The host 'C' authority:

4. Norfolk County Council

LIRs are also requested at the same deadline from any other relevant local authorities in line with s60 and s56A of the PA2008:

The boundary 'A' authorities:

5. Norwich City Council
6. Breckland Council
7. East Suffolk Council
8. Great Yarmouth Borough Council
9. King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
10. Mid Suffolk District Council

The boundary 'D' authorities:

11. Cambridgeshire County Council
12. Lincolnshire County Council
13. Suffolk County Council
14. Broads Authority

4. Additional Submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted by Procedural Deadline A we have exercised our discretion and made a Procedural Decision to accept Additional Submissions from the following:

1. A statement of representation from Perenco [AS-038];
2. A statement of representation from Jonas Seafood [AS-037]; and
3. A letter from the Applicant notifying the ExA of an intended material and non-material change request, to be forthcoming at or before Deadline 2 [AS-036].

5. Examining Authority's decision to treat specific parties as if they were Interested Parties

On 21 December 2022, the ExA wrote to some non-statutory stakeholders inviting them to the Preliminary Meeting as other persons, under Rule 6 of the EPR [PD-008]. In taking a precautionary approach, and to ensure that relevant stakeholders who may have valuable contributions to make to the Examination are given an opportunity to do so, the ExA stated that it would exercise discretion to treat any of those parties as if you they were an Interested Party, if it feels it is appropriate to do so.

Of the parties who were sent this notification letter, Jonas Seafood [AS-037] attended the Preliminary Meeting and made subsequent oral submissions at Issue Specific Hearing 1. Perenco UK Limited also made a statement of representation [AS-038] and made oral submissions at Issue Specific Hearing 1. On account of the contributions at the Hearings, the ExA finds that both parties may have valuable contributions to make to the Examination of the Application. The ExA has decided that it would be appropriate to treat both organisations as if they were Interested Parties and afford them all the rights of an Interested Party. This will ensure that they receive all correspondence regarding Examination.

ANNEX D: Availability of application documents and representations submitted to the Examination

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website \(project webpage\)](#). All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the [Documents tab](#) of the [project webpage](#).

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#) (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the Documents tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

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

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. **Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.**

Electronic deposit locations

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in the table below. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification and register as a member in order to use a computer at these locations.

| Venue/address | Opening hours | Printing costs |
|--|--|---|
| Aylsham Library 7 Hungate Street Aylsham NR11 6AA | Monday 10:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 14:00 – 19:00 Thursday 10:00 – 19:00 Friday 10:00 – 19:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Costessey Library Breckland Road New Costessey Norwich NR5 0RW | Monday 09:30 – 17:30 Tuesday 14:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 09:30 – 19:00 Thursday 08:00 – 19:00 Friday 14:00 – 19:00 Saturday 11:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |

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| Venue/address | Opening hours | Printing costs |
|--|--|---|
| Cromer Library Prince of Wales Road Cromer NR27 9HS | Monday 10:30 – 19:00 Tuesday 10:30 – 19:00 Wednesday 08:00 – 19:00 Thursday 10:30 – 19:00 Friday 10:30 – 19:00 Saturday 12:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Fakenham Library Oak Street Fakenham NR21 9DY | Monday 10:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 08:00 – 19:00 Thursday 10:00 – 19:00 Friday 14:00 – 19:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Hethersett Library 40 Queens Road Hethersett NR9 3DB | Monday 13:30 – 19:00 Tuesday 08:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 11:00 – 19:00 Thursday 13:30 – 19:00 Friday 13:30 – 19:00 Saturday 11:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Holt Library 9 Church Street Holt NR25 6BB | Monday 08:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 08:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 08:00 – 19:00 Thursday 08:00 – 19:00 Friday 08:00 – 19:00 Saturday 08:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Hunstanton Library 12-14 Valentine Road Hunstanton PE36 5EF | Monday: Closed Tuesday 09:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 09:00 – 19:00 Thursday: Closed Friday 09:00 – 19:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 16:00 Sunday: Closed | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Long Stratton Library The Street Long Stratton NR15 2XJ | Monday 11:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 13:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 08:00 – 19:00 Thursday 13:00 – 19:00 Friday 08:00 – 19:00 Saturday 11:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Norfolk and Norwich Millenium Library The Forum Millenium Plain | Monday to Friday 08:00 – 19:00 Saturday 09:00 – 17:00 Sunday 10:30 – 16:30 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p |

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| Venue/address | Opening hours | Printing costs |
|---|--|---|
| Norwich NR2 1AW | | Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Poringland Library Overtons Way Poringland Norwich NR14 7WB | Monday 14:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 10:00 – 19:00 Thursday 08:00 – 19:00 Friday 14:00 – 19:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Sheringham Library New Road Sheringham NR26 8EB | Monday 10:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 10:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 13:00 – 19:00 Thursday 08:00 – 19:00 Friday 13:00 – 19:00 Saturday 11:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Taverham Library 9 Sandy Lane Taverham Norwich NR8 6JR | Monday 10:30 – 19:00 Tuesday 12:30 – 19:00 Wednesday 08:00 – 19:00 Thursday 10:30 – 19:00 Friday 10:30 – 19:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Tuckswold Library Robin Hood Road Norwich NR4 6BX | Monday 08:00 – 19:00 Tuesday 11:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 08:00 – 19:00 Thursday 08:00 – 19:00 Friday 11:00 – 19:00 Saturday 10:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Wells-next-the-Sea Library Station Road Wells-next-the-Sea NR23 1EA | Monday 11:30 – 19:00 Tuesday 08:00 – 19:00 Wednesday 08:00 – 19:00 Thursday 08:00 – 19:00 Friday 08:00 – 19:00 Saturday 08:00 – 16:00 Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Wymondham Library Back Lane Wymondham NR18 0QB | Monday – Friday 10:00 – 19:00 Saturday – Sunday 10:00 – 16:00 | Black and White: A4 20p A3 30p |

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| Venue/address | Opening hours | Printing costs |
|---|--|--|
| | | Colour :A4 - 50p A3 - £1 |
| Boston Library County Hall Boston Lincolnshire PE21 6DY | Monday: 09:00 – 17:00 Tuesday: 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday: 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday: 09:00 – 18:00 Friday: 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 16:00 Sunday: Closed | A4 black and white = 10p per copy A3 black and white = 20p per copy A4 colour = 25p A3 colour = 50p |
| Mablethorpe Library Stanley Avenue Mablethorpe LN12 1DP | Monday: 09:00 – 17:00 Tuesday: 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday: 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday: 09:00 – 18:00 Friday: 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 13:00 Sunday: Closed | A4 black and white = 10p per copy A3 black and white = 20p per copy A4 colour = 25p A3 colour = 50p |
| Skegness Library 23 Roman Bank Skegness PE25 2SA | Monday: 09:00 – 17:00 Tuesday: 09:00 – 17:00 Wednesday: 09:00 – 17:00 Thursday: 09:00 – 18:00 Friday: 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 13:00 Sunday: Closed | A4 black and white = 10p per copy A3 black and white = 20p per copy A4 colour = 25p A3 colour = 50p |
| Wainfleet Library Saint John Street Wainfleet Skegness Lincolnshire PE24 4DL | Monday: Closed Tuesday: 14:00 – 16:00 Wednesday: Closed Thursday: Closed Friday: 10:00 – 13:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00 Sunday: Closed | A4 black and white = 10p per copy A3 black and white = 20p per copy A4 colour = 25p A3 colour = 50p |

Hard copies of the application documents can also be viewed at the following locations:

| Location | Opening Times |
|---|--|
| North Norfolk Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer NR27 9EN | Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am-5pm. Wednesday 10am- |

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| | |
|--|--|
| | 5pm. Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm (Available from 4 January 2023) |
| Broadland and South Norfolk Council Offices, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich NR7 0DU. | Monday - Friday 8:30am-5pm. |

ANNEX E: Guidance on using the Submissions Portal

The [Make a submission](#) tab is available on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website \(project webpage\)](#).

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either 2003 or SHDE. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered Interested Party, then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third-party website e.g., technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) for further information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate Submission item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Annex D** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items, then please select the Submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the [Make a submission](#) tab, please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist you.