



# The Planning Inspectorate

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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and  
any Other Person invited to the Preliminary  
Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010110

Date: 24 January 2023

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Dear Sir/ Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 4, 6, 9 and 13**

### **Application by Medworth CHP Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility**

### **Appointment of the Examining Authority and invitation to the Preliminary Meeting, draft Examination Timetable, Procedural Decisions and Notification of Hearings**

Following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an Examination of the above application I am writing to introduce myself. My name is Andre Pinto and a copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

I would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted me when considering how I will examine this application.

The Planning Inspectorate is now seeking feedback on the new BETA service through which Relevant Representations were submitted. Please consider filling out the [online feedback survey](#). All feedback on the user experience will help to improve the service.

### **Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting**

As a recipient of this letter you are invited to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss **the procedure** for the Examination of the above application. It contains several important annexes, including **Annex A** which is the agenda for the Preliminary Meeting, and **Annex**



**B** which introduces the Preliminary Meeting, explains how it will be conducted and explains how you can participate.

<b>Date of Preliminary Meeting</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Venue and joining details</b>
<b>Tuesday 21 February 2023</b>	<b>Seating available at venue from:</b> <b>9:00am</b>  <b>Virtual Arrangements Conference from:</b> <b>9:00am</b>  <b>Preliminary Meeting starts:</b> <b>10:00am</b>	The Boathouse Business Centre, 1 Harbour Square, Wisbech PE13 3BH  and  <b>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</b>  Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
<p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> The Preliminary Meeting should be completed before 1:00pm on <b>Tuesday 21 February 2023</b>. However, parties are encouraged to keep the whole day free in case the meeting overruns or there are technical problems that require the meeting to be adjourned or resumed later in the day.</p>		

**You must register through the [online questionnaire](#), by Thursday 9 February, if you intend to participate in the Preliminary Meeting.**

If you simply wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting then you do not need to register, as you will be able to either:

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

**It would, nevertheless, assist the ExA with the smooth running of the event if all persons wishing to attend, including those who wish to simply observe, register through [online questionnaire](#) by Thursday 9 February and indicate whether they wish to attend in person or virtually.**

### **Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting**

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to me, the ExA, about how the application should be examined. The ExA will therefore limit the scope of the Preliminary Meeting to consideration of **how the application will be examined**. See



**Annex B** to this letter and the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.3 - Influencing how an application is Examined: the Preliminary Meeting](#) for more information.

The Preliminary Meeting is **not** an opportunity for you to give your views about what you like or don't like about the application. The **merits or disadvantages of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts, which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed**. All relevant and important matters will be taken into account when I make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will take the final decision in this case.

The agenda for the meeting is at **Annex A** to this letter. This has been set following my Initial Assessment of Principal Issues arising from my reading of the application documents and the Relevant Representations received. The Initial Assessment of Principal Issues is set out in **Annex C** to this letter.

The draft Examination Timetable is set out in **Annex D** to this letter, and the ExA wishes to hear from you if you consider changes need to be made to the timetable.

The Preliminary Meeting will be held as a blended event. This means that it will take place as a virtual event using Microsoft Teams as well as a physical 'in-person' event. Please see '**Written submissions about how the application should be examined**' below.

### **Written submissions about how the application should be examined**

The Planning Act 2008 establishes a principally written process for the Examination of applications for Development Consent Orders and **representations made in writing carry equal weight to oral representations at all stages of the process**.

I am now requesting written submissions from recipients of this letter about how the application should be examined. I particularly wish to hear from you if:

- You consider changes need to be made to the draft Examination Timetable set out at **Annex D** to this letter; and/or
- you wish to comment about the arrangements for future Examination hearings, including the use of virtual methods.

You are invited to make a written submission, by using the [Make a submission tab](#) on the project webpage, about how the application is to be examined by **Procedural Deadline A (Thursday 9 February 2023)** (see **Annex D** to this letter). **Annex J** to this letter provides further information about using the 'Make a submission' tab.

### **Attendance at the Preliminary Meeting**

Please note that **you are not required to attend, or make written submissions to, the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the Examination**. If you are an Interested Party you can make a Written Representation and comment on the Written



Representations made by other Interested Parties during the Examination. You will also be able to participate in any hearings that are arranged.

If you wish to participate at the Preliminary Meeting you are required to notify the ExA in writing on or before **Thursday 9 February 2023** (see **Procedural Deadline A at Annex D of this letter**).

Requests to participate should be made using the [online questionnaire](#) on the project webpage on or before **Procedural Deadline A, Thursday 9 February 2023**.

Any request to participate in the Preliminary Meeting **must include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top your 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;
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make;
- confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person; and
- any special requirements you may have (e.g. disabled access or a hearing loop).

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support to attend the Preliminary Meeting.

### **Format of Examination Events – Preliminary Meeting and Hearings**

The Examination of the application will principally be a written process (see [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings (see [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#)).

It is expected that both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the Planning Inspectorate's future operating model.

The Planning Inspectorate is considering how virtual events may offer wider efficiency benefits, including time and cost savings, for the people and organisations involved in the examinations, hearings and inquiries that the Inspectorate carries out. On this basis, virtual events may be used more broadly throughout examination.

I therefore will confirm the anticipated format of any hearings to be held during the Examination Stage when I provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place. Nevertheless, the format of those meetings, particularly those with an in-person component, may need to be adapted due to circumstances or events



outside of the control of the ExA and may, consequently, be best delivered as solely virtual events.

As such the ExA is providing formal notification that the **Preliminary Meeting will be a blended event and that the OFHs referred to in Annex E to this letter will also be blended events.**

Because participation in the Preliminary Meeting or any future Hearings by virtual means relies on the provision of a joining link or telephone number in advance, it is important that you think about whether you wish to speak and confirm your involvement (please see **Annex D** to this letter). Alternatively, if you feel that you are unable to engage in the Preliminary Meeting or further Examination events through any of the methods described in [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#), please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter to discuss how you can participate in the Preliminary Meeting.

### **After the Preliminary Meeting**

After the Preliminary Meeting I will issue a letter (known as the Rule 8 letter) setting out the finalised Examination Timetable. A note of the meeting will also be published on the [project webpage](#).

### **Notification of initial hearings**

The ExA has made a Procedural Decision to hold the following initial hearings:

- **Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)** A blended event on the scope of the Proposed Development and Alternatives to be held on Wednesday 22 February 2023 from 10:00 am.
- **Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)** A blended event to be held on Wednesday 22 February 2023 from 6:00pm.
- **Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)** A blended event to be held on Thursday 23 February 2023 from 10:00am.

Important information about these hearings is contained in **Annex E** to this letter, including what details need to be provided with a request to be heard at a hearing and the procedure that will be followed.

### **Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority**

I have made some Procedural Decisions which are set out in detail at **Annex F** to this letter. They are summarised as follows:

- Request for comments on Relevant Representations (RRs) and summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words by **Deadline 1** (see Annex F of this letter).
- Request for Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) from named parties.
- Request for Local Impact Reports from local authorities by **Deadline 1** (see Annex F of this letter).



- Request for regular updated documents throughout the Examination, including an Application Document Tracker, a Compulsory Acquisitions Schedule and a National Policy Statement Tracker.
- Request for suggested locations for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI).
- Acceptance of Additional Submissions into the Examination.

### **ExA's note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection**

The ExA undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) on Wednesday 23 November 2022. A record of the USI to inform the Applicant, Interested Parties and other parties of the actions taken by the ExA was published on the project webpage with the Examination Library reference [\[EV-001\]](#).

### **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 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 J** 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.

### **Your status in the Examination**

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document [What is my status in the Examination?](#)

If your reference number begins with '2003', 'MEFW-AFP', 'MEFW-S57' or 'MEFW-APL' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'MEFW-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'MEFW-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 FAQ document you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.



## 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](#).

## 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 I** 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](#).

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

Yours faithfully,

*Andre Pinto*

## Examining Authority

### Annexes

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting
- C** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- D** Draft Examination Timetable
- E** Notification of initial hearings
- F** Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on the scope of the Proposed Development
- G** Agenda for Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) and Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)
- H** Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- I** Availability of Examination Documents
- J** Information about the 'Make a submission' tab

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.



## Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting

You **must** register through the [online questionnaire](#), by **Thursday 9 February**, if you intend to participate in the **Preliminary Meeting**.

If you simply wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting then you do not need to register, as you will be able to either:

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

It would assist the ExA with the smooth running of the event if all persons wishing to attend, including those who wish to simply observe, register through the [online questionnaire](#) by **Thursday 9 February** and indicate whether they wish to attend in person or virtually.

**Date:** Tuesday 21 February 2023

**Arrangements Conference:** 9:00am

**Meeting start time:** 10.00am

**Venue:** **Blended event at The Boathouse Business Centre, 1 Harbour Square, Wisbech PE13 3BH and by virtual means using Microsoft Teams**  
Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered

**Attendees:** **Invited parties who have pre-registered**

<b>Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting</b>	
<b>9:00</b>	Seating available at venue for in-person attendees
<b>9:30</b>	<p><b>Virtual Arrangements Conference</b></p> <p>Please arrive at <b>9:00am</b> to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the Arrangements Conference by the Case Team, greeted and given further instructions.</p> <p>The Arrangements Conference will commence at <b>9:00am</b>. This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for the Preliminary Meeting and allow for any questions to be asked about how to take part.</p>



<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Preliminary Meeting</b>
<b>Item 1</b>	The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at <b>10.00am</b> . The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.
<b>Item 2</b>	The Examining Authority's remarks about the Examination process
<b>Item 3</b>	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – <b>Annex C</b> to Rule 6 letter
<b>Item 4</b>	Draft Examination Timetable – <b>Annex D</b> to Rule 6 letter
<b>Item 5</b>	Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection – <b>Annexes E, F and G</b> of this letter.
<b>Item 6</b>	Procedural Decisions taken by the Examining Authority – <b>Annex H</b> of this letter
<b>Item 7</b>	Any other matters
<b>Close of the Preliminary Meeting</b>	

If you are participating using Microsoft Teams please join the virtual lobby promptly using the instructions that will be sent to you. The event will start at **10.00am** irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

It may take some time to admit participants from the virtual lobby, your patience whilst you are waiting is appreciated.

The agenda for the Preliminary Meeting is subject to change at the discretion of the Examining Authority (ExA), although in making changes the ExA will be mindful of the need to provide opportunities for fair involvement to all Invited Parties.

Any request to participate in the Preliminary Meeting **must include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top your letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make, and
- any special requirements you may have (e.g disabled access or hearing loop).

## **Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting**

### **Background**

The Preliminary Meeting (PM) will be a blended event with some participants attending in person and some taking part virtually using Microsoft Teams

The Examining Authority (ExA) is conscious of videoconferencing fatigue and will aim to keep the proceedings focussed and as efficient as possible. This annex provides advance access to information that would usually be included in the ExA's introductory remarks. Please read this carefully. The ExA will only present a summary of the key points set out here in order to ensure that the time available for participants to speak is maximised.

### **The Examining Authority and the Case Team**

The ExA Andre Pinto will introduce himself at the start of the PM.

The ExA will be supported by the Planning Inspectorate Case Team. During the Arrangements Conferences a member of the Case Team will welcome and admit participants from the virtual lobby, and will be available to answer questions by email before and after the PM. The contact email address is:

[Medworth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:Medworth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

### **The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting**

The PM is being held to discuss the arrangements for the Examination of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and which will generally be referred to in the PM and Examination as the 'Proposed Development'. The application has been made by Medworth CHP Limited, which will be referred to as 'the Applicant'.

You will find information about the application and, in due course, documents produced for the Examination on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website. The project webpage has links to the Examination Timetable, Relevant Representations and Examination documents and Examination procedure.

You are encouraged to look at the [project webpage](#) if you haven't already done so, because it will be used to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the Examination.

The main purpose of the PM is to discuss the arrangements for the Examination of the application. It focuses on the process only, and it will not be looking at the substance of the proposals: Questions, discussions and representations about the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development are for the Examination itself which will begin the day after the close of the PM.

The PM will be your opportunity to influence the process that the ExA intends to follow. The agenda for the PM can be found at **Annex A** of this letter. It is important

to have the letter and the agenda in front of you and to refer to them during the course of the PM. You may wish to print these in advance of the PM for reference.

### **Government guidance and policy**

The application is a NSIP under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as a consequence of sections 14 (1)(a), 15(1) and (2) of the PA2008: it includes the construction of an onshore generating station in England that has a capacity of more than 50 megawatts.

The designated National Policy Statements (NPS) for Energy Infrastructure specifically the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) applies to this Examination and to decision-making relating to this application.

The ExA will consider the Proposed Development in accordance with the NPSs and any other applicable policy or considerations the ExA deem to be important and relevant. The PA2008 makes it clear that, in making a decision, the relevant Secretary of State (SoS) “*must decide the application in accordance with any relevant NPS*” (s104(3)), subject to certain provisos. Essentially, the provisos are that the application must not breach legal or treaty obligations, and that any adverse impact of the Proposed Development would not outweigh its benefits.

The SoS is entitled to disregard any representations that relate to the merits of the designated National Policy Statement (NPS). In practice, this means that the ExA will not spend time examining representations that challenge policy set out in NPSs, or the validity of NPSs themselves. The focus will be on the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development, tested to the appropriate extent using the tests set out in relevant designated NPSs that are in force.

Other important and relevant planning policies that the ExA may consider include policies in the relevant local authorities’ development plans. However, if these conflict with policy in a NPS, then the NPS will take precedence.

In summary, the PM will establish the procedures and timetable for the Examination of the Proposed Development. It will set a framework for the ExA to enable the SoS to consider and decide the application. In doing so, the ExA will have regard to:

- The positions and representations of all Interested Parties (IPs);
- any Local Impact Reports (LIR) prepared and provided by relevant local authorities;
- other prescribed matters; and
- any other matters that appear to be both relevant and important to the relevant SoS’s decision.

## **Preliminary Meeting invitees**

The Applicant is invited to the PM and is generally given the opportunity to reply to any representations made.

Everyone who has made a valid Relevant Representation has been registered as an Interested Party (IP) and has been invited to the PM. All IPs are entitled to involvement in the Examination.

Each person or organisation with an interest in land or rights that are affected by a Compulsory Acquisition request in this application is an Affected Person (AP) and has been invited to the PM. In addition to a general entitlement to involvement in the Examination, APs have a right to be heard in relation to any objection about the effects of Compulsory Acquisition on their interests in land, and a right to be notified of any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing. All APs are IPs, whether or not they have made a valid Relevant Representation.

Certain bodies are Statutory Parties and they have been invited to the PM. Statutory Parties can elect to become IPs without having made a valid Relevant Representation by notifying the ExA in writing.

The ExA has the power to involve people who are not IPs in the Examination as though they are IPs, including by inviting them to the PM. However, this is only done in exceptional circumstances, for example if it was clear that the application would materially affect a person, they are not automatically an IP or eligible to elect to become an IP and they had been unable to take the necessary action to register as an IP.

The ExA has decided to invite the following parties as Other Persons to the PM (see **Annex H** of this letter):

- Sedgeford Parish Council
- Chris Benton of Priden Engineering
- Wendy Rogers

## **Conduct of the Preliminary Meeting**

During the PM participants may have to make allowances and be patient if there are delays associated with the technology used. In recognition of the fatigue associated with on-screen communication, the ExA will provide breaks during the PM as appropriate.

A digital recording of the PM will be made available on the project webpage as soon as practicable following the close of the PM. The recording allows any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed at the PM. The making and publication of these recordings are a means by which the ExA meets the legal requirement to hold the PM (and any other hearings) in public. In this regard, **anyone speaking at the PM will need to introduce themselves each time they speak**, to ensure that someone listening to

the recording after the event is clear who was speaking. A written note of the PM will be produced and published as soon as practicable following the close of the PM.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) applies. Participants must do their best to avoid providing any information which should otherwise be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the Case Team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and retain them for a period of five years from the SoS's decision on the DCO. If you actively participate in the PM, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording will be made available in the public domain. Please see our [Privacy Notice](#) for more information about how we handle your data.

Following the ExA's introductions, each participant who has been registered to speak will be asked to introduce themselves, including any organisations or groups that they represent. The ExA will then conduct the meeting in accordance with the agenda. If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you can switch off your camera at any point.

### **The Examination process**

The Examination of NSIPs follows different processes to those, for example, of a Public Inquiry into a planning appeal following the refusal of planning permission. The main differences are that the Examination of NSIPs are primarily a written process and hearings take on an inquisitorial approach as opposed to an adversarial one.

This means that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence primarily using written questions. While some hearings are held to provide supplementary evidence, questions to the Applicant or to witnesses will come from the ExA. Questioning or cross-examination of witnesses by other parties will not generally be allowed.

In terms of opportunities to provide evidence in writing, the draft Examination Timetable makes provision for the following written processes:

- Local authorities can submit LIRs if they wish. Whilst these are voluntary, the PA2008 provides that if they are provided, they must be considered by the SoS in reaching a decision. Consequently, LIRs are a very important method for local authorities to communicate issues of concern to the ExA, the SoS and their residents.
- IPs and others invited to can make Written Representations (WRs) and comment on WRs made by other parties.

- IPs and others invited to can respond to the ExA's written questions (ExQs) and comment on responses to these written questions provided by others.
- IPs may be asked to contribute to the making of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) if it appears that there are matters on which they and the Applicant agrees, and if it would be useful for this to be clarified. SoCGs most usefully extend to catalogue matters that are not agreed or are outstanding.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a series of numbered Deadlines for receipt of written submissions. The time for submission of documents at any Deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA. Timely submissions received by the relevant Deadline and that address its purpose will be accepted. **Documents received after the relevant Deadline are only accepted at the discretion of the ExA and may not be accepted to ensure fairness to all parties.** Circumstances where documents are submitted late without good reason, causing inconvenience or delay to other parties can amount to unreasonable behaviour.

These written processes will be the principal means used by the ExA to gather information, evidence and views about the application. However, the Examination will only be effective if all parties resolve to give timely, full, frank, clear and evidenced answers to every question that is relevant to their interests and to engage fully with any other related processes such as the completion of WRs and SoCGs.

There is no merit in withholding or delaying information, or in failing to co-operate, and should it occur, any unreasonable behaviour that caused another party to incur wasted expenditure could lead to an award of costs against the offending party.

The ExA has discretion to make amendments to the Examination Timetable for the wider benefit of the Examination. If possible, events will be arranged for times when all relevant parties are available, but the ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination by the end of the six-month period beginning with the day after the close of the PM. This requirement is set by legislation, and while the ExA will try to rearrange event dates to accommodate all relevant parties, in practice there will be limited scope to alter dates set out in the draft Examination Timetable.

The statutory time limit for the Examination means that where there are matters that still need to be discussed and agreed between the Applicant and IPs, it will be very helpful to the ExA if these could be progressed as early as possible.

## **Hearings**

The draft Examination Timetable at Appendix D includes provision for hearings, at which the ExA takes oral evidence from the various parties.

Any registered IP may request an **Open Floor Hearing** (OFH) to make oral representations about the application if they believe this to be preferable to relying on their written representation, though both carry equal weight. Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing, but they should not simply repeat matters previously covered in the written submission. Rather, they should focus on specific detail and explanation to help inform the ExA. There should

be no new or unexpected material in oral representations. A written summary note with any supporting evidence or references will be requested of each speaker following the hearing.

As with all Examination events, OFHs are subject to the powers of control of the ExA, as set out in the PA2008 and supporting legislation. Participants must register in advance by the Deadline shown in the Examination Timetable and in accordance with the instructions. It is common practice for the ExA to set a time limit for each speaker and speakers with common points are asked to come together to nominate a spokesperson or representative speakers to cover specific topics, so as to avoid repetition. Speakers representing public authorities, community and membership organisations or multiple IPs are normally provided with an additional time allowance, recognising their representative role.

The Applicant's draft DCO provides for the Compulsory Acquisition of land and rights, and the Temporary Possession of land. Affected Persons (i.e. those whose land or rights over land are affected) have a right to request and be heard at a **Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH)**. If one or more APs request to be heard then a CAH must be held. Provisional dates for CAHs are included in the draft Examination Timetable along with Deadlines by which requests to be heard must be submitted.

The ExA has the discretion to hold **Issue Specific Hearings (ISHs)** if it would aid in the Examination and there is a specific reason this would be more helpful than reliance on written evidence only. The lack of an ISH on one or more topics does not suggest that that topic is less important than others which are subject to a hearing. Rather, it is an indication that the ExA is satisfied that the issues can be fully considered through written submissions and responses to its written questions and that each party has had a fair opportunity to put its case.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a number of dates reserved for ISHs and IPs may make suggestions for topics to be discussed at an ISH in their written or oral representations to the PM.

It may be necessary for the ExA to hold more than one ISH on the draft DCO. This is normal practice, and they are held on a without prejudice basis. Parties can suggest modifications and amendments to the draft DCO provided by the Applicant with the application, without prejudicing their overall position on the application.

Holding such hearings does not imply that the ExA has reached any judgements on the merits of the application. Whatever the ultimate recommendation is, the ExA must make sure that the draft DCO is fit for purpose if the SoS decides to grant consent, as any consent will be subject to Requirements (ie conditions) set out in the DCO.

At hearings it will not normally be necessary for parties to make long and detailed submissions that require (for example) PowerPoint presentations. Any supporting detail/information can be provided in writing following the event by the relevant Deadline.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a deadline of **Thursday 9 February 2023 (Procedural Deadline A)** for participants to notify the ExA that they wish to speak at ISH1 and at the OFH and a deadline of **10 March 2023 (Deadline 1)** for a CAH.

### **Site inspections**

As part of the Examination process the ExA may undertake site inspections. These can be either unaccompanied or accompanied, though all would be subject to any restrictions in force at the time.

The purpose of these is for the ExA to see features of the proposals within the context of the evidence put forward. On **23 November 2022**, the ExA undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) to familiarise itself with the general area within which the application is located. The note of this Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) was published on the [project webpage](#) with the Examination Library reference [\[EV-001\]](#).

Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access. The purpose of ASIs is familiarisation only and no discussion of the merits of the Proposed Development will be entertained during an ASI.

The ExA may decide to hold USIs to relevant nominated locations, supported by the submission of additional written, photographic, video or even drone material if this would be preferable to not visiting sites or holding ASIs in circumstances which could make them difficult and unduly time-consuming to conduct (for example if public health restrictions are in place). The ExA may also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of a USI on an access required basis (ARSI).

The draft Examination Timetable includes a Deadline **Thursday 9 February 2023 (Procedural Deadline A)** for IPs to make submissions suggesting sites and locations that the ExA should visit. These will be used to inform further USIs/ARSIs as well as possible ASIs.



## **Initial Assessment of Principal Issues**

This is the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues prepared as required under section 88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). It has been prepared by the Examining Authority (ExA) following its reading of:

- The application documents;
- the Relevant Representations received in respect of the application; and
- its consideration of any other important and relevant matters.

This initial assessment has guided the Examining Authority in forming a provisional view as to how the application is to be examined. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of the issues that will be subject to examination and inevitably some issues will overlap or interrelate. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State for Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy after the Examination has concluded.

**The order of the issues listed is alphabetic and does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance.**

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the PA2008 are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not listed as Principal Issues.

It should be noted that a number of the Principal Issues set out below have an interrelationship and overlap and these will be reflected in the Examination.

It should also be noted that whilst the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as specific Principal Issues, the ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these in mind.

### **1. Environmental Impact Assessment – to include:**

- The assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development including the adopted parameter-based design envelope approach (Rochdale Envelope);
- The approach to environmental measures, including assessment of significance, proposed mitigation (including the monitoring and management of their effectiveness) and any residual effects;
- Whether all other necessary consents and licences have been considered;
- The approach taken to the consideration of reasonable alternatives and consequent selection, informed by environmental considerations;
- Scope of the powers sought, justification for such powers and approach to decommissioning;
- Whether all necessary parameters and mitigation measures are captured in, and consistent with, the dDCO.

### **2. The case for compulsory Acquisition (CA) and Temporary Possession (TP) – to include:**

- Whether all relevant statute and guidance has been complied with, including with the PA2008 and with relevant guidance;

- Accuracy of the Book of Reference; and accuracy of the Land Plans;
- Whether the full extent of the land, rights and powers that are sought to be compulsorily acquired, including access for maintenance, temporary possession, powers to override easements are necessary to facilitate or are incidental to the Proposed Development;
- Whether the powers sought are required for the development to which the order relates, whether they are legitimate, necessary and proportionate and whether it is clear how the Applicant intends to use the land;
- Whether there is a compelling case in the public interest for the compulsory acquisition of the land, rights and powers that are sought by the draft DCO that justifies interference with the human rights of those affected;
- Whether the temporary possession powers sought are needed to enable the construction of the Proposed Development; the notice period for obtaining temporary possession; the total period of time for which the land may be subject to temporary possession; and whether the powers sought are compatible with Human Rights tests;
- Minimisation of the need for acquisition of land and rights, including full consideration of acquisition by agreement and the exercise of any existing land option agreements;
- Whether all reasonable alternatives to compulsory acquisition have been explored;
- The effects of the proposed acquisition on any statutory undertakers' land or rights over such land and the detriment that may be caused to the carrying on of the undertaking in question;
- The adequacy of the Protective Provisions set out in the draft DCO and the need for any other Protective Provisions to safeguard relevant interests;
- Potential impediments to development;
- Any objections, the Applicant's responses, and related evidence; updates on attempts to negotiate with landowners;
- Whether adequate funding would be available to enable the Applicant to carry out the compulsory acquisition within the statutory period.

**3. Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) – to include:**

- The overall structure of the dDCO and adequacy of the Explanatory Memorandum;
- The clarity of definitions and the consistency of use of terms and phrases within the dDCO;
- Relationships with other consents, permits and licences and any impediments of them being granted;
- Design flexibility and justification;
- Whether the proposed Requirements effectively secure the mitigation identified in the Environmental Statement;
- Whether the proposed Requirements are relevant to planning, relevant to the development to be consented, enforceable, precise and reasonable;
- Whether there is a need for any additional Requirements;
- Matters for which detailed approval needs to be obtained, the discharging authority and the roles of the local authorities and of other independent statutory and regulatory authorities;

- The identification of all relevant statutory undertakers for which protective provisions are required and the adequacy and agreement of those provisions;
- Other provisions in the dDCO, including for removal of consent requirements, compulsory acquisition and documents to be certified;
- Whether the dDCO is satisfactory in all other respects.

**4. Air Quality and Human Health** – to include:

- Baseline assessment and the methodology used for data gathering and definition of Study Area;
- Construction impacts including dust and air pollutants, and the application of the Institute of Air Quality Management Guidance;
- The construction and operation effects on human and ecological receptors, including odour;
- Consideration of any necessary mitigation, monitoring and management and their effectiveness.

**5. Noise and Vibration** – to include:

- The baseline assessment and methodology used for the establishment of the sensitivity of receptors and robustness of surveys;
- Construction effects;
- Operational effects;
- Consideration of any necessary mitigation, monitoring and management and their effectiveness.
- Residual effects and their significance.

**6. Traffic and Transport** – to include:

- Traffic generation, traffic management and highway safety;
- Transport Assessment methodology, baseline and assumptions used to inform modelling, including use of March to Wisbech Railway;
- The construction effects, proposed routeing and management of construction traffic, including the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan;
- The operational effects on road users and the development and implementation of the Outline Operational Travel Plan and the Outline Operational Traffic Management Plan;
- The effects of the Proposed Development on the accessibility of other premises, including commercial and industrial premises;
- Potential effects on traffic movements and road safety, including public rights of way.

**7. Biodiversity, Ecology and the Natural Environment** – to include:

- The effects of the Proposed Development, including in-combination assessment, on The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation and The Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site;
- The effects of the Proposed Development, including alterations in levels of dust, noise, surface water drainage, air quality, nitrogen deposition, external lighting and visual disturbance, on habitats and species;

- Opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological conservation interests, including biodiversity net gain and no net loss;
- Potential impacts on protected habitats and habitats of conservation concern, including ancient woodland, other woodland, trees, hedgerows, grassland and ponds;
- The nature conservation impacts associated with the loss of any trees and hedgerows;
- Consideration of any necessary mitigation, monitoring, management and compensatory measures and their effectiveness.

**8. Flood Risk, Drainage and Water Environment – to include:**

- The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) methodology including the use of climate change allowances in modelled scenarios;
- The effects of the Proposed Development on the River Nene County Wildlife Site and the Honington House Farm Country Wildlife Site, existing artificial drainage channels;
- Other construction, operation or decommissioning effects, including assessment of effects on aquatic environment receptors and water supply;
- Compliance with the Water Framework Directive;
- Consideration of any necessary mitigation, monitoring and management and their effectiveness.

**9. Climate Change – to include:**

- Approach to climate change, including assessment of emissions and baseline conditions;
- Overall change in greenhouse gas emissions which may arise from the implementation of the proposed development;
- Emissions of greenhouse gases arising from the development, including during its operational phase;
- Compliance with the under review national networks national Policy Statement;
- Vulnerability and resilience of the scheme to climate change.

**10. Landscape and Visual – to include:**

- Adequacy of assessment methodology and approach, including the identification and assessment of sensitive landscape receptors;
- Extent of study area;
- Impact on the proposed works on the character and appearance of the existing landscape, including, but not limited to, the effects of the proposed chimneys;
- Design considerations and evolution of the proposed design;
- Effectiveness of mitigation, design and planting.

**11. Geology and Land Use – to include:**

- Effects of the proposal on agricultural land and farming operations, including contamination risk;

- The effects on community uses, including open spaces, public rights of way and other recreational or community facilities, and the associated effects on local communities;
- Impact on residential use, residential amenity and other uses, including industrial use.
- Consideration of any necessary mitigation, monitoring, management and compensatory measures and their effectiveness.

**12. Historic Environment** – to include:

- The effect of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including archaeological remains and any designated or non-designated heritage assets;
- The effectiveness of any mitigation measures.

**13. Socio-economic, Population and Cumulative Effects** – to include:

- Baseline assessment methodology and the socio-economic evaluation;
- Alternatives to the submitted scheme and a 'do nothing' scenario;
- Cumulative effects on, and with, other major projects and proposals including the effects on the living conditions of surrounding residents from the construction and operational activities;
- The effects on the labour market, businesses, business opportunities and the supply chain;
- The extent to which the Proposed Development would affect nearby infrastructure, including road infrastructure and housing, particularly when considered in conjunction with other major projects and proposals;
- The temporary impact of construction activities on access to community facilities, residential properties and commercial uses;
- The effects of the proposal at operational stage on access to community facilities, residential properties and commercial uses.

**14. Major Accidents and Disasters** – to include:

- Scoping of effects, identification of relevant receptors and establishment of the sensitivity of receptors;
- Construction effects;
- Operational effects;
- Consideration of any necessary mitigation, monitoring and management and their effectiveness.

**15. Planning Policy** – to include:

- Need for the development;
- Relevant alternatives;
- Whether the Proposed Development complies with the National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5);
- Impact on policies and objectives included in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan;

- Compliance with the Environment Act 2021 and the provision of Net Gain;
- Planning Statement presented in support of the Proposed Development and the need for the development.

## Draft 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.

The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	<p><b>Procedural Deadline A</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written submissions on the Examination Procedure and Timetable</li> <li>• Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting</li> <li>• Request to participate in the Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on 22 February 2023 (See Annex F of this letter)</li> <li>• Requests to participate at the Open Floor Hearings (OFH1 or OFH2), on 22 and 23 February 2023, including which OFH you wish to speak at (See Annex G of this letter)</li> <li>• Suggested locations for site inspections (Accompanied and/or Unaccompanied), including reason for nomination, issues to be observed and whether the location(s) can be observed and accessed through public land</li> </ul>	9 February 2023
2.	<b>Preliminary Meeting</b>	<b>Tuesday, 21 February 2023 at 10:00am</b>
3.	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) 1</b> on the scope of the Proposed Development and Alternatives (see <b>Annex F</b> of this letter)	<b>Wednesday, 22 February 2023 at 10:00am</b>
4.	<b>Open Floor Hearing (OFH) 1</b> (see <b>Annex G</b> of this letter)	<b>Wednesday, 22 February 2023 at 6:00pm</b>

5.	<b>Open Floor Hearing (OFH) 2</b> (see <b>Annex G</b> of this letter)	<b>Thursday, 23 February 2023 at 10:00am</b>
6.	<b>Issue by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination Timetable</li> </ul> <b>Publication by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1)</li> </ul>	<b>As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting</b>
7.	<b>Deadline 1</b> For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs) (see Annex H of this letter)</li> <li>• Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words (see Annex H of this letter)</li> <li>• Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases as heard on OFH1, OFH2 and ISH1</li> <li>• Applicant's draft itinerary for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) (if required)</li> <li>• Local Impact Report(s) (LIRs)</li> <li>• Draft Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) (see Annex H of this letter)</li> <li>• Draft Statement of Commonality (SoC) of SoCG (see Annex H of this letter)</li> <li>• The Compulsory Acquisitions (CA) Schedule (see Annex H of this letter)</li> <li>• Draft National Policy Statement (NPS) Tracker (see Annex H of this letter)</li> <li>• Draft Application Document Tracker (see Annex H of this letter)</li> <li>• Updated BoR and schedule of changes to the BoR in clear and tracked versions</li> <li>• Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA</li> <li>• Requests by Interested Parties to be heard at a subsequent Open Floor Hearing (OFH)</li> </ul>	<b>10 March 2023</b>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests by Affected Persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH)</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>• Comments on any information/submissions accepted by the ExA</li> </ul>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 2</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response to the ExA's ExQ1</li> <li>• Written Representations (WRs)</li> <li>• Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>• Comments on LIR(s)</li> <li>• Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers</li> <li>• An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean, tracked and Word versions (if required as a result of the ExA's ExQ1)</li> <li>• Updated BoR and schedule of changes to the BoR (if required) in clear and tracked versions</li> <li>• Comments on the Applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI</li> <li>• Draft Application Document Tracker (if required)</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> <li>• Comments on any further information/submissions received by <b>Deadline 1</b></li> </ul>	<b>24 March 2023</b>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH2)</b></p> <p>On the draft Development Consent Order</p>	<b>Wednesday 12 April 2023</b>

10.	<b>Compulsory Acquisitions Hearing (CAH1)</b>	<b>Thursday 13 April 2023</b> <b>(am session)</b>
11.	<b>Compulsory Acquisitions Hearing (CAH2)</b>	<b>Thursday 13 April 2023</b> <b>(pm session)</b>
12.	<p><b>Deadline 3</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases</li> <li>• Comments on WRs</li> <li>• Updated SoCG</li> <li>• Updated SoC</li> <li>• An updated version of the dDCO in clean, tracked and word versions (if required as a result of the ExA's commentary)</li> <li>• Updated BoR and schedule of changes to the BoR (if required)</li> <li>• Updated CA Schedule (if required)</li> <li>• Comments on dDCO</li> <li>• Comments on responses to ExQ1</li> <li>• Draft Application Document Tracker (if required)</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> <li>• Comments on any further information/submissions received by <b>Deadline 2</b></li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 25 April 2023</b>
13.	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ExA's final itinerary for the ASI (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 28 April 2023</b>
14.	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 9 May 2023</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the dDCO (if required)</li> </ul>	
15.	<b>Compulsory Acquisitions Hearing (CAH3)</b> (if required)	<b>Wednesday 10 May 2023</b>
16.	<b>Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)</b> (if required)	<b>Thursday 11 May 2023</b>
17.	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3)</b> On Environmental Matters	<b>Tuesday 23 May 2023</b>
18.	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4)</b> On Environmental Matters	<b>Wednesday 24 May 2023</b>
19.	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH5)</b> On Environmental Matters	<b>Thursday 25 May 2023</b>
20.	<p><b>Deadline 4</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases</li> <li>Comments on the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO (if required)</li> <li>Updated Status of negotiations with Statutory Undertakers</li> <li>Updated CA Schedule (if required)</li> <li>Comments on the RIES (if published)</li> <li>Requests by Affected Persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH)</li> <li>Requests by Interested Parties to be heard at a subsequent Open Floor Hearing (OFH) and participate at an Issue Specific Hearing (ISH)</li> <li>Draft Application Document Tracker (if required)</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 31 May 2023</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on any further information/submissions received by <b>Deadline 3</b></li> </ul>	
<b>21.</b>	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Monday 5 June 2023</b>
<b>22.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 5</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses to ExQ2 (if published)</li> <li>Updated SoCG</li> <li>Updated SoC</li> <li>Draft Application Document Tracker (if required)</li> <li>An updated version of the dDCO in clean, tracked and word versions (if required as a result of the previously held Hearings)</li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> <li>Comments on any further information/submissions received by <b>Deadline 4</b></li> </ul>	<b>Friday 16 June 2023</b>
<b>23.</b>	<p><b>Dates reserved (if required) for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</li> <li>Any Issue Specific Hearing</li> <li>Any Open Floor Hearing</li> </ul>	<b>Week commencing 26 June 2023</b>
<b>24.</b>	<p><b>Deadline 6</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on responses to ExQ2 (if published)</li> <li>Post-hearing submissions including written submissions (if required)</li> <li>Final SoCG</li> <li>Final SoC</li> <li>Updated Status of negotiations with Statutory Undertakers</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 12 July 2023</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of matters not agreed where SoCG could not be finalised</li> <li>Final Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers</li> <li>An updated version of the dDCO in clean, tracked and word versions (if required)</li> <li>Comments on the dDCO</li> <li>Draft Application Document Tracker (if required)</li> <li>Comments on any further information/submissions received by <b>Deadline 5</b></li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules</li> </ul>	
<b>25.</b>	<b>Publication by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ExA's Further Written Questions (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 21 July 2023</b>
<b>26.</b>	<b>Deadline 7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response to Further Written Questions (if published)</li> <li>Final dDCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report</li> <li>Final updated BoR and schedule of changes to BoR</li> <li>Final Guide to the Application</li> <li>Final Status of Negotiations CA Schedule</li> <li>Final NPS tracker</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by <b>Deadline 6</b></li> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 04 August 2023</b>
<b>27.</b>	<b>Deadline 8</b> For receipt by the ExA of:	<b>Friday 18 August 2023</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on responses to further Written Questions (if published)</li> <li>• Comments on any further information/submissions received by <b>Deadline 7</b></li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> </ul>	
<b>28.</b>	The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months	<b>Monday 21 August 2023</b>

### Submission times for Deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any Deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

### Publication dates

All information received will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the Deadlines for submissions.

### Hearing agendas

Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings the ExA will publish a high-level agenda alongside the notification of the hearing to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate. Please note that a detailed draft agenda will be made available 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. For Open Floor Hearings agendas may not be published.

### Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or 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 ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding. 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/or Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

## Notification of initial hearings

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following initial hearings:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Joining details</b>
<b>Wednesday 22 February 2023</b>	<b>Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)</b>  Scope of the Proposed Development, Alternatives, Land Plans and the Book of Reference (BoR)	<b>Seating available at venue from:</b> 9:00am  <b>Virtual Arrangements Conference from:</b> 9:00am  <b>Hearing starts:</b> 10:00am	The Boathouse Business Centre, 1 Harbour Square, Wisbech PE13 3BH  and  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
<b>Wednesday 22 February 2023</b>	<b>Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)</b>	<b>Seating available at venue from:</b> 5:00pm  <b>Arrangements Conference from:</b> 5:00pm  <b>Hearing starts:</b> 6:00pm	The Boathouse Business Centre, 1 Harbour Square, Wisbech PE13 3BH  and  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
<b>Thursday 23 February 2023</b>	<b>Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)</b>	<b>Seating available at venue from:</b> 9:00am  <b>Arrangements Conference from:</b> 9:00am  <b>Hearing starts:</b> 10:00am	The Boathouse Business Centre, 1 Harbour Square, Wisbech PE13 3BH  and  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

**You must register through the [online questionnaire](#), by Thursday 9 February, if you intend to participate in the in the hearings and provide all the information requested (see below).**

If you simply wish to observe the hearings then you do not need to register, as you will be able to either:

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

**It would assist the ExA with the smooth running of the event if all persons wishing to attend, including those who wish to simply observe, register through the [online questionnaire](#) by Thursday 9 February and indicate whether they wish to attend in person or virtually.**

Any request to participate in a hearing **must include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- any special requirements you may have (e.g disabled access or hearing loop).
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise;
- the [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

It is important that notifications from Interested 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 J** 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.

### **Hearing agendas**

Generally, for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, the ExA will aim to 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 help inform your decision about whether to register to participate in the above hearings, the agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on the scope of the Proposed Development is at Annex F, the agenda for Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) is at Annex G, and the agenda for Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2) is at Annex H of this letter.

### **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 Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

### **Hearing livestream and recording**

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

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.

## Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on the scope of the Proposed Development

Date	Hearing	Start time	Joining details
Wednesday 22 February 2023	<b>Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)</b>  Scope of the Proposed Development, Alternatives, Land Plans and the Book of Reference (BoR)	<b>Seating available at venue from:</b>  9:00am  <b>Virtual Arrangements Conference from:</b>  9:00am  <b>Hearing starts:</b>  10:00am	The Boathouse Business Centre, 1 Harbour Square, Wisbech PE13 3BH  and  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

You **must** register through the [online questionnaire](#), by **Thursday 9 February**, if you intend to participate in this hearing and provide all the information requested in the questionnaire. Please also see Annex E.

### Agenda

1. **Welcome, introductions, arrangements for this Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1)**
2. **Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing**
  - For the ExA to explore the overarching principles that underpin the Development Proposal, its aims and objectives and the role of each one of the principal components that make up the Development Proposal.
  - For the ExA to explore the Applicant's intentions for the land included within the Order Limits, as identified in the Land Plans [\[AS-004\]](#), how it relates to the draft DCO [\[APP-013\]](#) and how person(s) with a legal interest in the land, or any part of the land, affected the an application, have been identified in the BoR [\[APP-015\]](#).
3. **Components of the Medworth Energy from Waste (EfW) Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Facility**
  - Applicant to provide a brief explanation of the proposal, including its key components, i.e: the Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility (EfW CHP Facility), the Combined Heat and Power

connection (CHP Connection), proposed access improvements, water connections, grid connections and Temporary Construction Compound (TCC).

- Applicant also to provide a brief explanation of how it considers that the Development Proposal complies with current and emerging National Policy Statements.

#### **4. Need for the Proposed Development**

- Applicant to provide an overarching view of the project benefits and how it meets the needs of the UK in relation to energy infrastructure and moving towards Net Zero.
- Applicant to provide brief explanation of how other energy generating facilities, potentially located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, have been taken into consideration as part of the overall need for the Proposed Development.
- Applicant to provide brief explanation of how the Development Proposal is in accordance with the waste hierarchy and of an appropriate type and scale.

#### **5. Alternatives**

- Applicant to provide an overview of how reasonable alternatives, including locations and alternative technologies have been considered and how these have informed and shaped the Development proposal.

#### **6. Land Plans, compulsory acquisition of land and BoR**

- Applicant to explain the different powers of acquisition and possession of land included in the draft DCO [\[APP-013\]](#), how these are accurately reflected in the Land Plans [\[AS-004\]](#) (particularly those that relate to the proposed “freehold to be compulsory acquired and temporary use of land and in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights”)
- Applicant to explain how potentially affected person(s) with a legal interest in the land, or any part of the land, affected by the application, have been identified in the BoR [\[APP-015\]](#).

#### **7. Review of the issues and actions arising**

#### **8. Any other business**

#### **9. Closure of the hearing**

#### **Attendees**

The ExA would find it helpful if representatives of the following parties could attend this hearing:

- **The Applicant**
- **Cambridgeshire County Council (Cambs CC)**
- **Fenland District Council (Fenland DC)**

- **Norfolk County Council (Norfolk CC)**
- **Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN)**
- **Walsoken Parish Council (Walsoken PC)**
- **Wisbech Town Council (Wisbech TC)**
- **Any other Interested Parties (IP)** with an interest in the scope of the Proposed Development.

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All IPs are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing in person, who has not already advised the Case Team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms please do not attend the hearing in person. Contact the Case Team who will ensure you have access to the hearing virtually.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

### **Arrangements Conference**

Parties who have registered to attend (both in person and virtually), and invitees, will receive an email shortly before the hearing containing a joining link and telephone number to enable participation virtually as necessary. If attending virtually please join the Arrangements Conference promptly. The Case Team will admit you from the virtual lobby and register your attendance. The Arrangements Conference allows procedures to be explained and will enable the hearing to start promptly.

### **Procedure at the ISH**

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross-questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.

## Agenda for Open Floor Hearing 1 (ISH1) and Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)

### Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)

Date	Hearing	Start time	Joining details
Wednesday 22 February 2023	Open Floor Hearing 1	<p><b>Seating available at venue from:</b> 5:00pm</p> <p><b>Virtual Arrangements Conference from:</b> 5:00pm</p> <p><b>Hearing starts:</b> 6:00pm</p>	<p>The Boathouse Business Centre, 1 Harbour Square, Wisbech PE13 3BH</p> <p>and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered</p>

### Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)

Date	Hearing	Start time	Joining details
Thursday 23 February 2023	Open Floor Hearing 2	<p><b>Seating available at venue from:</b> 9:00am</p> <p><b>Virtual Arrangements Conference from:</b> 9:00am</p> <p><b>Hearing starts:</b> 10:00am</p>	<p>The Boathouse Business Centre, 1 Harbour Square, Wisbech PE13 3BH</p> <p>and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered</p>

You **must** register through the [online questionnaire](#), by **Thursday 9 February**, if you intend to participate in one of these hearings and provide all the information requested in the questionnaire. Please also see Annex E.

## Agenda (for OFH1 and OFH2)

### 1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Open Floor Hearing

### 2. Purpose of the Open Floor Hearing

- These hearings tend to have a community focus and are an opportunity for individuals and community groups to speak directly to the Examining Authority and put forward their views.

### 3. Confirmation of those who have notified the ExA of their wish to be heard at either OFH1 or OFH2

### 4. Oral submissions from Interested Parties (IPs)

Each Interested Party (IP) who has indicated a wish to speak will be invited forward, in turn, to speak at a table set up in front of the ExA, or via Microsoft Teams if attending virtually. Therefore it is important to **register your interest to speak at an OFH and specify which one you wish to attend (OFH1 or OFH2)**.

Following each submission, the ExA may wish to ask the speaker questions. The Applicant is likely to be requested to briefly respond to any matters raised by each of the IPs or in summary at the close of the OFH.

Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing by the particular participant; however, representations made at the hearing should not simply repeat matters previously covered in a written submission, but rather provide further detail, explanation and evidential corroboration to help inform the ExA.

### 5. Closure of the hearing

#### Participation, conduct and management of the hearing

At an OFH, each IP is entitled (subject to the ExA's powers of control over the conduct of the hearing) to make oral representations about the application.

The ExA may request those who wish to speak on the same topic, or represent the same organisation, to select one person to put forward their views.

If on the day there are other individuals present who wish to make submissions that have not already been made, it will be open to the ExA to use its discretion to hear any relevant submissions from those present should time permit.

It would also assist the ExA if copies of any written summaries of the cases put orally are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by **Deadline 1** of the draft Examination Timetable (**10 March 2023**).

#### Arrangements Conference

Parties who have registered to attend (both in person and virtually) will receive an email shortly before the hearing containing a joining link and telephone

number to enable participation virtually as necessary. If attending virtually, please join the Arrangements Conference promptly. The Case Team will admit you from the virtual lobby and register your attendance. The Arrangements Conference allows procedures to be explained and will enable the hearing to start promptly.

**Procedure at the OFH**

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross-questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.

## **Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority**

The Examining Authority (ExA) has made the following Procedural Decisions:

### **1. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)**

In relation to some of the Principal Issues identified in **Annex C** to this letter, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the Applicant and certain Interested Parties. The draft Examination Timetable at **Annex D** to this letter therefore establishes **Deadline 1** (10 March 2023) for submission of SoCGs.

The aim of a SoCG is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at an early stage in the Examination process. It should provide a focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute or need not be the subject of further evidence. It can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information. Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the Applicant and the other relevant Interested Party or parties, and submitted **by the Applicant**.

SoCGs are requested to be prepared between the Applicant and:

- Cambridgeshire County Council (Cambs CC)
- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN)
- Fenland District Council (Fenland DC)
- Norfolk County Council (Norfolk CC)
- Walsoken Parish Council (Walsoken PC)
- Wisbech Town Council (Wisbech TC)
- Environment Agency
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)
- Natural England
- Anglian Water
- East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Historic England
- Hundred of Wisbech Internal Drainage Board
- King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board
- National Highways
- Network Rail

The above list maybe added to during the Examination and should not be taken as precluding any IP not listed and the Applicant from drafting a SoCG.

For each of those areas that are in dispute, it would be beneficial if each party would put their estimation as to the likelihood that disagreement will remain by the end of the Examination. This should be done on a 'Low', 'Medium' and



'High' traffic light model. This will allow the ExA to assess those areas where oral discussions may be most beneficial.

**All of the SoCGs listed above should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft Development Consent Order.** Any Interested Party seeking that an Article or Requirement is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought.

The content of SoCGs will help to inform the ExA about the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings during the Examination, and to enable the ExA and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

In addition, the ExA requests that at each deadline, the Applicant provides a **Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground (SoC)** to provide an update on progress with SoCG and an overview of where the areas of agreement and dispute between the Interested Parties are.

## **2. Accompanied Site Inspection – suggested locations**

The draft Examination Timetable at **Annex D** to this letter includes a date reserved for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) on **Thursday, 11 May 2023**, if required.

The ExA requests that Interested Parties submit suggested locations for the ExA to visit as part of an ASI by **Procedural Deadline A (9 February 2023)**. The request must include:

- Sufficient information to identify the location;
- the issues to be observed at the location;
- information on whether the site can be accessed via public land; and
- the reason why the location has been suggested.

**Interested Parties should be aware that ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed Development.** However, participants may be invited by the ExA to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

The Applicant is requested to prepare a draft itinerary for the ASI to be submitted by **Deadline 1**. This should include:

- Relevant locations referred to in the Relevant Representations received;
- any other locations at which the Applicant has predicted likely significant environmental effects; and
- the locations suggested by Interested Parties submitted by **Procedural Deadline A**.

Comments by Interested Parties on the Applicant's draft itinerary must be submitted by **Deadline 2**.

The ExA will consider each suggested site location, including those provided in the Applicant's draft itinerary, to determine if it could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view it on an accompanied basis. The ExA will also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on an access required basis.

The ExA will publish its final itinerary at least five working days before the date of the ASI.

### **3. Local Impact Reports**

The ExA requests Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from the host Local Authorities and welcome LIRs from any other relevant local authorities who may wish to submit one. All LIRs are requested to be submitted into the Examination no later than by Deadline 1 (10 March 2023).

### **4. Relevant Representations (RRs)**

The ExA requests the Applicant to provide responses to all RRs and summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words by procedural Deadline 1 (10 March 2023).

### **5. Compulsory Acquisitions (CA) Schedule**

The ExA requests the Applicant to produce a Compulsory Acquisition Schedule detailing the progress of CA negotiations for all the plots proposed to be subject to CA as set out in the Land Plans [APP-006] by procedural **Deadline 1 (10 March 2023)** subsequently to be updated throughout the examination process as per Draft Examination Timetable (**Annex D**).

The CA Schedule should be presented in table form and should include, as a minimum, the following:

- a) Objection number - All objections listed in this table should be given a unique number in sequence.
- b) Reference number assigned to each Interested Party (IP) and Affected Person (AP)
- c) Reference number assigned to each Relevant Representation (RR) in the Examination library
- d) Reference number assigned to each Written Representation (WR) in the Examination library
- e) Reference number assigned to any other document in the Examination library
- f) Interest – which refers to parts 1 to 3 of the Book of Reference:
  - i) Part 1, containing the names and addresses of the owners, lessees, tenants, and occupiers of, and others with an interest in, or power to sell and convey, or release, each parcel of Order land;

- ii) Part 2, containing the names and addresses of any persons whose land is not directly affected under the Order, but who “would or might” be entitled to make a claim under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965, as a result of the Order being implemented, or Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973, as a result of the use of the land once the Order has been implemented;
- iii) Part 3, containing the names and addresses of any persons who are entitled to easements or other private rights over the Order land that may be extinguished, suspended or interfered with under the Order.
- g) Column indicating whether the applicant is seeking compulsory acquisition or temporary possession of land/ rights
- h) Column setting out if compulsory acquisition is proposed. The answer is ‘yes’ if the land is in parts 1 or 3 of the Book of Reference and applicant is seeking compulsory acquisition of land/ rights.
- i) Status of Objection

## **6. Application Document Tracker**

The ExA requests the Applicant to produce an Application Document Tracker, by procedural **Deadline 1 (10 March 2023)** setting out the full list of all the application documents submitted to date and indicating the latest version of each document. The tracker should also reflect when an updated application document is submitted. The updated tracker is to be submitted at each Examination deadline whenever an application document is updated.

## **7. National Policy Statement (NPS) Tracker**

The ExA requests the Applicant to produce a National Policy Statement (NPS) Accordance Table (NPS Tracker) for both the designated and draft versions of NPS EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5, setting out the relevant NPS paragraph number, the requirement of the NPS, the compliance with the NPS by way of reference to submitted documentation and summary explanation, together with any subsequent update. The updated tracker is to be submitted at each Examination deadline as specified in the Examination Timetable. This should record any changes and supplements to the Applicant’s position on NPS compliance demonstrated by submissions during the Examination. A final version must be submitted at Deadline 7 (04 August 2023) before the close of the Examination.

## **8. Additional Submissions**

The ExA has made a Procedural Decision, on the 11 November 2022, to accept additional submissions [\[AS-001\] to \[AS-010\]](#) made by the Applicant in response to the Section 51 advice issued on the 2 August 2022. A summary of the nature of the updates made to the application documents is available on our website [\[AS-001\]](#).

The documents [\[AS-001\] to \[AS-010\]](#) were published on our website on the 26 August 2022, prior to the opening of the Relevant Representation period.

In addition to the above mentioned, the ExA has exercised its discretion and made a Procedural Decision to accept the following additional submissions from:

- Chris Benton of Priden Engineering [\[AS-011\]](#)
- Sedgeford Parish Council [\[AS-012\]](#)
- Wendy Rogers [\[AS-013\]](#)

## Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [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 will need to bring a form of identification and register as a member in order to use a computer at these locations.

The opening hours and availability of information technology set out in the table below may be subject to changes or limitations. Please check the current circumstances with the relevant locations before you attend.

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
Norfolk County Council	Kings Lynn Library	Monday: 10:00am- 7:00pm Tuesday: 10:00am-7:00pm Wednesday: 10:00am-7:00pm Thursday: 10:00am-7:00pm	A4 Black and White Cost:20p A4 Colour Cost: 50p A3 Black and White Cost:30p

**Annex I**

		Friday: 10:00am-7:00pm Saturday: 10:00am-7:00pm Sunday: Closed	A3 Colour Cost: £1.00
<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Venue/address</b>	<b>Opening hours</b>	<b>Printing Costs</b>
Fenland District Council	Wisbech Library	Monday: 9:30am-1:00pm Tuesday: 9:30am-7:00pm Wednesday: 9:30am-5:00pm Thursday: 9:30am-5:00pm Friday: 9:30am-5:00pm Saturday: 9:30am-4:00pm Sunday: Closed	A4 Black and White Cost: 20p A4 Colour Cost: 75p A3 Black and White Cost: 40p A3 Colour Cost: £1.25

## Information about the Make a submission tab

The [Make a submission tab](#) is available on the [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', 'MEFW-0', 'MEFW-ISP', 'MEFW-AFP', 'MEFW-S57', 'MEFW-APL', 'MEFW-SP' or 'MEFW-OP'. 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 or not 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 eg 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.