

# AUDIO\_RAMPION2\_PRELIM\_SESSION1\_06 0224

Tue, Feb 06, 2024 12:03PM • 1:12:11

00:07

Everybody, can you. Can you hear me? Yep, everybody can hear me. Good. And before I go on, can I commit? Confirm the live stream is underway, please? Yes, thank you. It's now 10 o'clock and welcome to this preliminary meeting in relation to the application made by rampion. Extension limited for the proposed rampion to offshore wind farm. My name is Richard Allen. I'm a chartered town planner. I'm an examining inspector and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead member of the panel of inspectors to examine this application and can ask my colleagues to introduce themselves please. Hello, my name is Steven Rani. I am a chartered town planner. I am an examined inspector and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of this panel of inspectors to examine the application.

01:07

Morning my name is Claire below. I am a chartered scientist and chartered environmentalist and a member of psi when the Chartered Institute of Water environmental management, I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the examining authority for this application.

01:22

Good morning. My name is Joe Sullivan. I'm a charter to town planner

01:33

been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of this examining authority for this application.

01:43

Good morning. My name is Richard Morgan. I'm a chartered civil engineer and a fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers have been appointed by the Secretary of State to remember the examining authority for this application.

01:55

Thank you and together we constitute the examining authority for this application. So for those joining in the arrangements conference this morning and those who were present in this room, you may have already spoken to Lily Robins, who is the case manager for this project. And she is supported by colleagues from the case team on the planning Inspectorate. Before we go on to the letter, before we consider the items on the agenda, we'll need to go through a few housekeeping matters and general observations. I'll try to get through those as quickly as possible. Firstly, mobile phones if I could just make ask you to make sure they're on silent at the very least please. Toilets, I believe I'm back in the

lobby area where we came in, which is quite a walk back there. But that's where the toilets are. There are no as I understand planned fire testing today. So if the fire alarm goes off, it's the real thing. And I'm told that the fire exits is straight out of these doors, and then a right and a left and it will take us straight out so we won't have to go via the lobby area. I'm also aware that accessibility to this room was via some stairs this morning, and it was the exercise wish that the room was fully accessible it from the ground floor. But nevertheless, it is what it is. Does anybody know of anybody that's had any problems accessing this, this room through the staircase? Anybody who has not been anyone knows not been able to get into this room. Okay, thank you. So there may be many of you here today that have never encountered a national infrastructure examination before or never likely to again. And we recognise that the process is daunting, particularly with the quantum of documents that have been submitted and other rep other written representations. And it's likely you might not know who we are, what our purpose is. So I thought I'd just say a few words on that. We are appointed by the secretary of state from the Department of levelling up Housing and Communities to examine this application in accordance with the Planning Act 2008. And our role is to examine the following. Whether the application complies with relevant legislation, policy and guidance, the powers sought by the applicant including in relation to land rights, how the proposed development would be controlled the balance between the benefits and dis benefits of the proposed development, and ultimately whether development consent should be granted. The XA will gather the evidence needed to help us consider these matters during the examination. We will then submit our reports and recommendation to the Secretary of State for energy security and Net Zero So, who will be the decision maker on this proposed development, and will decide whether consent will be granted or withheld. I do want to stress that point it is not this examining authority that makes the decision it is the Secretary of State. Throughout this process, we will be supported by the planning inspectorates case team. And they will answer any general queries you have about this project and the examination events. So, this preliminary meeting is the first stage in a series of meetings and hearings that which where we are going to set out how we're going to examine the application, and for you to provide comments on if you have them. Now, you're here because you're either the applicant or the representative and applicant, you're the host or other local authority, you represent bodies that are statutory parties, you have sent in a relevant representation and thus become an interested party. You're an individual or body affected by the applicant for compulsory acquisition or land rights, or a combination of these categories. Or maybe you're not covered by these categories. But either way, you are very welcome here today. At the plenary meeting today, we will be discussing only the procedural aspects of this examination. Much as it may be tempting to do so we are not taking evidence at this meeting. We will not be discussing the merits of the case or listening to any concerns you have over this application. We will begin that process once the examination of the application begins, which follows the close of this preliminary meeting. And you'll see from the draft timetable, which was set out in Annex II the rule six letter that we will be holding an open floor hearing in this room this afternoon. And issue specific hearing on Wednesday, Thursday and possibly Friday, depending on how we get on. And that will obviously be the place where we will start to look at the issues and hear from you specifically on them. So this meeting will follow the agenda as set out in the rule six letter dated Thursday 14th of December last year, and as slightly amended by our updated agenda, which was published on Monday the 29th of January. This letter is on the planning Inspectorate website and can be found at examination Library Reference PD, 006, and PD 007. And I hope you do have a copy of that letter if you're in the room or can access it if you're watching online. And if you turn to annex A of the agenda, we are currently dealing with item

one, and it is our intention to stick to the order of the agenda. We have a list of the IPS who have registered to speak and we will come to those in just a moment. The examining authority will introduce the agenda item in turn and make any introductory comments we have on them. And once this has been done, we will then invite interested parties who have registered to speak against that item. We will then invite other comments from other parties. If at any point you wish to speak against an agenda item or you subsequently think of another point, we'd ask you to raise your hand and we will come to you equally on both persons online if you could raise your the your the MS team's hand raising function if you wish to speak please. Once we have heard all the comments that we need to we will move on to the next item. Please note that for the persons online, the MS the Microsoft chat function is disabled and cannot be used, you will need to make all comments orally at this meeting. Now this preliminary meeting is scheduled to finish around one o'clock this afternoon. And we are confident that we can conclude all matters by then should the preliminary meeting take the full time, we may need to take a mid morning break at around 1130. This is a working meeting. And in running it we intend to temper efficiency with fairness and mean to allow you all to have your say if it's if it is relevant, and to allow you to inform us of all the things we need to know at this stage. However, we will endeavour to make sure that your and our contributions are to the point and as focused as possible so that we make the best use of the available time that we have. And we would ask everyone please to support us in that and to keep comments to the point. This recording of the preliminary meeting will be placed on the planning Inspectorate website as soon as practicable after the close of this preliminary meeting. But please bear in mind that this is the only official record of the proceedings and notes of this meeting, tweets, blogs or other similar communications arising out of this meeting will not be accepted as evidence in this examination. So as I stated earlier, the examining authority is a list of those persons who wish to speak today. And I can see we do have other people that have joined. And I'm going to go through that list now to make sure that you're here and I've got the items that you wish to speak against. So if I could start with the applicant, please? Could the applicant just make themselves known and who's speaking if they wish to speak on this item? Yes. If you wish to all we can bring the mic if you want to come there.

10:48

Thank you, sir. It's probably is that picking me up?

10:52

Doesn't seem to be I can join springs just a little bit closer to you, perhaps? Is

10:55

that better?

10:56

I think so. Yes. Okay.

10:57

Thank you. Good morning, sir. Good morning, everyone. My name is Paul mail. I'm a solicitor and partner at eversheds Sutherland LLP. And I'm instructed by rampion extension development limited. I think I'll be the only person who needs to speak on behalf of the applicant during this meeting, but if there is a need for anybody else, I'll get them to introduce themselves at the relevant time. And I think

I'll probably speak on the agenda items 345 and six to some extent, as and when we get there. Thank you.

11:26

Thank you. So I'm then going to go through the local authorities Next, if I can start with Aaron District Council and I understand we've got James Jhol him and Matt can move online. Is that correct? And you wish to speak against items three and five? Yes,

11:50

that's correct. It's just me James Jolin on behalf of our in District Council, Matt King and won't be joined in today.

12:01

Thank you. West Sussex County Council. We've got Mike Elkington, who is here I believe, no, not here. And Amy Hara who's online? Is that correct?

12:16

Good morning. Yes. This is Amy Hara for West Sussex County Council Mike Elkington won't be joining virtually today.

12:23

Did you say won't be joining Whitesnake? And you haven't specifically asked to speak against an item but obviously may do if that's correct. Yes. Thank you. South Downs National Park Authority. We have Vicki Colwell. Cowell.

12:45

Yes. Good morning. Thank you. Vicki Kohler from satins National Park Authority and as with West Sussex, weird speak if we need to or if you have any questions for us.

12:55

Thank you. And from Horsham District Council I have Matthew Porter and Councillor Lambert's are both here. Just want to wait for the mic. And

13:14

thanks. We did register to speak for items three, four or five? Yeah, we welcome the revised examination timescale. So we don't need to speak any further. We support judgments on those agenda items on

13:27

all three or the other timetable for all 303. Okay,

13:32

but we can answer any questions as well.

13:33

Thank you.

13:43

And just dealing with the parish council, I understand we have Steve Buddle here from Washington parish council. Online, I think that is actually online. Okay. And again, you haven't specifically asked to speak against any item but you you may view if you think of something, is that correct? That's

14:08

correct. We're just here to observe.

14:09

Thank you. I'm not going to deal with the statutory parties. Only one I believe national highways. I've got Kevin Brown and Sarah up Kevin Brown. And Sarah Marshall. You're here. Yes. Morning.

14:28

Morning, sir. My name is Sarah Marshall. I speak for national highways. We would propose to be speaking on items three, five, and 16, which is the draft development consent order, which is I think at the end of day three.

14:45

At least for the issue specific hearing you want to talk on All right. So that's for tomorrow you want to speak three, five and 16. Okay. But is there anything specifically you want to speak on today's agenda, which is the preliminary meeting not

14:56

to my knowledge at this stage, but subject to instructions.

14:59

Thank you helpful thank you very much indeed.

15:09

Now I'm going to come to those residents and other interested parties. I'm going to start with Mira Smith Hurst, who is here representing California versus rampion was the first Good morning and I understand you wish to speak against items three and five, which is the principal issues and the timetable with that, is that correct?

15:33

Is the principal issues in item three? And it is mainly the principal issue item three. Thank you.

15:46

Okay, well, we'll come to you at that point of the agenda. Thank you very much. Now then, the next person I'm going to come to I'm going to forgive me for asking to pronounce the surname because I wanted to check. Janine is the first name could you just take tell me your how you pronounce your

surname please? Pretty Cray is Janeen cray cray, and I don't believe I need to speak today. I will speak tomorrow in specific issues.

16:23

Okay, um, you did register to speak insights in three but you the IRP issues, but you're quite happy not to do that now. Is that correct? Okay, thank you very much. And then I have Tom Etherton representing green properties, Mr. Sutton and you want to speak on the item three and then any other business item six is that?

16:47

Yes. So Titan from Leicester Aldridge solicitors, on behalf of green properties, and yes, item free please.

16:55

And any other business as well? Did you. Okay. Thank you. Thank you

17:07

to David Fishel here, who is speaking hasn't is here but just to observe, I believe, is that correct? Good Mornings to show.

17:17

Hello. It's Dave officially here. Appearing on behalf of myself and says official my wife is the owners of sweet Hill Farm School Lane Ashurst and I have here Robert Crawford Clark, our agent we expect this morning The only item we'd like to speak about is agenda item three on the initial assessment of the principal issues Thank you

17:51

I've got grandma Gail kettle in the room I believe is that right? grandkids will is that online or that online? Mr. kissel?

18:09

Mr. Kids will you don't have you're not wishing to speak any specific item but may change your mind if you hear something you want to is that correct? Yes, that's correct. Yeah. I was missing. Yes. Well, thank you very much. Thank you

18:32

I got a mark Rennie from Brookside holiday camp in person. And I understand you're just observing.

18:43

Sorry, I'm not ofay with the process, but I think it's probably tomorrow that I'm need to speak at point three, three. Just just observing

18:51

today. Thanks. Okay. Thank you

18:59

Robert Crawford Clarke on behalf of David Fisher as well is that is your thank you very much indeed.

19:15

And Daniel ball, who is just Oh, you're just observing today? Yeah, just a local resident on a world speak tomorrow on the kaufhold aspect. Okay. And Andrew Shaw from the National Trust. See, that was put on Sorry, that was put under interesting persons. Yeah. Sure. Hello. Yes. Andrew is your Regional Planning advisor National Trust just observing

20:03

Okay, thank you. I think I've got everybody on the attendance list. Is there anybody that I've missed out that wants to introduce themselves? Right. Okay, are you speaker? Is Mr. Dixon items the same as yours? Are you got other items? Is there a specific items you want to speak on with Ms. Item three again, okay.

20:43

Thank you. So anybody else? I can't see any other hands up in the room. And I can't see anybody hands up online. So thank you for that.

20:58

Okay, so for those people watching the live stream, can I advise you that should we break at any point in the proceedings this morning, we will stop the live stream in order to give us clear recording files. And as a result, and at that point, you will need to refresh your browser in order to take part further. Finally, you may see the examining authority at any point of this meeting or in hearings, taking notes or maybe either on a computer or on in written form. Please, rest assured that if we are tapping away while you're speaking, we are listening. We are just note note taking it's please don't be put off by that if that's what we're doing. Thank you. Are there any other comments, introductory comments before I move on to item to the agenda? to none in the room? None online very well. So we're going to move on to item two of the agenda, which is the examining authorities remarks about the examination of the application. This is Annex B of the rule six letter. Now you'll see from the rule six letter that an Annex B that the XA has made a number of written comments about how we're going to examine it. It's not my intention, I'm sure you'll be relieved to hear that we're going to read that out verbatim here. Now that you've read it. And hopefully you've understood it and the points that wish to make but I do wish to draw a few key points from that. If I may, I would like to firstly, draw your attention to the general data protection regulations. You will note, as I've said previously, that this event is being recorded, as well as live streamed and interested parties who have requested this, the digital recordings form a public record that can contain your personal information and to which the gpdn applies. The planning Inspectorate practice is to retain and publish these recordings for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on this application. Consequently, if you participate in today's hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and therefore your consent to the retention and publication of the digital recording is given. We will only ever ask for information to be placed on the public record that is important and relevant to the planning decision. It will only be in the rarest of circumstances that we might ask you to provide personal information of the type that most of us would

prefer to keep private or confidential. Therefore to avoid the need to edit the digital recordings, we would ask you to try your best to not put give information that you would wish to be kept private and confidential. By that I mean giving out your address, which which has been done in the past someone has given out their address or their or relatives details and things like that. So we would ask you to try your best not to do that. And it's really important that So moving on, it's really important that deadlines are set out in the finalised timetable. Oh dear too. late submissions reduce the time that the examining authority has to read it and if necessary, asked questions on it, and for interested parties to respond. submissions that are late are only accepted at the discretion of this examining authority. And if we feel it would cause procedural unfairness, we can decline to accept it. Now I've noted a few responses to our rule six letter for the pre examination procedural deadline, one of which has questioned or few have questioned why we are holding hearings in advance of written representations. And I thought I would just say a few words on that. The NSA considers that early hearings will provide us and all interested parties the opportunity to ask some early and important questions to aid our understanding of the application more quickly in the process. It may also be useful and helpful for interested parties in obtaining answers to questions before making your own written representations. It overall provides a platform for parties to begin talking to one another, or to continue talking to one another if they're in the room or online. And this is something the examining authorities strongly encourages, particularly interval periods during these hearings. Given that we are all here for the preliminary meeting, the open floor hearing, it seems sensible and reasonable to have an issue specific hearing. And this should in turn, limit the amount of written questions that we will need to ask at the appropriate time. Now, I don't see any particular person or interested party is registered to speak against this item. So does anybody have any comments on the excise approach to examining this application? Is no hands in the room? No hands online. Okay, in which case, we will move on to Item three, which is the initial assessment of principal issues. Mrs. below.

26:38

Thank you, Mr. Allen. Can you all hear me clearly? So turning now to Agenda Item three, which is our initial assessment of principal issues. It will be useful for this item if we could have annexed the of the rule six letter on screen. Can I ask the case team to share that please? Thank you.

27:05

For those online, if your technology doesn't allow you to see the list on the screen clearly, then you can find it as Annex C of our rules six letter, which was published on the 14th of December 2023, and is PD 006 in the exam library. Thanks section 88. Subsection one of the Planning Act 2008 As amended requires the examining authority to make an initial assessment of principal issues arising on the application. For those of you who have a copy of level six letter, please now turn to Annex C, which sets out our initial assessment of the principal issues. This list will provide a framework of the main issues going forward. It does not preclude us from amending the list by removing or removal or addition of issues at a later stage of the process. Since the list of principal issues is visible on screen for those attending in person, and in the Annex C of the role six letter I do not propose to read through the list at this stage. You may however, want to note the following. Firstly, that the principal issues have been compiled alphabetically and not in order of importance. Secondly, that this annex is neither a comprehensive nor an exclusive list of all the principle issues. It's an indicative list as we start the examination. But if it does not determine the scope of the examination, it will inevitably be the case that



other issues will arise during the course of the examination, which appear to be important and relevant. And those other issues will be considered and examined thoroughly when that happens. Equally, issues currently on the list may turn out to be not as important as they appear to be now. It should also be noted that a number of the principal issues have an interrelationship and overlap, and these will be reflected in the examination. So we have received comments from a number of parties at the procedural deadline with regards to the principal issues. And these have been published on the national infrastructure website. And the points made have been noted by the examining authority. So I understand that we have four requests to speak against this item from Aaron District Council. Miss Smith, Hearst, Mr. Eddington and Mr. Fishel so before I take comments from those parties, is there anyone else who wishes to speak on this item? Or who might haven't called out their name? Okay, thank you

29:49

okay, I don't see any other hands up in the room and online. Okay. So I will allow each party to speak in turn and then any other interest To parties who wish to speak afterwards, the examining authority may have questions and I will give the applicant attend to speak at the end of the agenda item by inviting each party to speak. Please may I remind you that we are not here today to hear comments on the merits of the application, there will be opportunities for parties to make comments of that kind as part of the detailed examination, which commences after this preliminary meeting. At this stage, we are seeking submissions from interested parties who have any additional issues, which they think might or should affect the structure of the examination. With that in mind, I now invite submissions with a further reminder to all parties to introduce yourself before you begin your submission indicating whether you are representing an organisation and if so what its remit is. So I will first come to the representative from Aaron District Council who I believe is online, please, could you introduce yourself and state whether you have any points you wish to raise?

30:59

Good morning, thank you. So I'm James Jerilyn, the director, I see new projects who are representing Arun District Council as a host authority in this examination. So I think the key point on this agenda item and the assessment and principal issues, we welcome the inclusion of many of the items and we would request that there is an additional issue specific hearing added and a identification as a principal issue of employment tourism, and socio economics as a as an additional as an additional principal issue. reasons being that in terms of the assessments that have been undertaken, there is focus on on West Sussex Holi. And we can say that as our in District Council that the district does have a great reliance on tourism, and employment. And at a district level, there may be more more impacts that haven't been identified in the assessment. As district level, there may be more sensitivity to change on on these items. And just last the last point and kind of notes in notes in the comment that's just been made on the fact that there there will be overlap between the principal issues do appreciate that there will be overlap on the byton that has been identified, which is the commitments register, but we would like to focus principal issue on tourism employment in socio economics.

32:51

Thank you, Mr. Jordan, for those points. So the examining authority has been aware of the points you've raised and have noted them. Thank you.

32:58

Thank you.

33:04

So moving on to Ms. Smith. Hurst Please, could you introduce yourself and state whether you have any points you wish to raise on this agenda item?

33:13

Yes. Hello, I'm Mira Smith. First, I'm speaking for the California resident Action Group cow Fabi rampion. I just wanted to raise a few points about the initial assessments of principle issues. Firstly, we're grateful for you putting together closer, we're grateful for you putting together issues related to Oak and Dean in the revised timetable. And pleased now to see the ecology at Oak and Dean and its surroundings is now included. But Will there be further opportunities please, at a later stage to discuss, for instance, the economic impacts and the landscape and visual impacts of the sites which now seems to have been removed from the timetable? Or will they be covered perhaps in item seven for the landscape and visual and under traffic at Cal fold for the in item for for economics? If not, then please good economic impacts be included. At some point to the principal issue. We're particularly concerned see that this as a principle issue, because there doesn't appear to be any consideration beyond tourism really from rampion or any of the statutory consultees and in fact, in particular, no consideration of economic impacts at the substation end. And similarly, the landscape and visual impacts this is the only onshore control structure which will remain above ground and we feel the impacts are significant downplayed by rampion. There are lots of important issues regarding the substation such as the construction noise, the impacts of noise, vibration and light pollution on ecology, which doesn't seem to be addressed anywhere. The substation design and the health and social impacts of the subs station location. And we would ask to another hearing about containers arranged at a later date, please. And then just a couple of other things. Sustainability doesn't seem to be specifically listed. But surely this is key, and you did allude to that earlier. So we would like to see that as his principal issue. And then the other thing was the consultation reports, or perhaps you see that as part of the alternatives on day one. And then I realised I do have a couple of things, but probably more appropriate, appropriate, in fact, to mention in the How should it be examined? So perhaps, if I could do that, at that point? Would that be okay? Or should I mention them now?

35:45

Sorry, could you just repeat what you said?

35:48

I realised I do actually have a couple of points to raise, which are probably better, later down the agenda about how the examination should proceed? I don't know if you want me to raise them now or keep them till that point.

36:01

We've done that if that was the last item about how to proceed? Well, what could you just tell me in a couple of words what it is you want to?

36:08

Okay, it was really just to ask that, will you be asking for specialist opinion? I realised, and I'm pleased to hear that one of you is an environmentalist and one an engineer. But will you be asking for expert opinions in areas where perhaps you feel you need more expertise? And will you lend equal weight to local knowledge testimony? Because I think there are various issues where we feel that's quite important, compared to just the specialist.

36:43

I would only say in terms of specialist knowledge we do, planning Inspectorate does have a team of environmental scientists who will who will advise of course, the examining authority. But I will stress that it that we can only make our recommendation based on the evidence that's before us and the evidence we reach on it. We have to have to be careful about how much advice we get, because ultimately, the recommendation must be hours and hours alone. So yes, we will obviously we will look at the evidence we've got we will, as I say we have a team that do get help us with that. But ultimately, No, we wouldn't be sort of going out looking for expert advice, the you start doing that, and the applicant then has the right to test that person and test that person's evidence. So then we get into all manner of difficulty. So no, it must be stand up on its on its own two feet, so to speak. So But rest assured, we are the excise more than competent to assess the evidence that's before us and make the recommendation to the Secretary of State. The second part of your question was, well,

37:58

it was about the weight that you waive to local knowledge as opposed to from experts.

38:04

Of course, the X ray will consider all the evidence and put in and of course, we consider the local people because you say you live there, you can see day to day that the issues that you face and of course we will take that into consideration. And yes, there is a balancing exercise that will be that we undertaken in that. Thank you.

38:31

Okay, thank you, Miss Smith first. Okay, moving on to Mr. Everton. And please, could you introduce yourself and who you represent and whether you have any issues to raise?

38:45

Thank you. I am solicitor, artless Broadridge. And this point is behalf of Mr. Dixon mistakes and is granted protection to the Equality Act 2010. We made a request zoning authority to have the Equality Act principle issue mistakes and hasn't been able to comprehend, comprehensively addressed this area. And if it's not going to be addressed as a printable issue, please could examine for to explain at what point during the examination this can be addressed.

39:22

The test of the equalities act or will be will be considered by the examining authority in its report to the Secretary of State. Whether we choose to ask written questions on it or whether we choose to hold

hearing materials or is it a tiny matter for us, of course, as to whether we feel we need additional information on it. But just to repeat just because something isn't listed in the in the initial assessment of prejudicial is not do stress. The word initial assessment does not mean it will not be considered that in the public sector equality duties and things like that are all matters that the XA must address in its report to the Secretary of State

40:03

Thank you, Mr. Everton and now moving on to Mr. Fishel, please.

40:16

Hi, it's David Fishel on behalf of myself and Susie official of sweet Hill Farm in in ashless. The NSC list of principal issues covers a wide range of the overall effects that concern the scheme as a whole. But I know the examining authority states, it's not a comprehensive or exclusive list of the issues and other issues will be considered. We have issues which relate to ecology, biodiversity, and the impact of the proposed onshore route, which to some extent, are covered by the end of item six in Annex C, where it says the scale and significance of potential construction and operational effects of the proposal on priority habitats and species, when we looked at the agenda for the issue specific hearing, there, really, it's not without it being carried forward into that agenda. So we'd like to make sure that we get a chance to speak under an item in the issue specific hearing that relate to those those aspects that don't tend to get picked up in your issue specific agenda. I don't think we need to say any more detail at this stage, because we can cover the detail either the open floor hearing or the issue specific hearings. But we just want to make make the point there are more site specific environmental and ecological matters that are currently covered in Annex C and the agenda for the for the issue specific hearing. And we just hope you could make time for that to be dealt with at an appropriate time in tomorrow's meeting.

42:02

Okay, thank you for those points, and the examining authority has noted them. Okay, thank you. Is there anybody else? Who would wish to speak on this agenda item today? Okay. Okay, thank you. So I will now pass over to the applicant to have an opportunity to speak on this item. Thank

42:28

you. Thank you, ma'am, Paul, male, for the applicant. In terms of those issues raised. The applicant, of course, has no problem with any of those issues being examined during the course of the examination. And indeed, we'd urge you to make sure that the examination was was as wide as possible. In order to consider all concerns how you do that, of course, is a matter for for yourself. There was just one item I wanted to raise specifically under this agenda item which concerns the relationship between the principal issues that you've identified, and the Examination Process Tracker that the examining authority has requested and that the applicant has submitted a draft of the the pre examination procedural deadline. Now, the applicant This is a novel document as far as the applicant is aware. Now, the applicants approach to identifying the issues in that document is to take the principal issues that you've identified in Annex C as sort of principle headings, and then we'll envisage identifying sub issues under those principle headings. So it was firstly to inquire whether that was an acceptable way of structuring that document. And then also to request if you add additional issues, which you consider to be principal issues as we go along, that you would wish to be covered, say under those principle

headings in that tracker document, it will be helpful to us to flag them so that we can give you what you want. We're about

44:09

to cover that on the next item. Apologies.

44:15

That's all I have done. So thank you.

44:22

Okay, so thank you. Are there any other interested parties who wish to speak this agenda item? I can't see any hands up online. Okay. So it just remains for me to close off the agenda item by thanking you for your contributions. And I will now hand over to Dr. Morgan for Item four on the agenda.

44:43

Thank you, Mrs. Below. Can I please ask that you now turn to Annex D of the real six letter which is PD dash 006 Annex D six.

44:55

Dr. Morgan, do you want to speak closer into the microphone?

44:58

Sorry, I do apologise

45:02

But I mean closer to you.

45:03

Yeah, sorry. Can you hear me now? Okay, can I please ask that you now turn to Annex D of the rule six letter which is p d dash 006. Now Annex D sets out the procedural decisions that the examining authorities made between our appointment by the Secretary of State to examine this application and the publication of the rule six letter. I don't intend going through these in detail. However, I would like to make some remarks on specific items before inviting questions or comments. With regard to procedural decision number one, which was additional submissions, examining authority you'd like to thank the applicant for submissions relating to the number and dimensions of wind turbine generators. We don't wish to actually say anything further on this now. As you will note, this is an agenda item for tomorrow's issue specific hearing. We're moving on to number two, which was the lands right track rights tracker, the examining authority like the applicant note that what was submitted at the pre examination deadline on the 16th of January, really didn't meet our expectations. The objective our procedural decision to request that the applicant produces or lands right tracker was to obtain information on all non agreed land rights in a simple tabular format, allowing the information to be searched easily by both the examining authority and ultimately the Secretary of State. This is why the suggested format shared with the applicant use Excel with this inbuilt functionality to search and display information in many different ways. Passing for this information is part of a trial, the planning inspectorate is conducting and the

examining authority understands that another applicant, on another project taking part in this trial has been much more successful in meeting the brief and adding real value to the planning Inspectorate suggested format, and producing improved tracker in an Excel environment. So therefore, we request that the applicant revisits its submission in light of these comments, and submits a revised lands, right, Tracker a deadline to now while I'm on the topic of lands rights, I just like to add that the examining authority is expecting substantial progress to be made on negotiations before the next deadline, and then between subsequent deadlines. So we're very keen for you to note that, and we look forward to seeing that progress. With regard to number four statements of common ground, we note that Historic England in his response to the real six letter, consider that they'd be missed off the list of statement or common grounds being prepared for the applicant, please confirm the statement of common ground will be prepared and completed with Historic England. Moving on to number five, we'd like to thank all those organisations that are completed principal areas of disagreement statements. These together with subsequent updates will be of great assistance examining authority in identifying and tracking the progress will principal issues providing a clear focus to the examination or turning to now turning to number six, examination Progress Tracker, which Mr. Male mentioned was mentioning earlier. We note the applicants comment that this is a new request, and the document is very much in his infancy. However, we consider the current version of the document is too high level and doesn't provide sufficient detail on specific issues and progress with resolving them. In addition, we note that there appears to be an error in the table, the information provided in the likely progress column against traffic and access does not appear to relate to the issues raised on that topic. We request therefore, that the applicant provides a revised version of the document with more detail on specific issues and progress on a resolution deadline to so Mr. Mayor, I was asking whether that document should follow the IRP and then add further principle issues as they arise. And yes, I think that's that's a reasonable approach. But as I've just pointed out, I think the documents submitted to date was too high level. We want to see a lot more detail on what the issue is, and efforts being made to resolve that issue. Finally, procedural decision number eight aid invited the applicant and interested parties to submit a written statement on the implications of draft national policy statements. For the proposed development deadline one examination authority has now made a further procedural decision to request that the applicant prepares a national policy statement tracker, which sets out in tabular format, the compliance of the proposed development requirements are relevant national policy statements. And in particular, both the 2011 and 2024 versions of the overarching national policy statement for energy in dash one, and the national policy statement for renewable energy. Sorry, sorry, renewable energy infrastructure, en three, now request that the first version of this document is submitted deadline to the final version a deadline six. The applicant is advised to look at the National Policy Statement tracker prepared the size we'll see project for you to gain an appreciation of what what the examination authority requires in this regard. So that's all I was gonna say, on procedural decisions. I don't have anyone down listed. To speak on it is there anyone in the room or online would like to speak on this agenda item apart from the applicant. So I can't see anyone else in the room. I can't see anyone else online. So if I come to you, Mr. Male.

51:41

Thank you, sir. Just to pick up on a couple of points there, the applicant. Now notice your comments in relation to the land rights tracker, and also to the reference to the other projects that is producing one of these and understand that tracker should be available today, actually, I think is a direct submission, our understanding as well. So we will have a look at that and and see the approach taken. And then if there

are any issues arising, we will liaise with the case officer, I'm aware that the nature of the two projects is rather different. And potentially the amount of land interests are different because of the linear nature of this project. And really the concerns that we raised and the reasons why the applicant proposed the format that it did, were really related to the functionality of Excel, the amount of information that it contained the ability to split and merge cells and maintain filtering within within a particular row. And the amount of text that could be contained within within each individual text box. And we're very mindful that the information submitted needs to be available and accessible to all interested parties in the examination as well. So that was one of our major concerns. But but we'll we'll take it away, we'll review the the document that's about to be submitted. And and we'll make some further comments noting, noting what you had to say, I'm by no means an Excel aficionado. So I will have to rely on what others say to me on that point. In terms of statements of common ground with Natural England, the applicant has a meeting set up with Natural England to discuss that amongst other things, and so and so that will that will be progressed. Comments are noted to on the examination Progress Tracker. And I think they will the applicant would envisage that further detail would be would be added to to identify those those sub issues with the level of granularity that the examining authority is anticipating as the examination moves, moves forward. Lastly, as well on the track or on the on the MPs, that's something that can also be worked up. I did have one additional item from those procedural decisions which concerned the item nine, which was the itinerary for the accompany site visit. I don't know whether that's something that you're going to come on to separately or whether I can take that point now.

54:29

Yes, I think I think we can take that point. Now. We've looked at all the suggested sites and locations for the ASI. And we were making a direction to you as the applicant in the rule eight letter about the itinerary. So there'll be further detail on the ASI in the late letter, which will come out shortly.

54:55

Thank you very much. So we'll wait for that then. Thank you That's all I had under under that agenda item.

55:03

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Male. Anyone else have any comments on the procedural decision? Part of the agenda? Yes. Can you say can you say your name please take Mrs. Smith have space for first.

55:22

Yes, please.

55:24

Sorry, Mira Smethurst. For California rampion. It's just a quick thing about tracking. Even if it means to documents, when rampion submit revised documents, please can always be a tracked changes document, it will be so much easier to catch up on the changes. And in the case of documents, which are largely maps, if perhaps at the beginning of the document, you could just say, which maps contain the changes or if they all do what the changes are. Thank you. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Smith. Yes, that's noted. Thank you. Robert Crawford. Clark, on behalf of Mr. Fisher,



56:07

just on the point about the accompany site visit, just point of clarification. I did submit a request for an accompany type visit to switch Hill Farm, where we be advised whether that request is being granted at some point when when will we know? And so, as I explained to Mr. Male, the examining authority has looked at all the requested locations for asis and sort of made a bit of a shortlist based on whether it's accessible to do was a complete site inspection, or whether we need to access private land. And we've given some guidance to the applicant in the rule, a letter that will surely be submitted, that sets out those areas that we'd like to look at, for the applicant to actually generate an itinerary. So shortly after, today, you should see the rule eight letter, and you'll have that clarification. Thank you. Is there anyone else that's got any comments on this agenda item? No, I can't see anyone in the room or anyone online. I'll therefore hand over to Mr. O'Sullivan, for item five.

57:21

Thank you. And can I ask that you please turn to Annex II of the rule six letter, which is PD 006, which is the examination authorities draft timetable. I've assume that you've all read the draft timetable, and the addendum to the agenda that was issued last week. I don't intend to read the the whole of the dress draft timetable out to you. The examining authority has attempted to reduce the number of deadlines and submissions to allow greater time for resolution of matters and to reduce the number of draft documents in the examination. Please note the open floor hearing this afternoon. And the first issue specific hearing on environmental matters starting tomorrow. Please also note the local impact report deadlines for deadline one on the 28th of February and the second set of hearings to commence on week commencing the 13th of May. And the potential for a third set of hearings week commencing the 22nd of July. The time for the submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is 2359 of the relevant deadline date. late submissions will only be accepted at the discretion of the examining authority. The examining authority has a duty to end the examination at 2359 on Tuesday the sixth of August. Many interested parties to have responded requesting that deadline for Thursday the 18th of April, they moved to Tuesday the 30th of April to allow for the Easter holidays. The examining authority is mindful also mindful of the applicants concerns over deadline free and the time to respond to deadline to so the examining authority proposes the following changes which were set as an addendum to the issue specific agendas last week. So deadlines wanting to propose to be merged with a new date of Wednesday. The 28th. So Wednesday the 28th of February, which is three weeks, 21 days from today. Deadline three becomes deadline two, and is moved to Wednesday the 20th of March, again, three weeks, 21 days on deadline one, the publication of written questions. The first set is moved to Wednesday, the third of April and is after the Easter holidays. Deadline for now becomes deadline three, and is moved to Thursday, the 25th of April, again, over three weeks from the written questions. All of the other deadlines are in numbered, but there are no other changes proposed.

1:01:02

I can see that. Aaron, District Council wanted to speak on this item. So can I ask our in District Council? Yes. So the points that they wish to make on on this particular item? Yes.

1:01:21

Sorry, I didn't react quickly enough. During the introductions to remove the request to speak. We welcome the changes that have been made to the timetable.



1:01:33

Thank you. Thank you for that. Is there anyone else who wants to any other interested party who wants to speak on this agenda item?

1:01:46

Thank you, Thompson. Lester Aldridge can just clarify whether the compulsory purchase hearing will be on the 17th of may.

1:02:11

You will see that there will there there will be I mean, obviously it's open to you to request a compulsory acquisition hearing and for one to be held. But I think the XA is very likely to hold a compulsory action hearing at that date. The dates which is set out I think it's likely and I do want to exercise some caution here, that it would probably be the Tuesday the 21st of May, that the compulsory acquisition hearing would be held as opposed to the the previous week, which we may allow for the company site inspection and the issue specific hearing. That's that's obviously going to be dependent on the issues that we wish to discuss at the hearing. It's another thing so I think the pencilled in date is the second the following Tuesday, but it that may or may change, but it's likely to be the Tuesday the 21st. I would think here. Thank you, sir.

1:03:17

Did the applicant wish to make any points on this, this item?

1:03:23

Thank you very much there pull mail for the applicant. The applicant welcomes those timetable changes and has nothing more to say in terms of the dates. There was one additional item which the applicant wanted to suggest which related to the section 106 agreement, which is currently down for item and 20 right at the end of the agenda. Now the applicants pre examination procedural deadline response indicated that no section 106 was was currently drafted nor anticipated, but that shouldn't necessarily be taken as a flat No, there won't be one. And indeed, it's the applicant currently discussing potential section 106 matters with various interested parties and so, it may be prudent within the timetable to include the submission of related details at appropriate points, so that they can be examined within within the examination and I would potentially suggest an update on any proposed heads of terms for Section 106 agreement being given it was deadline for but now deadline three and then a draft of any agreement that deadline five now deadline for

1:04:50

Yes, thank you Mr. Manoj that I think that would be very, very helpful. Of course the agenda item does say if required. I know the applicant was was suggesting in previous communications that they may not be completing mono six agreements. So it is there as an if required that if they are that you would submit them in the final deadline. I will of course, I'll come on to this a little bit in tomorrow's opening for the issues because it hearing, but under the DCO part of the agenda tomorrow or Thursday or Friday, I will be asking you a question about section 106 agreements. So perhaps you can expand on that point a little bit more at that at that point then.

1:05:34

Thank you, Mr. Mal. If there's no other interested parties who want to make any comments, then thank you for those comments and just confirm that the rule eight letter that will confirm the draft timetable will be issued as soon as possible after this meeting. We now move on to Agenda Item number six.

1:06:02

Thank you. This is the any other business part of the agenda. So I'll go directly to Mr. Etherton. I think he's the only person who's registered speak against this item, Stetson. Cuz you get the microphone. Sorry.

1:06:17

Sorry, I've got no data points to raise. Okay, sir.

1:06:20

Thank you. Does anybody else wants to say anything else? I'll come to the applicant last. Yes. Any other party wants to say anything under any other businesses, I look to draw this meeting to a close. No one in the room. Can't see anyone online either with hands up. So I'll ask. Mr. Male, do you want to stay any other business that you have?

1:06:47

Yes, thank you, Sir Paul, male for the applicant. It was simply to raise a couple of points in order to ensure the smooth running of the issue specific hearing. When we get there, obviously, there's quite a large applicant team that's involved in speaking to those agenda items. And so we split the logistics for the arrival of those teams according to the agenda of the issues specific hearing. So the the onshore experts as it were will be will be present tomorrow. But the offshore experts won't be available until Thursday morning. So if we do finish onshore tomorrow, we won't be able to get to offshore because those parties weren't weren't have arrived yet. And then in connection with items on those offshore agenda items. The the item of commercial fisheries was added to the agenda that was published last week that wasn't anticipated to be covered in in the agenda that was contained within the rule six letter. So the applicants commercial fisheries team, I'm afraid we're only available between 930 and 1030 on Thursday, and they can only join virtually. So if the agenda could possibly be adapted to accommodate that we'd be grateful. Alternatively, we may have to take questions away and and answer them in in writing. And just in terms of that running order, as well, because there's a potential overlap between commercial fisheries issues and shipping and navigation issues. It might be beneficial to you to adapt the agenda to take both of those items sequentially, at the start of Thursday.

1:08:35

Noted Thank you, I can rest assured that we will be a journeying after the onshore elements tomorrow. In order for offshore to be done on Thursday. I think that that that's taken as given. So rest assured that we won't we won't suddenly rock on to the offshore art matters on tomorrow. So with the other item on the tweaking the agenda, yes, we will consider that overnight, and we'll we'll possibly have an update for that for you tomorrow. What just while I'm on that point as well. In opening tomorrow, I will obviously

read out the agenda and confirm that. I'll also when I come to talk about the development consent order, I will also set out hopefully helpfully to you the areas I want to cover. So that would give you some at least some advanced warning of what I want to talk about the following day. So

1:09:30

very grateful for that, sir. Thank you. Okay,

1:09:32

thank you. Are there any other matters? Yes, that's the highlight.

1:09:42

Thank you sir Marshall for national highways. I noticed tomorrow for the Asia Pacific there is a agenda item for national highways issues. We are assuming that to cover all the issues concerning the SRN. There may be other other agenda items which there may be an indirect indirect impact on the SRN. But we're assuming that that's a job lot, so to speak. It's my understanding correct?

1:10:15

Yes, that's, that's correct. That item is really an update on national highways issues, and where you are with the applicant, basically. But yeah, you may have some comments on other agenda items to do with traffic. So yeah, that's correct.

1:10:32

Thanks, sir. Thank you.

1:10:37

Are there any other business anyone wants to raise before to say I draw the meeting to a close? No one in the room. No one online. Okay. So I will remind you that written submissions are arising out of this. And the other hearings is deadline one, which is Wednesday, the 28th of February. And I'll just remind you, again, that the recording of this meeting will be placed on the inspectors websites as soon as practicable after this meeting. Thank you very much for attending today and your participation, we will consider your responses carefully. And when we when we come to issue our rule eight letter, which will follow shortly after this meeting. I suspect in the next day or two, I think that will be published. Remind you that the examination stage begins immediately after this meeting. We start with the open floor hearings this afternoon in this room at half past two. And I hope you'll be able to join us for that. And the issue specific hearing which will take place tomorrow morning at 930. Again in this room, where we will get going on the agenda that we've had set out just leaves me again to say thank you very much for coming today and for helping us set out how we're going to examine this application. It is now 12 minutes past 11 And this meeting is closed. Thank you