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email:

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

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010115

Date: 25 September 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 and 9

Application by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm project

Examination Timetable and procedure

This letter (the Rule 8 letter) provides important information about the Examination of this application. The letter includes:

- The Examination Timetable
- An invitation to submit Written Representations
- A request for Local Impact Reports from Local Authorities
- Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)
- Information about Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections
- Information about the availability of Examination Documents
- Guidance on the use of the 'Make a submission' tab on the project webpage

All documentation associated with this Examination, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the recording of that meeting, can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website ([project webpage](#)).

The Examination Timetable

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

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our Rule 6 letter. In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made either orally at the Preliminary Meeting or in writing prior to that



meeting. A list of the main changes we made to the draft Examination Timetable is set out at **Annex B** to this letter.

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of Deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All Deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. You must ensure submissions arrive no later than the deadlines stated in the Examination Timetable in **Annex A** to this letter. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, we may decide to disregard them.

We request that all Interested Parties make their submissions using the [Make a submission tab](#) on the project webpage on or before the applicable Deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the [Make a submission tab](#).

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

Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit their Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations not already submitted. Written Representations should be submitted no later than **Deadline 2**, while responses to Relevant Representations, not already made by Pre-examination Procedural Deadline D, should be submitted by **Deadline 1** in the Examination Timetable.

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues.

Any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a Written Representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the Examination (see paragraph 009 of the [government's guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects](#) for further information about Written Representations).

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

Any Written Representations and any further written submissions requested during the Examination that exceed 1,500 words, should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

Representations **should not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions.

DRAFT QUESTIONS ISSUED

We issued a list of draft Written Questions (dWQ1) on 30 August 2024 in [\[PD-008\]](#). As indicated in the Examination Timetable appended to this letter we will finalise our first round of Written Questions (ExQ1) on 8 October further to the receipt of evidence during the hearings held between 17 and 19 September 2024 and following the receipt of the Deadline 1 submissions. ExQ1 will be published on the [project webpage](#).

Please note that ExQ1 will **supersede the dWQ1** issued on 30 August. ExQ1 may remove some of the questions that were included in the draft list [PD-008] and may also include some additional and/or updated questions.

Responses to ExQ1 must be provided by **Deadline 2** in the Examination Timetable.

If you require an editable Microsoft Word version of ExQ1, please [contact the Case Team](#) using the contact details at the top of this letter.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

Annex B to this letter contains important details and clarifications about other Procedural Decisions we made at, or following, the Preliminary Meeting. These include:

- The making of requests by Affected Persons to attend a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing;
- A further opportunity for Interested Parties to make requests to attend an Open Floor Hearing;
- A further opportunity for Interested Parties to suggested locations for the ExA to include in an Accompanied Site Inspection;
- The means for updating Statements of Common Ground following their submission in their final and signed forms.
- Clarifications from the Applicant and Suffolk County Council about electronic deposit locations for the Application documents in a library or libraries in Suffolk.

Format of Examination Events

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when we provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

Hearings and Site Inspections

The Examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for more information.

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public also provides important information about hearing procedures:

- [What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event](#)
- [Registering to speak at, or attend, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event](#)

On this basis the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and we will notify all Interested Parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the Examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That notification will include a Deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to participate at the notified hearing(s).

We will also undertake site inspections. Where we are able to view the site from public land we are likely to do this unaccompanied and a note of the site inspection will be published on the project webpage. The Examination Timetable also reserves time for us to undertake an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) during the week commencing 20 January 2025. As explained in Annex B the Examination Timetable in Annex A provides Interested Parties a further opportunity to suggest and justify locations for inclusion in an ASI. We will consider any suggested site locations to determine if they could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view them on an accompanied basis. We 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.

Annex C provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings. It also provides important information about the Accompanied Site Inspection and attendance at the inspection.

Managing Examination correspondence

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

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

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

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

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

Potential commonality issues with the Proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

As we explained in our Rule 6 Letter [PD-007], in the agenda amendment for the Preliminary Meeting [EV1-001] and during the Preliminary Meeting, potentially there will be commonality issues for the Examination of both the proposed Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm and North Falls Offshore Wind Farm applications. That is because there are physical elements of both wind farm proposals which will overlap with one another, for example the proposed shared onshore export cable corridor. Those overlapping elements may be of particular interest to individual Interested Parties and/or Affected Persons, the latter in their capacity as owners and/or occupiers of land affected by both of the proposed projects.

Separate applications have been submitted for the proposed wind farms, including their associated onshore works. Each application will be the subject of a separate Examination, overseen by its discretely appointed ExA. The Examinations will therefore be conducted independently and will follow their own timetables.

Each application will be decided with reference to its own complete set of documents. Neither the Secretary of State nor the ExA will be able to have regard to documents submitted in relation to one application that by implication or express statement are relevant to the other application, unless they have also been submitted to the examination for the other application.

Given that background it is important that the Applicant, other Interested Parties and Affected Persons note that when written or oral submissions are made during the course of one or other of the Examinations and which might be common to the other application, any such submissions will not automatically be made available to the ExA for the other application. Accordingly, the Applicant, other Interested Parties and Affected Persons should proceed on the basis that if they wish to make written or oral submissions that will be relevant to both Applications then it will be their responsibility to make that information available to both Examinations. By way of an example, should one of the highway authorities wish to raise a matter concerning a road equally affected by both of the projects then that highway authority will need to make its submissions to both the Five Estuaries and North Falls Examinations. It should also be noted that once the Examination for Five Estuaries has closed we cannot receive any written submissions subsequently made to the North Falls ExA.

Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you are a person or organisation who is involved in the NSIP process. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [National Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#) for further details.

If, having read the advice, you are still unsure about how you are involved in the process 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 ExA) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#).

Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D** to this letter.

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

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

Yours faithfully

Grahame Gould

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

- A** Examination Timetable
- B** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Hearings and site inspections
- D** Availability of Examination Documents
- E** 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.

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		Date
1.	<p>Pre- examination Procedural Deadline A</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey timetable and reporting schedule for undertaking further species surveys • Blank template for a Land Rights Tracker 	6 August 2024
2.	<p>Pre- examination Procedural Deadline B</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant’s Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) position statement • Natural England’s revised version of RR [RR-081] 	13 August 2024
3.	<p>Pre-examination Procedural Deadline C</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant to submit the first version of Land Rights Tracker, as required by Procedural Decision 7 in [PD-005] 	28 August 2024
4.	<p>Pre-examination Procedural Deadline D</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting (please refer to Annex A for further information), including indications of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ which agenda items IPs wish to speak on; the points they wish to raise; and ○ why these need to be made orally rather than in writing • Written submissions, if required, from the Applicant and any Interested Party (IP) relating to Examination procedure and any changes that are considered necessary to the draft Examination timetable 	9 September 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests from any Affected Person (AP) of a wish to attend and speak at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) • Requests by IPs to participate in Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) • Notification of suggested locations for the ExA to include in Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI), including the reason for nomination and matter(s) to be observed, information about whether the location can be accessed using public rights of way or what access arrangements would need to be made and the likely time requirement for the visit to that location if not covered within an USI (See Annex B) • Responses to Relevant Representations (RRs) • Update from the Applicant concerning species surveys following the meeting with Natural England on 22 August 2024 	
5.	Preliminary Meeting	17 September 2024 10:00
6.	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)	17 September 2024 not before 14:00
7.	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Matters 	18 September 2024 10:00
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISH1 (continuation) • ISH2 Development Consent Order (DCO) matters 	19 September 2024 ISH1 at 10:00 and ISH2 at 14:30
9.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Examination Timetable 	As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
10.	Deadline 1 Receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases and responses to any hearing action points arising from the hearings held between 17 and 19 September 2024 • Comments on any updates to Application documents submitted prior to the PM 	3 October 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to RRs (if not provided at the Pre-examination Procedural Deadline D) • Comments on Applicant's Land Rights Tracker • Applicant's updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (clean and tracked) (if required) • Applicant's first update to the Statement of Commonality for SoCG; • Applicant's updated Guide to the Application documents (clean and tracked) • Applicant's update to the Land Rights Tracker (clean and tracked) • Comments on any submissions received at Pre-examination Procedural Deadlines A, B, C and D • Notification by Statutory Parties of a wish to be considered as an Interested Person (IP) by the ExA • Requests from any IPs wishing to receive communications by email • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
11.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1) 	8 October 2024
12.	<p>Deadline 2</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Representations (WRs), including summaries for any WRs exceeding 1,500 words • Submission of Local Impact Reports (LIR) from Local Authorities (See Annex B) • Responses to ExQ1 • Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 1 • Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCG (clean and tracked) • Applicant's updated Guide to the Application documents (clean and tracked) • Requests from any Affected Person (AP) of a wish to attend and speak at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2) and any additional CAH (if required) • Requests by IPs to participate in Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) • Notification of suggested locations for the ExA to include in Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI), including the reason for nomination and matter(s) 	22 October 2024

	<p>to be observed, information about whether the location can be accessed using public rights of way or what access arrangements would need to be made and the likely time requirement for the visit to that location if not covered within an Unaccompanied Site Inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
13.	<p>Dates reserved for second round of hearings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISH CAH2 	w/c 28 October 2024
14.	<p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required) 	8 November 2024
15.	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases and responses to any hearing action points arising from the hearings held during w/c 28 October 2024 (if required) Applicant's updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (clean and tracked) (if required) Applicant's update to the Land Rights Tracker (clean and tracked) Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCG (clean and tracked) Applicant's updated Guide to the Application documents (clean and tracked) Applicant's draft itinerary for an ASI Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 2 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	12 November 2024
16.	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to the ExA's ExQ2 (if required) Applicant's updated version of the dDCO (clean and tracked) (if required) Applicant's update to the Land Rights Tracker (clean and tracked) Updated Statement of Commonality for SoCG (clean and tracked) 	3 December 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's updated Guide to the Application documents (clean and tracked) • Natural England's first substantive Principal Areas of Disagreement (PADs) update (clean and tracked) • Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 3, including the Applicant's draft itinerary for an ASI • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
17.	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further PADs update from Natural England (clean and tracked) • Completed and signed Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) • Applicant's updated version of the dDCO (clean and tracked) (if required) • Applicant's update to the Land Rights Tracker (clean and tracked) • Applicant's updated Guide to the Application documents (clean and tracked) • Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 4 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	10 January 2025
18.	<p>Date reserved for third round of hearings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISH (if required) • CAH3 (if required) • OFH1 (if required) • ASI1 (if required) 	w/c 20 January 2025
19.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) • The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required) • The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ3) (if required) 	3 February 2025
20.	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases and responses to any 	11 February 2025

	<p>hearing action points arising from the hearings held w/c 13 January 2025 (if required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further PADs update from Natural England (clean and tracked) • Applicant's updated version of the dDCO (clean and tracked) (if required) • Applicant's updated Guide to the Application documents (clean and tracked) • Any SoCG updates, either agreed updating notes or unilateral notes (if required) • Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 5 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
21.	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the Report on the Implication for European Site (RIES) • Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required) • Responses to the ExA's ExQ3 (if required) • Applicant's final dDCO to be submitted in the SI template accompanied by a SI template validation report. This version of the dDCO should be submitted in an editable format and it should also be accompanied by an editable copy showing any revisions to the preceding version shown with tracked changes (if required) • The Applicant's final version of the Explanatory Memorandum (clean and tracked) • Final Land Rights Tracker (clean and tracked) • Final Book of Reference (BoR) and a schedule of any changes to BoR • Final Statement of Reasons (clean and tracked) • Certified copies of any executed (signed and dated) legal agreements • Applicant's final Guide to the Application Documents (clean and tracked) • Final PADs update from Natural England (clean and tracked) • Any SoCG updates, either agreed updating notes or unilateral notes (if required) • Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 6 	3 March 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
22.	<p>Deadline 8</p> <p>Receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on any submissions received at Deadline 7 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (if required) 	10 March 2025
23.	<p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months.</p> <p>Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.</p>	17 March 2025

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.

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.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

We have made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting:

1. Examination Timetable

Having considered the matters raised before and at the Preliminary Meeting, the ExA has made the following amendments to the draft Examination Timetable. These changes are reflected in the finalised version of the Timetable included in Appendix A of this letter.

- With respect to the reservation of time for hearings during the week commencing 28 October 2024, the Examining Authority has made the Procedural Decision that there will be a need to hold at least one Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) and a second Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH2). Accordingly, for the ISH and CAH2 to be held during week commencing 28 October those hearings appear in the Examination Timetable without the caveat “(if required)”. The ExA will issue formal notifications for the holding of hearings during the course of the week commencing 28 October in due course.
- No requests to participate in an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) or notifications for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) locations were made at Pre-examination Procedural Deadline D (9 September 2024). Accordingly, the ExA has made the Procedural Decisions to give Interested Parties (IPs) the further opportunity to make requests to participate in an (OFH1) and identify ASI locations by Deadline 2 (22 October 2024). Given those Procedural Decisions the Examination Timetable included in Annex A to this letter no longer shows time reserved for OFH1 and an ASI during the course of the week commencing 28 October 2024, instead time has been reserved for those events to be held during week commencing 20 January 2025. Deadline 2 has been further amended so that Affected Persons can make requests to attend CAH2.
- Commensurate with giving IPs a further opportunity to identify suggested locations to be inspected during the course of an ASI, the ExA has made the Procedural Decision that the Applicant’s draft ASI itinerary should be submitted at Deadline 3 rather than Deadline 1 as shown in the draft Examination Timetable. IPs will have the opportunity to comment on the Applicant’s draft ASI itinerary at Deadline 4. Thereafter IPs will be able to make requests to attend the ASI at the same time they are asked to confirm whether they wish to attend the various hearings for which time has been reserved during the week commencing 20 January 2025.
- With respect to Deadline 5, to assist the parties in making their submissions, including the submission of final and signed Statements of Common Ground, after the Christmas and New Year holiday period the Deadline has been moved from Tuesday 7 to Friday 10 January 2025.
- Having altered the date for Deadline 5 the ExA has decided that commensurate changes to the following dates and deadlines are necessary:
 - The dates reserved for a third round of hearings (if necessary), including an OFH (if requested) moved from week commencing (w/c) 13 January to w/c

20 January 2025. Time has also been reserved for the holding of an ASI during the course of w/c 20 January.

- Publication by the ExA of: the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES); proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (if required); and the third round of Written Questions (if required) from 23 January to 3 February 2025.
- Deadline 6 moved from 4 to 11 February 2025
- Deadline 7 moved from 27 February to 4 March 2025

2. Local Impact Reports (LIR)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for local authorities](#).

Local Authorities, defined in section 56A of the Planning Act 2008, are invited to submit LIRs by **Deadline 2 (22 October 2024)**.

3. Updating final and signed Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

Final and signed SoCGs are to be submitted at Deadline 5 (10 January 2025). At the Preliminary Meeting there was a discussion about how updates to SoCGs might be made following their submission, given the submission of final SoCGs should not be treated as a bar to a continuing dialogue between any of the parties entering into SoCGs. Having considered this matter further the ExA's preference would be for a jointly agreed updating note to be submitted at the first available Examination deadline (ie either Deadline 6 or 7) following there being a substantive change of position since Deadline 5 between the Applicant and the Interested Party (IP) in respect of a matter or matters addressed in their respective SoCG.

However, if the Applicant and the relevant IP are unable to agree the contents of a joint updating note then each party should provide a unilateral update with respect to the matter or matters in question no later than Deadline 7 (3 March 2025). Any unilateral updates submitted at Deadline 7 should provide a brief explanation of what discussions have taken place since Deadline 5 with respect to the relevant matter or matters and whether there has been any narrowing in areas of disagreement following the submission of their respective SoCG.

4. Clarifications about library electronic deposit locations in Suffolk

Further to the discussion about the availability of Application documents at libraries in Suffolk during the Preliminary Meeting, the Applicant is requested to clarify whether Ipswich Library is an electronic deposit location in Suffolk. This clarification should be provided not later than Deadline 1 (3 October 2024).

Suffolk County Council is requested to clarify by not later than Deadline 1 whether any libraries in Suffolk, other than Ipswich, are being used as electronic deposit locations for the Application documents and if not whether any library or libraries within the county might be a suitable location or locations for such a facility or facilities.

5. Changes to land interests

When the Applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the Applicant must make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the PA2008. Thereafter the Book of Reference should be updated and submitted as a revised document. The updated Book of Reference should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

6. Additional Submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted prior to the holding of the Preliminary Meeting and previously accepted we have exercised our discretion and made a Procedural Decision to accept a letter from the National Trust (dated 17 September 2024) as an Additional Submission.

Arrangements for hearings

Our Examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions however the Examination Timetable reserves periods of time for hearings to be held (if required).

Requests to participate at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) on or before dates included in the Examination Timetable.

Any request to participate in a hearing **should 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;
- 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;
- for Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the Book of Reference and the Land Plans; and
- the [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

Requests to participate should be made using an **Event Participation Form** which will be provided with the notification of the hearing.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend an Event, either virtually or in person.

If no written requests to take part in an OFH are received by the above Deadline, we are not required to hold such a hearing.

We may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that we think need to be explored orally. The decision to hold an ISH about a particular topic is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

Hearing agendas

High-level agenda for ISH and CAH will be published alongside the notifications for those types of hearings on the [project webpage](#) to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate.

For ISH and CAH the ExA will publish a detailed draft agenda on the project 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 an agenda may not be published.

Procedure at hearings

The Examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for more information.

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.

Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) and requests to attend

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI during the week commencing 20 January 2025.

In the absence of any ASI locations having been identified by IPs at Pre-examination Procedural Deadline D, IPs are being given a further opportunity to suggest locations, with justifications for those locations, for inclusion in an ASI by Deadline 2. At Deadline 3 the Applicant should submit a draft ASI for the ExA's consideration.

We will review any suggested locations, including justifications for them, and the Applicant's draft itinerary and then confirm the locations to be included in the ASI.

Our final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the project webpage in advance of an ASI being held.

Please note that for logistical and safety reasons it may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany us for the whole ASI, however it should be possible for arrangements to be made for Interested Parties (or their representatives) to join the inspection at specified locations within the itinerary.

The Interested Parties attending the ASI will include representatives of the Applicant, the local planning authorities, together with other Interested Parties (or their representatives). Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it.

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

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

Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available to view 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 and submission made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference number which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. **You must 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 location/locations listed in the table below. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification and register as a member/library member in order to use a computer at these locations.

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
Essex County Council	Clacton Library Station Road (opposite the Town Hall) Clacton-on-Sea CO15 1SF	Monday: 9am to 5:30pm Tuesday: 9am to 5:30pm Wednesday: 9am to 7pm Thursday: 9am to 5:30pm Friday: 9am to 5:30pm Saturday: 9am to 5:30pm Sunday: Closed	A4 BW - 20p A4 COL- £1.50 A3 BW - 60p A3 COL - £2.45
Essex County Council	Brightlingsea Library New Street Brightlingsea Colchester	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 2pm to 5:30pm	A4 BW - 20p A4 COL- £1.50 A3 BW - 60p

	CO7 0BZ	Wednesday: 9am to 1pm Thursday: Closed Friday: 2pm to 7pm Saturday: 9am to 5pm Sunday: Closed	A3 COL - £2.45
Essex County Council	West Clacton Library Jaywich Lane Clacton-on-Sea CO16 8BE	Monday: 9am to 4:30pm Tuesday: 9am to 4:30pm Wednesday: 9am to 4:30pm Thursday: 9am to 4:30pm Friday: 9am to 4:30pm Saturday: Closed Sunday: Closed	A4 BW - 20p A4 COL- £1.50 A3 BW - 60p A3 COL - £2.45
Essex County Council	Holland Library Public Hall Frinton Road Holland-on-Sea Clacton-on-Sea CO15 5UR	Monday: 2pm to 7pm Tuesday: Closed Wednesday: 9am to 1pm Thursday: Closed Friday: Closed Saturday: 9am to 5pm Sunday: Closed	A4 BW - 20p A4 COL- £1.50 A3 BW - 60p A3 COL - £2.45
Essex County Council	Manningtree Library High Street Manningtree CO11 1AD	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 9am to 5:30pm Wednesday: 9am to 1pm Thursday: 1pm to 7pm Friday: 9am to 1pm Saturday: 9am to 5pm Sunday: Closed	A4 BW - 20p A4 COL- £1.50 A3 BW - 60p A3 COL - £2.45
Essex County Council	Harwich Library Upper Kingsway Dovercourt Harwich CO12 3JT	Monday: 9am to 5:30pm Tuesday: 9am to 7pm Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 9am to 5:30pm Friday: 9am to 5:30pm	A4 BW - 20p A4 COL- £1.50 A3 BW - 60p A3 COL - £2.45

		Saturday: 9am to 5pm Sunday: Closed	
Essex County Council	Frinton Library 59 Old Road Frinton-on-Sea CO13 9DA	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 9am to 5:30pm Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 9am to 7pm Friday: 2pm to 5:30pm Saturday: 9am to 5pm Sunday: Closed	A4 BW - 20p A4 COL- £1.50 A3 BW - 60p A3 COL - £2.45
Essex County Council	Wivenhoe Library 104/6 High Street Wivenhoe CO7 9AB	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 2pm to 7pm Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 9am to 5:30pm Friday: Closed Saturday: 9am to 5pm Sunday: Closed	A4 BW - 20p A4 COL- £1.50 No A3 printing available.
Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing Costs
Kent County Council	Margate Library Thanet Gateway Plus Cecil Street Margate Kent CT9 1RE	Monday: 10am to 5:30pm Tuesday: 10am to 5pm Wednesday: 10am to 5pm Thursday: 10am to 5:30pm Friday: 10am to 5:30pm Saturday: 10am to 3:30pm Sunday: Closed	A4 BW - 15p A3 BW - 50p

Information about the 'Have your say' page

The ['Have your say'](#) page 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 2004 or FIVEE or 5EST. 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 for members of the public: [Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important 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 A** 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 ['Have your say'](#) please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.