



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application:	Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm
Reference:	EN010117
Time and date:	10:00 6 February 2024
Venue:	DoubleTree by Hilton Brighton Metropole, Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2FU and virtually using Microsoft Teams

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

[Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm - Project Information \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Richard Allen welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors and Claire Beloe, Richard Morgan, Joe O’Sullivan and Steven Rennie as panel members to examine the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm application.

The Examining Authority (ExA) explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 15 September 2023.

Mr Allen explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by Rampion Extension Development Limited (‘the Applicant’) before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

Mr Allen explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Audio recording

The video recording of this Preliminary Meeting is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#).

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Note](#).

4. Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further info can be found in the [Advice Note 8.4](#)

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of date and asked for any observations on them.

Arun District Council requested that employment, tourism and socioeconomics be included as an additional principal issue as current assessments focused on West Sussex wholly and there may be more impacts that haven't been identified at a District level.

Meera Smethurst, on behalf of Cowfold V Rampion, requested that noise, ecology, health and social, landscape and visual and economic impacts at Oxendine substation site were addressed as principal issues. Concerns were raised regarding sustainability and the Consultation report.

Ms Smethurst enquired whether local knowledge would be weighed equally against expert knowledge and the ExA confirmed it would consider all the evidence submitted to the examination and that a balancing exercise would be undertaken.

Mr Etherton, on behalf of Mr Dickson, requested that the Equality Act 2010 be included as a principal issue and be comprehensively addressed within the Examination.

Mr Fischel requested that site specific environmental matters were addressed, including the onshore cable route construction and operational impacts on species.

6. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations.

Procedural decisions can be found in [Annex D](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

The ExA suggested the Applicant submit a revised land rights tracker at Deadline 2 (D2) and advised that it expects substantial progress on negotiations before the next, and subsequent, deadlines.

Following concerns raised by Historic England (HE) in their submission at Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline, the ExA informed that a Statement of Common Ground with HE is required,

The ExA notified that the current version of the Examination progress tracker was too high level and didn't provide sufficient detail. The ExA advised the Applicant to submit a revised version of document with more detail on specific issues and progress on their resolution at D2.

The ExA requested that the Applicant submit a National Policy Statement (NPS) tracker in a tabular format, referencing relevant NPS 2011 and 2024 including the overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1) and the NPS for Renewable Energy infrastructure (EN-3). A draft is to be submitted at D2 and a final version to be submitted at D6.

The ExA confirmed that further detail on the Accompanied Site Inspection would be provided in the Rule 8 letter.

7. Examination Timetable

The ExA noted requests, already received in writing, to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in [Annex B](#) of Rule 6 letter and also welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

The Examination Timetable can be found in the [Rule 8](#) letter published on 7 February 2024.

The ExA flagged the deadline for Local Impact Reports at D1 and advised that second hearings would be held in the week commencing 13 May 2024, with the potential for a third set of hearings to be held in the week commencing 22 July 2024.

The ExA advised that each deadline will close at 23:59 on the relevant deadline date and late submissions would only be accepted at the discretion of the ExA. The Examination will close at 23:59 on 6 August 2024.

The ExA detailed the changes to the Examination Timetable, including the merging of D1 and D2 and movement of subsequent deadlines to accommodate for the Easter break and to allow sufficient time between each deadline.

The ExA informed that a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) would only definitely go ahead if requested by Affected Persons and D1. However, but the ExA advised that a CAH is very likely to be held in the second set of Hearings.

The Applicant informed that a s106 was not anticipated and that it was discussing potential s106 agreements. The Applicant suggested that an update on proposed Heads of Terms for a s106 agreement be submitted at D3 and a draft of the agreement submitted at D4.

Close