



HEARING AGENDA

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

Issue Specific Hearing 4	Onshore Matters
Date	Thursday 23 March 2023
	Hearing Start Time: 10:00 am
Timings	Arrangements Conference for virtual attendance online: 09:00 am Seating for in-person hearing available at the venue from: 09:00 am
Location	Main Auditorium, The Kings Centre, 63-75 King Street, Norwich, NR1 1PH Microsoft Teams for virtual attendance online

REQUESTED ATTENDEES

1. Applicant
2. National Farmers Union
3. North Norfolk District Council
4. Norfolk County Council
5. Natural England
6. Norfolk Coast Partnership
7. South Norfolk District Council

In addition, the Examining Authority welcomes involvement from all parties at Issue Specific Hearing 4. You were required to confirm attendance at Issue Specific Hearing 4 by Deadline 1, Monday 20 February 2023.

PURPOSE OF ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARING 4

The main purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing 4 is to clarify and get views on matters relating to:

1. Development Scenarios and Alternatives;
2. Land use;
3. Socio-economic;
4. Landscape;
5. Seascape;
6. Design; and



7. Draft Development Consent Order

DOCUMENTS

The Examining Authority referred to several documents in the preparation of this agenda, and some of the documents that we will be referring to during the Hearing are listed here. These documents can be located using the Examination Library reference number in [] square brackets:

1. Environmental Statement Chapter 4 Project Description [APP-090]
2. Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP1-023]
3. Environmental Statement Chapter 19 Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation [APP-105]
4. Environmental Statement Chapter 27 Socio-Economics and Tourism [APP-113]
5. Outline Skills and Employment Plan [APP-310]
6. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-112]
7. Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-274]
8. Design and Access Statement (Onshore) [APP-287]
9. Applicant's Change Request [REP-001a]
10. Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) [REP2-008]
11. Explanatory Memorandum (Revision D) [REP2-013]

HEARING FORMAT

The Hearing will be a blended event, whereby the principal means of conducting the Hearing will be face-to-face within the venue cited above. Participants may join online if they wish using the Microsoft Teams platform and, if you have registered to join using this format, the joining link for the virtual Issue Specific Hearing will be sent to parties the day before, or on the day of, each session. Observers may attend in person or can watch remotely via the livestream of the event, the link for which will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure website on the day of the Hearing. The Examining Authority will not accept representations at the Hearing in the form of video or audio recordings.

The virtual event will be open 60 minutes prior to the start of the Hearing to enable a prompt start. Hearings will finish as soon as the Examining Authority deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The Examining Authority may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a Hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.



AGENDA

The Hearing will start promptly at the indicated time of 10:00 am. All other times in the agenda are indicative. The Examining Authority will close the Hearing at 05:30 pm, or sooner if all relevant matters have been covered.

09:00 am Seating available for in-person attendance

1. Registration by the Case Team

09:00 am Arrangements Conference for virtual attendance

2. Registration by the Case Team

10:00 am Issue Specific Hearing 4 (session 1)

1. Welcome by Lead Member of the Examining Authority

2. Procedure for running the Issue Specific Hearing

3. Development Scenarios and Alternatives

- i. The need for the flexibility afforded to the Applicant in the selecting Development Scenario and communicating with parties about it; the possibility, implications, benefits and risks of introducing and securing a cut off point of selecting a development Scenario as a point of no return.
- ii. Comparing the absolute worst case scenario in the current application, to the two proposals (SEP and DEP) coming forward separately for Examination, which would be worse.
- iii. Further explanation of all the possible delivery timescales that could be, under all scenarios and as firmly secured through the dDCO.
- iv. Whether the Environmental Statement suitably assesses the potential for the Proposed Developments to be constructed at the same time but by separate construction crews.

4. Assessment of Alternatives

- i. Alternatives to grid connection at Norwich Main substation offered by National Grid; process of assessing the alternatives.

5. Land Use

- i. The impact on Agri-environment Schemes [APP-105] and whether provision is needed in the dDCO to secure compensation, given other mechanisms in place [REP1-036, Q1.16.1.3 and Q1.16.1.4].



- ii. Assessment of the cumulative impacts on temporary loss of agricultural land and justification for taking into account that land will be reinstated post construction [APP-105] [PD-010, Q1.16.1.5].
- iii. Is there evidence of soil heating associated with the existing Dudgeon development and whether any mitigation (such as cement based sand) was used for that scheme.

11:30 am

Break

11:45 am

Issue Specific Hearing 4 (session 2)

6. Socio-Economic

- i. The robustness of the Environmental Statement [APP-113] in terms of its consideration of impacts on tourism in North Norfolk, including whether there is any evidence to suggest potential impacts have been understated [REP1-082].
- ii. Whether there is a need for a tourism and associated business impact mitigation strategy [REP1-082].
- iii. The cumulative effect of the proposed development and others in East Anglia on available bedspaces for construction workers, including whether any mitigation is required in this regard.
- iv. Whether the Outline Skills and Employment Plan is adequate, having regard to the Applicant's planned amendments [REP1-036, Q1.22.2.8].
- v. The case for a Community Fund to be set up by the Proposed Development.

7. Landscape

- i. Whether the evidence provided to date by the Applicant is sufficient to demonstrate that effects on landscape character assessed within the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment are not related to any specific substation layout(s) or the siting of integral elements required for operation.
- ii. The measures proposed by the Applicant to assess the effects of the substation buildings and structures on the surrounding landscape at detailed design stage.
- iii. The effectiveness of requirements proposed by the Applicant relating to detailed design of form, massing, building envelope, fencing and screening intended to minimise adverse effects on the surrounding landscape. Discussion to focus on how these requirements should be considered, how they might be secured in the absence of initial design proposals for substation layout(s) and whether the Applicant's approach satisfies the requirements of NPS EN-1 (Part 5.9).



- iv. The requirement, or otherwise, for dedicated mitigation of visual effects at Attlebridge Main Compound.
- v. Description of the change proposed for the removal of an additional area of hedgerow close to the main construction compound; and feedback from Local Planning Authority and Local Highway Authority.

01:15 pm Lunch Break

02:15 pm Issue Specific Hearing 4 (session 3)

8. Seascape

- i. Further consideration and explanation of the case for a cumulative impact assessment which examines the existing baseline and its effect on the statutory purpose of the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- ii. The extent of additional harm to the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which would result from the Proposed Development.

9. Design

- i. The adequacy and suitability of the Applicant's design response to its Landscape Visual Impact Assessment findings of adverse visual effects arising at the proposed onshore substation site.
- ii. The extent to which the Applicant has demonstrated that it has applied the principles of good design set out in NPS EN-1 in the design proposals submitted for the onshore substation.
- iii. The design information directly related to the proposed onshore substation buildings and structures which would be secured within the dDCO.
- iv. The benefits, or otherwise, to both the Applicant and Local Authorities of an independent design review process to inform the design development of the onshore substation buildings and structures with reference to NPS-EN1, Paragraph 4.5.5.

03:45 pm Break

04:00 pm Issue Specific Hearing 4 (session 4)

10. Procedural decisions, review of actions and next steps

11. Closing remarks

05:30 pm Close of Issue Specific Hearing 4