



National Infrastructure
Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer 0303 444 5000
Services:
email: keadby3@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and any other person invited to the
Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010114

Date: 8 November 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) – Section 88 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 4, Rule 6 and Rule 9

Application by Keadby Generation Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Keadby 3 Low Carbon Gas Power Station Project

Appointment of the Examining Authority and invitation to the Preliminary Meeting.

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an examination of the above application. I am Christopher Butler. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

I would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted me when preparing my proposals regarding how to examine this application.

Examinations during Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In the light of ongoing public health controls, the ExA will be carrying out the Preliminary Meeting using virtual methods. Please refer to the following document for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance>

This guidance is updated periodically to align with the most up to date Government guidance relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19). On that basis the ExA will remain flexible and may hold later events "in person" if it is safe to do so.

If you have received this letter and intend to participate in the Preliminary Meeting, or any other event that may be held virtually during this Examination, please read the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#) carefully. Advice Note 8.6 contains important information about how virtual events will be held and how you can participate.

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 this application.

Date of meeting: **Tuesday 7 December 2021**

Arrangements Conference: **From 9.30am**

Meeting begins: **10.00am**

Venue: **Virtual event (Microsoft Teams)**

Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to me about how the application should be examined. I cannot hear representations about the merits or disadvantages of the application at the Preliminary Meeting. The merits or disadvantages of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts, which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed. See **Annex B** to this letter and the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.3: the Preliminary Meeting](#) for more information.

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 at **Annex D** to this letter and I wish to hear from you if you consider changes need to be made to the timetable.

Attendance at the Preliminary Meeting

Because participation in a virtual Preliminary Meeting relies on the Planning Inspectorate providing you with a joining link or telephone number in advance, **if you intend to participate you must register by Friday 26 November 2021** (see **Procedural Deadline** at **Annex D** to this letter).

If you wish to participate at the Preliminary Meeting, to assist the management of the meeting it is important that when you register you tell us on which agenda items you wish to speak, listing the points you wish to make.

Please note that **you are not required to attend the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the Examination**. Whether or not you attend the

Preliminary Meeting, 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. Should you no longer wish to be an Interested Party and do not wish to be involved in the Examination process, you can notify the Case Team of this in writing using the contact details at the top of this letter.

If you wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting a public livestream of the event will be made available on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) shortly before it is scheduled to begin. A recording of the meeting will also be published on the website as soon as practicable after the event takes place.

After the Preliminary Meeting

After the Preliminary Meeting you will be sent 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 on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

The Examination 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](#)).

The PA2008 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.

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.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

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

- requests for Local Impact Reports by Deadline 1;
- requests for Statements of Common Ground;
- requests for regular updated documents during the Examination;
- the acceptance of Additional Submissions into the Examination;
- To afford the 'Omitted Companies' opportunity to submit a statement of representation and/ or request to become an Interested Party.

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 postcard 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 on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

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.

A 'Make a submission' tab will become available on the website which provides a portal through which parties will be able to make written submissions at relevant deadlines. Further information about the 'Make a submission' portal is provided at **Annex G** to this letter.

Your status in the Examination

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

If your reference number begins with '2002', 'KDB3-0', 'KDB3-AFP', 'KDB3-S57' 'KDB3-APP' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'KDB3-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'KDB3-OP' you are in Group C. The meaning and purpose of those groups are explained in the document published at the link above.

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

Awards of costs

I also draw your attention to the possibility of the award of costs against Interested Parties who behave unreasonably. 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 on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex F** 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

Christopher Butler

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** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- F** Availability of Examination Documents
- G** Electronic 'Make a submission' portal

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting

Because participation in a virtual Preliminary Meeting relies on the Planning Inspectorate providing you with a joining link or telephone number in advance, **if you intend to participate you must register by Friday 26 November 2021** (see **Procedural Deadline** at **Annex D** to this letter).

Date: **Tuesday 7 December 2021**

Arrangements Conference: **9.30am**

Meeting start time: **10.00am¹**

Venue: **Virtual event (Microsoft Teams)**
Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance of the meeting to those who register to participate

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

A public livestream of the meeting will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the meeting is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe the meeting.

9.30am	Event lobby Please arrive at 9.30am to enter the lobby. From here you will be admitted to the Arrangements Conference by the Case Team, greeted and given further instructions.
9.40am	Arrangements Conference The Arrangements Conference will commence at 9.40am. 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.
10.00am Item 1	Preliminary Meeting The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at 10.00am. The Examining Authority (ExA) will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.
Item 2	The ExA's remarks about the examination process including reference, where appropriate, to any procedural requests to this item that have

¹ If you are joining as an active participant of the Preliminary Meeting, please join the Arrangements Conference lobby promptly using the instructions that are sent to you. In common with Preliminary Meetings held in physical locations, the event will start at 10.00am irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

	been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in writing by the Procedural Deadline (Friday 26 November 2021)
Item 3	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – Annex C
Item 4	Procedural Decisions taken by the ExA – Annex E
Item 5	<p>Draft Examination Timetable – Annex D</p> <p>Including the deadlines for submission of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Representations; • Local Impact Reports; • Responses to the ExA’s Written Questions; • Statements of Common Ground; and • Procedural requests relating to these items that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in writing by the Procedural Deadline (Friday 26 November 2021).
Item 6	<p>Dates and formats of Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection (if required) (ASI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date and format of any Open Floor Hearing (if required); • Date and format of any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (if required); • Time period and format reserved for any Issue Specific Hearings (if required); • Date of ASI to application site and surrounding area (including draft itinerary)(if required); and • Procedural requests relating to this item that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in writing by the Procedural Deadline (Friday 26 November 2021).
Item 7	Any remaining questions or submissions regarding procedural matters not set out in the agenda that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in writing in advance of the Preliminary Meeting.
Item 8	Any other matters.
Close of the Preliminary Meeting	

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

Please make sure that you read the following documents before attending the Preliminary Meeting:

The National Infrastructure Planning/ Planning Inspectorate Privacy Notice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice/customer-privacy-notice>.

Our FAQ document which contains important information about how data protection legislation is applied at our events:

[The General Data Protection Regulation: Examination events – Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/the-general-data-protection-regulation-examination-events-frequently-asked-questions-faq/).

Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting

Background

The Preliminary Meeting (PM) for the Keadby 3 Low Carbon Gas Power Station will take place virtually, using Microsoft Teams, but the format, content and procedure will be very similar to the physical, face-to-face PMs that have been held for other National Infrastructure Examinations.

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 following the opening of the PM. Please read this carefully. The ExA will only present a summary of the key points set out here at the Preliminary Meeting, in order to ensure that the time available for participants to speak is maximised.

The Examining Authority

The ExA is a 'Single Appointed Person', Christopher Butler, appointed by the Secretary of State (SoS), who will introduce himself at the start of the PM. The ExA's appointment letter can be found in the Examination Library under reference ([PD-004](#)).

The Case Team

The ExA will be supported by the Planning Inspectorate Case Team. Liam Fedden is the Case Manager and Joe Saffer and Drey Reyes are the Case Officers. During the Arrangements Conferences a member of the Case Team will welcome and admit participants into the virtual PM, and will be available to answer questions by email before and after the PM. The contact email address is: Keadby3@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 Keadby 3 Low Carbon Gas Power Station, 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 Keadby Generation 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 Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website ('NI Planning website'). This has a dedicated landing page for the project with links to Examination procedure, the Examination Timetable, Relevant Representations and Examination documents. The relevant NI Planning website landing page is:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/keadby-3-low-carbon-gas-power-station-project/?ipcsection=overview>.

You are encouraged to explore the NI Planning website landing page 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. There is the option on the project page to register to receive updates and we would also encourage you to do this so that you will receive a notification via e-mail at key stages during the Examination.

The main purpose of the PM is to discuss how the application should be examined. 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, and you should read this Rule 6 letter and all accompanying annexes thoroughly beforehand. The agenda for the PM is attached to this Rule 6 letter at **Annex A**. 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. If you are not experienced with videoconferencing and using multiple documents on screen, 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) and 15(1) and (2) of the PA2008 as the application is for the construction, operation and maintenance of an onshore generating station in England that would have a generating capacity greater than 50 Megawatts. The designated National Policy Statements (NPS) for Energy Infrastructure (specifically the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) and the National Policy Statements: EN-2, Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure; EN-4, Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines; and EN-5, Electricity Network Infrastructure apply 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 deems to be important and relevant. The PA2008 makes it clear that, in making a decision, the relevant 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 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, by identifying relevant policy and examining the application in the light of it. 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, either orally at the time or in writing after the close of the PM.

Everyone who has made a Relevant Representation has been registered as an IP and has been sent a copy of this Rule 6 letter. Each IP is entitled to participate in this 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). 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. APs are IPs, whether or not they have made a Relevant Representation.

Certain bodies are Statutory Parties. Statutory Parties can elect to become IPs without having made a Relevant Representation.

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 or eligible to elect to become an IP and they had been unable to take the necessary action to register as an IP.

Conduct of the Preliminary Meeting

Past experience suggests that a PM for a project of this size and complexity could take up to a few hours to complete. However, in running the event virtually there are limitations on the number of people who can speak at any one time. Therefore, in order to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak can do so, one day has been timetabled.

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. For those who pre-register to be involved your joining instructions will provide more information about this.

A digital recording will be made available on the project page of the NI Planning website as soon as practicable following the PM. The digital 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, whether they are able to attend or observe the meeting or not. The making and publication of these recordings are a means by which we meet the legal requirement to hold these events 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 closure of the PM.

As the digital 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 making public any information which they would otherwise wish to 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 include personal and private information in any submissions.

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 can make Written Representations (WRs) and comment on WRs made by other parties.
- IPs 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. 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 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, an agenda may be circulated. 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 (APs) (ie 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 reservations for ISHs and IPs may make suggestions for topics 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 with the Proposed Development applications by the Applicant, 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 (**Tuesday 21 December 2021**) for participants to notify the ExA that they wish to speak at an OFH and/ or 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 Government restrictions relating to COVID-19 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. Notes of Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) are published on the project webpage on the NI Planning website.

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 draft Examination Timetable includes a deadline for IPs to make submissions suggesting sites and locations that the ExA should visit. These will be used to inform further USIs as well as possible ASIs. It should be noted that public health restrictions may limit the scope for ASIs and, if these have not lifted by the end of the Examination, the ExA may decide that holding USIs to relevant nominated locations, supported by the submission of additional written, photographic, video or even drone material would be preferable to not visiting sites or holding ASIs in circumstances which could make them difficult and unduly time-consuming to conduct.

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues prepared under s88(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.

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 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 main issues.

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

1. Air Quality

- The extent to which the construction/ operation of the Proposed Development and the associated changes to traffic movements would affect air quality with respect to sensitive receptors (human and ecological) from construction traffic and plant emissions, construction dust, operational process emissions and operational traffic emissions; and
- The appropriateness of proposed mitigation and extent to which such mitigation should be controlled and secured through any Development Consent Order (DCO).

2. Climate Change

- The effects of the construction and operation of the Proposed Development on climate change;
- The overall change in greenhouse gas emissions which may arise from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development;
- The achievement of sustainable development including the mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change. This includes the relationship of the development to Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) deployment, the Humber Low Carbon Pipelines (HLCP) or similar pipelines, and the use of offshore Reserves for storage (including the impact of such pipelines/ use of offshore Reserves on any other DCO/ or prospective DCO Application);

- The appropriateness of the proposed controls/ triggers within the DCO in regard to CCUS deployment and connection to and use of the HLCP (or similar appropriate pipeline) for transportation of captured emissions to the Endurance, or similar appropriate, offshore Reserve;
- How any DCO would secure appropriate level of emissions capture and if/ how the DCO could ensure captured emissions can be permanently stored in the offshore geological storage site;
- Consideration of carbon budgets and the current Carbon Budget Order;
- Government policy for zero emissions target by 2050; and
- The suitability of proposed mitigation measures and the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan.

3. Compulsory Acquisition and/ or Temporary Possession

- The need for, and the amount of land proposed to be subject to Compulsory Acquisition and/or Temporary Possession;
- Whether reasonable alternatives have been explored sufficiently;
- The requirement for the powers sought and whether a compelling case in the public interest has been established;
- Effects on those impacted by compulsory acquisition/ temporary possession;
- Land, rights and powers sought;
- The position of and effects on Statutory Undertakers, protected provisions and whether the tests of s127 and s138 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) would be satisfied;
- The current position in relation to Crown land;
- The adequacy and security of funding for compensation.
- Any human rights considerations;
- Accuracy of the Book of Reference;
- Statement of Reasons and justification for powers sought; and
- Whether the proposals meet the requirements of PA2008 in all other respects.

4. Cultural Heritage

- The effects of the Proposed Development on heritage assets (Designated and Non-designated) and their visual and functional settings, and on archaeology.

5. Design and Layout

- The design of the carbon capture enabled combined Cycled Gas Turbine generating station and associated development.
- The appropriateness of the Applicant's draft DCO (dDCO);
- Articles and Requirements within the dDCO; and
- Protective Provisions.

6. Draft Development Consent Order

- The appropriateness of the Applicant's dDCO;
- Articles and Requirements within the dDCO; and
- Protective Provisions.

7. Biodiversity, Ecology and Nature Conservation

- Temporary and permanent impacts on species and habitats, including noise, visual and other disturbance, with particular reference to European and other protected sites and species;
- Consideration of any necessary mitigation, monitoring, management and compensatory measures and their effectiveness, including in relation to the proposed cofferdam and water abstraction at either the Stainforth and Keadby Canal or the River Trent; and
- Biodiversity net gain.

8. Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Statement

- The assessment of potential impacts and adequacy of assessment of environmental effects considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- Exploration of reasonable alternatives, including locations within the site and alternative technologies;
- Approach to EIA, including the use of the 'Rochdale Envelope' and the 'design principles', and whether all necessary parameters and mitigation measures are captured in the dDCO;
- Consideration of direct/ indirect effects on the qualifying features of European sites; and
- The moderate adverse (significant) effects on views from Viewpoint 1 (Chapel Lane West, Keadby), Viewpoint 2 (Gate Keepers residence, Vazon Bridge, Keadby) and Viewpoint 4 (Public Right of Way (KEAD 9 & KEAD 10), North of Keadby) during construction and operation of the Proposed Development and the moderate adverse (significant) effect identified resulting from operation (Year 15) scenario 2 at Viewpoint 6 (Trunk Road, Keadby) and the fact that no mitigation is proposed as a result of these impacts.

9. Flood Risk, Hydrology and Water Resources

- Consideration of the accuracy of the presented Flood Risk Assessments, including whether there would be any increase in the risk of flooding (including offsite flooding) as a result of the Proposed Development; and
- Contamination risks during construction, operation and de-commissioning and whether there is sufficient information presented to ensure that the risk to the water environment as a result of the Proposed Development is effectively mitigated.

10. Geology and Land Contamination

- Risks from discovery of contaminated soils and ground water, including from adjoining sites and former uses (such as historic landfills), and securing appropriate mitigation; and
- Risks from discovery of airborne contamination, such as ground gases and securing appropriate mitigation.

11. Habitat and Regulations Assessment

- The approach to, and scope of, cumulative and in-combination assessments within the Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report.

12. Landscape and Visual Amenity

- Zone of Theoretical Influence - The impact of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual amenity, including National Character Areas: 39 (Humberhead Levels) and 45 (North Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands); and the settings of protected landscapes, such as Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- The extent to which the Proposed Development would impact public rights of way;
- The effects of temporary and permanent lighting on the landscape and visual amenity; and
- The extent to which the design of permanent structures should be controlled and secured through any DCO.

13. Noise and Vibration

- Impacts of construction noise and vibration on sensitive receptors close to the construction site, including residents and community receptors, and aquatic/wildlife communities; and
- Impacts of operational noise at the Proposed Development.

14. Planning Policy

- Whether the Proposed Development complies with:
 - National Policy Statement EN-1, Overarching National Policy for Energy;
 - National Policy Statement EN-2, Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure;
 - National Policy Statement EN-4, Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines; and
 - National Policy Statement EN-5, Electricity Network Infrastructure;
- Implications of the draft National Policy Statements on Energy and any important and relevant matters arising from them;
- Whether the Proposed Development complies with the appropriate marine policy, including the UK Marine Policy Statement and the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan (Defra, 2014); and
- Policies of Local Development Plans and the extent to which they are relevant and important.

15. Socio-economic Effects

- The extent to which the Proposed Development would result in any socio-economic benefits in terms of the national, regional or local economy;
- The extent to which the Proposed Development would result in any adverse socio-economic effects on the national, regional or local economy; and
- The effects of the Proposed Development on human health, including consideration of electromagnetic fields, contamination, air quality (including from operational process emissions), noise and vibration.

16. Traffic, Transport and Waste Management

- The effect of the Proposed Development on traffic flows, delays, volumes and circulation in both the local and wider context;
- The effect of the Proposed Development on navigational safety;

- The effect of the Proposed Development on the Keadby Canal Junction Level Crossing and the Chapel Lane Level Crossing;
- The effect of the Proposed Development on road safety, cyclists and pedestrian amenity; and
- Waste management during construction, operation and decommissioning and impacts on the disposal off site on traffic flows and circulation in both the local and wider context.

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	Due Dates
1.	Procedural Deadline Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written submissions on the Examination procedure including any submissions about the use of virtual procedures; and • Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting 	Friday 26 November 2021
2.	Preliminary Meeting	Tuesday 7 December 2021 at 10:00
3.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable; • The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1). 	As soon as practicable after the Preliminary Meeting
4.	Deadline 1 Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from Local Authorities (See Annex E); • Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) (See Annex E); • Updated Guide to the Application (See Annex E); • Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing; • Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing; • Submission of suggested locations to be included in any Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI); • Notification of wish to attend ASI; • Comments on Relevant Representations; • Comments on Additional Submissions (See Annex E); and • Any further information requested by the ExA. 	Tuesday 21 December 2021

5.	<p>Deadline 2</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any information submitted for Deadline 1; • Written Representations (WRs) with summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words; • Comments on LIR(s); • Responses to the ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1); • An updated Statement of Commonality of SoCG (See Annex E); • Updated Guide to the Application (See Annex E); • An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean, tracked and word versions; • Schedule of changes to the dDCO (see Annex E); • Applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI; and • Any further information requested by the ExA. 	<p>Tuesday 11 January 2022</p>
6.	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Responses to ExQ1. • Comments on WRs; • Comments on Applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI; • Comments on any information submitted for Deadline 2; • Any updated SoCG requested by the ExA; • An updated Statement of Commonality of SoCG (See Annex E); • Updated Guide to the Application (See Annex E); • Updated Book of Reference; • A Compulsory Acquisition/ Temporary Possession Schedule, including s127 Statutory Undertakers' Land and Rights Schedule and s138 Statutory Undertakers' Apparatus Schedule; • An updated version of the dDCO in clean, tracked and word versions; and • Any further information requested by the ExA. 	<p>Tuesday 1 February 2022</p>
7.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p>	<p>Friday 4 February 2022</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification of Hearings to be held during the week commencing 7 and/ or 14 March 2022 (if required). 	
8.	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on any information submitted for Deadline 3; An updated version of the dDCO in clean, tracked and word versions; Schedule of changes to the dDCO (see Annex E); An updated Statement of Commonality of SoCG (See Annex E); Updated Guide to the Application (See Annex E); and Any further information requested by the ExA. 	Tuesday 15 February 2022
9.	<p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (if required); Issue Specific Hearing(s) (if required); and Open Floor Hearing(s) (if required). 	Week commencing 7 March and/ or week commencing 14 March 2022 (if required)
10.	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the week commencing 7 March 2022 and 14 March 2022; Comments on any information submitted for Deadline 4; An updated version of the dDCO in clean, tracked and word versions; Schedule of changes to the dDCO (see Annex E); An updated Statement of Commonality of SoCG (See Annex E); Updated Guide to the Application (See Annex E); and Any further information requested by the ExA. 	Friday 25 March 2022
11.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required); and 	Friday 1 April 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required). 	
12.	Accompanied site inspection (if required)	Week commencing 4 April 2022
13.	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to ExQ2 (if required); Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required); Final SoCG; Final Statement of Commonality of the SoCG; Final Guide to the Application; Final Book of Reference; Final CA/ TP schedule; Signed and dated s106 Agreement (if required); Comments on any information submitted for Deadline 5; Applicant's preferred DCO in the SI template validation report and a validated copy of the DCO; Applicant's preferred DCO in word format; and Responses to any further information requested by the ExA. 	Friday 15 April 2022
14.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required). 	Tuesday 26 April 2022
15.	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on responses submitted for Deadline 6; Responses to any further information requested by the ExA; Comments on the RIES (if required). 	Tuesday 17 May 2022
16.	<p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months.</p> <p>Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six month</p>	Tuesday 7 June 2022

	period if he is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.	
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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 on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions. See Annex F of this letter for more information.

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. A detailed draft agenda will be made available on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For Open Floor Hearings agendas may not be published.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a 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 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.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

The ExA has made the following Procedural Decisions under Section 89(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).

1. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

In relation to some of the Principal Issues identified in **Annex C**, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the Applicant and certain Interested Parties. The draft Examination Timetable at **Annex D** therefore established **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 21 December 2021)** 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:

A. **Severn Trent Water** to include but not limited to:

- Draft Development Consent Order and any relevant Protective Provisions;
- The effect on existing apparatus and infrastructure, including the capacity of the sewerage network and any mitigation required to ensure adequate capacity;
- Whether there is a need to divert any existing water infrastructure or provide protection to existing water infrastructure.
- Water environment effects including flooding effects and risks to drainage matters; and
- Water quality.

B. **Canal and River Trust** to include but not limited to:

- The Water resources;
- Water quality;
- Water abstraction;
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancements along the canal corridor;
- Noise and vibration impacts;
- Mitigation, risk management and enhancement measures, including Construction Environmental Management Plan/ Code of Construction Practice.
- Draft Development Consent Order and any relevant Protective Provisions, including the content and adequacy of the draft Deemed Marine Licence;
- Navigation of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal and the River Trent; and
- Landscape and visual effects.

C. North Lincolnshire Council to include but not be limited to:

- Planning policy;
- The Need and Principle of the Proposed Development and Examination of Alternatives;
- Ecology and Biodiversity;
- Climate Change;
- Construction Effects on people and communities;
- Draft Development Consent Order and Protective Provisions;
- Water resources, drainage and flood risk;
- Historic Environment;
- Highways and Transport, including Public Rights of Way and cycle routes and to what extent HGV movements arising from the construction and operation of the development will have an impact on the highway network;
- Landscape and Visual impacts;
- Noise, air quality and disturbance during construction and operation;
- Waste;
- Construction Environmental Management Plan/ Code of Construction Practice; and
- Other local impacts

D. Doncaster Metropolitan District Council to include but not be limited to:

- Planning policy;
- Highways and transport
- Air quality
- Landscape and visual;
- Noise and disturbance;
- Waste;
- Archaeology and heritage; and
- Other local impacts

E. The Environment Agency to include but not be limited to:

- Draft Development Consent Order and any relevant Protective Provisions;
- Compliance with the Water Framework Directive;
- Water environment effects, including water quality (including temperature, silt and chemical composition); flood risk and effects on flood alleviation and storage schemes, watercourses and waterbodies, and foul and surface water drainage matters, including ensuring all assessments have been made using the most up to date data available;
- The Applicant's Flood Risk Assessment, with particular reference to climate change allowances and the flood emergency response and contingency plan;
- Water quantity including alternative sources;
- Combined heat and power;
- Carbon capture;
- Biodiversity, including effect on water habitat;
- Land contamination and groundwater, including source protection zones and groundwater dependent ecosystems;
- Waste management;
- Environmental permits, consents and licences, including, where possible, changes to the design of the development consented by the Local Planning

Authority would improve efficiency without significant effect on air dispersion modelling; and

- Mitigation, risk management and enhancement measures, including Construction Environmental Management Plan/ Code of Construction Practice.

F. Health and Safety Executive to include but not be limited to:

- The extent and severity of hazards on local populations, including in relation to the '7 Feeder Pipeline'; and
- Other issues related to the interests of the HSE.

G. National Highways to include but not be limited to:

- Impact of construction and operational traffic on the Strategic Road Network, including Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL);
- The Applicant's Transport Assessment; and
- Mitigation measures, including: Framework Traffic Management Plan; Framework Construction Workers Travel Plan; and Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan.

H. Historic England to include but not be limited to:

- The effect on heritage assets including any scheduled ancient monuments and any archaeological effects.

I. Marine and Coastguard Agency to include but not be limited to:

- The issues related to the interests of the Marine and Coastguard Agency, including impacts and mitigation related to the marine environment; safety of navigation; access to ports, harbours and marinas; impacts on search and rescue obligations;
- The content and adequacy of the draft Deemed Marine Licence.

J. Marine Management Organisation to include but not be limited to:

- The issues related to the interests of the MMO;
- The content and adequacy of the draft Deemed Marine Licence.

K. National Grid Gas and National Grid Electricity Transmissions PLC, to include but not be limited to:

- Draft Development Consent Order and any relevant Protective Provisions;
- Effect on existing apparatus and infrastructure, including matters considered (such as pipeline crossing, safety and any other considerations) and any mitigation required; and
- Any connection issues.

L. Northern Power Grid to include but not be limited to:

- Draft Development Consent Order and any relevant Protective Provisions;
- Effect on existing apparatus; and

- Any connection issues.

M. **National Grid Ventures** to include but not be limited to:

- Carbon Capture and Storage;
- Relationship with, and effect on, the Humber Low Carbon Pipeline, including potential pipeline corridors; and
- Draft Development Consent Order and any relevant Protective Provisions;

N. **Natural England** to include but not be limited to:

- Draft Development Consent Order and any relevant Protective Provisions;
- Ecology, habitats and nature conservation including issues related to:
 - i) the Applicant's Habitats Regulation Assessment report and effects on European sites and features; and
 - ii) the effect on protected species and habitats;
 - iii) mitigation measures and enhancements, including likely effectiveness of mitigation, monitoring procedures, how mitigation will be secured within the DCO and the content of the Construction Environmental Management Plan/ Code of Construction Practice;
- Air Quality;
- Landscape; and
- Water Quality.

O. **Network Rail** to include but not be limited to:

- Draft Development Consent Order, Protective Provisions; and
- The effect on existing railway infrastructure and services, including the use of any level crossing within the proposed designated route for Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) and HGV's (such as the Keadby Canal Junction Lane Level Crossing and Chapel Lane Level Crossing) and any liabilities arising as a result of such use.

P. **Trinity House and Associated British Ports** Humber to include but not be limited to:

- Draft Development Consent Order, Protective Provisions; and
- The effect on navigational safety.

Q. **Public Health England** to include but not be limited to:

- Cumulative impacts from emissions, especially Particulate Matter (PM) (Including PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5})
- Draft Development Consent Order, Requirements and Protective Provisions;
- Dust and land contamination impacts
- Electro-magnetic fields
- Impacts of construction, operational and decommissioning phases, including emissions and cumulative impacts, especially in relation Amine products and which Amine product(s) is/ are likely to emitted;
- Monitoring and mitigation;
- Transport and traffic, including frequency of Abnormal Indivisible Loads and Heavy Goods Vehicle movements; and

- Waste arisings;

The SoCG should cover the following topics where relevant:

- Methodology for Environmental Impact Assessment, including assessment of cumulative effects;
- Data collection methods;
- Baseline data;
- Data/ statistical analysis, approach to modelling and presentation of results (including forecast methodologies);
- Full expression of expert judgements and assumptions;
- Identification and sensitivity of relevant features and quantification of potential impact;
- Likely effects (direct and indirect) on special interest features of sites designated or notified for any nature conservation purpose; and
- Feasible and deliverable mitigation and method for securing such mitigation within the Development Consent Order.

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 in the SoCG.

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.

Where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed between the parties by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 21 December 2021)**, or if any local authority position needs to be signed off at a higher level, draft versions of that SoCG are requested to be submitted **by the Applicant to Deadline 1 (Tuesday 21 December 2021)**. The position of the relevant Interested Parties should then be confirmed in the course of the Examination and no later than **Deadline 6 (Friday 15 April 2022)**.

In addition, the ExA request that at Deadlines 2, 3, 4, and 5 the Applicant provides a Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground 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. Guide to the Application

The ExA requests that at each deadline, the Applicant provides an updated Guide to the Application document which provides a list of the most up to date documents before the Examination. A final version must be submitted by **Deadline 6 (Friday 15 April 2022)**. This document should form part of the certification of plans identified within the draft Development Consent Order and should not be removed from subsequent drafts if submitted during the Examination.

3. Local Impact Reports

The ExA requests Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from North Lincolnshire Council and welcomes LIRs from any other Authorities who may wish to submit one. All LIRs are to be submitted into the Examination no later than by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 21 December 2021)**.

4. Additional Submissions

Following the acceptance of the application the Applicant, in July 2021, submitted their response [[OD-003](#)] to the Planning Inspectorate Section 51 advice issued on 28 June 2021 [[PD-002](#)]. The ExA made a Procedural Decision on the 3 September 2021 to accept this 'Additional Submission'.

Also on the 3 September 2021 the ExA made a Procedural Decision to:

- accept 'Additional Submission' from the Canal and River Trust (CRT) [[AS-001](#)] and the Environment Agency (EA) [[AS-002](#)];
- Grant the CRT and EA 'Interested Party' Status in the Examination;

Furthermore, on the 7 September 2021 the ExA made the Procedural Decision to accept an 'Additional Submission' from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and granted the MOD 'Interested Party' status.

On the 29 October 2021 the ExA made a Procedural Decision to:

- Accept an 'Additional Submission' from Anglian Water [[AS-006](#)], although they have not been given 'Interested Party' status, as they were confirming they would not be participating in the Examination.

These documents are available on the project page of the National Infrastructure website. Interested Parties are asked to submit any comments they may have on any of these documents by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 21 December 2021)**.

5. To afford the 'Omitted Companies' an opportunity to submit a statement of representation and/ or request to become an IP

To afford the 'Omitted Companies' (See definition in paragraph below) until 1 November 2021 an opportunity to submit a statement of representation and/ or request to become an Interested Party under s102A(1) of the PA2008.

The above Procedural Decision was made following the Applicant's notification that a number of SSE group companies, who are Persons within one or more categories set out in Section (s) 57 (Categories for purposes of s56(2)(d)), were omitted from the notifications and publicity undertaken pursuant to:

- s56 of the PA2008 as amended (PA2008); and
- Regulation 16 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations).

The omitted SSE group companies are referred to as the 'Omitted Companies'.

As a result of the above, the setting of the PM and the issuing of a Rule 6 letter was postponed until after the 1 November 2021.

6. Schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)

The ExA requests that, whenever changes are made to the content of the draft Development Consent Order, the Applicant provides a tabulated schedule of amendments setting out what the changes are and the reasons underpinning them.

Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning Website](#).

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the [Documents](#) tab at the above location.

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. A hyperlink to each document on the project webpage is also provided. **Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.**

Electronic deposit locations

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

The opening hours and availability of information technology set out in the table below may be subject to changes or limitations to address public health requirements as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Bearing in mind the availability of the documents on the National Infrastructure Planning website and the effect of public health restrictions, please consider your need to attend these locations with care. Please check the current circumstances with the relevant locations before you attend.

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours
North Lincolnshire Council	Epworth Library Chapel Street Epworth Doncaster DN9 1HQ	Monday: 1-5pm Tuesday: Closed Wednesday: 9am-5pm (Closed 12.30-1pm)

		Thursday: Closed Friday: 9am-2pm Saturday: 9am-12pm Sunday: Closed
North Lincolnshire Council	Crowle Community Hub The Market Hall Market Place Crowle DN17 4LA	Monday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Tuesday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Wednesday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Thursday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Friday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Saturday: 9am to 12pm
North Lincolnshire Council	Scunthorpe Central Carlton Street Scunthorpe North Lincolnshire DN15 6TX	Monday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Tuesday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Wednesday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Thursday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Friday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Saturday: 9am to 1pm
Printing costs	Black and white	Colour
All venues		
A4	Single-sided: 25p	Single-sided: 45p

A3	Single-sided: 25p	Single-sided: 45p
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Guidance on using the electronic 'Make a submission' portal

The Planning Inspectorate will be using an electronic portal, which parties will be able to use to make their written submissions at the relevant deadline.

A 'Make a submission' tab will become available on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure website](#). The portal operates on a system where submissions are separated in accordance with the deadline submissions type requested (see the Examination Timetable at Annex D). Please ensure documents are submitted respective to the associated deadline and are the relevant document submission types. Where this is not possible, please use the 'Other' drop down option.

Interested Parties 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. Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable. 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.

We would encourage everyone in the first instance to use the 'Make a submission' portal to make your submissions however, if necessary, Interested Parties will be able to send electronic copies of their submission via email to the project mailbox, leadby3@planninginspectorate.gov.uk, on or before the applicable deadline.

If you experience any issues when using this portal, please contact a member of the Case Team to assist. The Inspectorate will be monitoring the use of the portal. Any feedback is appreciated and will help the Inspectorate identify and prioritise future service enhancements for our customers.