



Planning Inspectorate

Application by North Falls Offshore Windfarm Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the North Falls Offshore Windfarm

Agenda for Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)
Wednesday 29 January 2025

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	<p>Registration and seating available at venue from: 9.30am</p> <p>Virtual Registration Process from: 9.30am</p> <p>Hearing starts: 10.00am</p>	<p>Wivenhoe House Hotel, Wivenhoe Park, Park Road, Colchester, CO4 3FA</p> <p>by virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have preregistered</p>

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, and arrangements for the Hearing
2. Purpose of the Open Floor Hearing
3. Parties to be heard at the Open Floor Hearing
4. Responses by the Applicant
5. Close of the Open Floor Hearing

Participation, conduct and management of the Open Floor Hearing (OFH)

The purpose of the OFH is to enable any Interested Party (IP) to make spoken representations about the application directly to the Examining Authority (ExA). Each IP is entitled to make oral representations at the Hearing, subject to the ExA's power to control the Hearing. Individuals who have no formal status in the Examination may participate at the discretion of the ExA.

Participation by speakers

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing, who has not already advised the Case Team of this, should do so as soon as possible. You should indicate whether you intend to participate in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams by emailing the case team on NorthFalls@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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

Each IP/ other participant who has indicated a wish to speak will be invited in turn to make their points to the ExA. The ExA will provide speaking time of up to **10 minutes** for each individual and **15 minutes** for those speaking on behalf of organisations, groups, or representatives of a number of individual IPs. Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing by the particular participant. However, representations made at the hearing should not simply repeat matters previously covered in a written submission, but rather provide further detail, explanation, and evidential corroboration to help inform the ExA.

Following each submission, the ExA may wish to ask the speaker questions about matters arising from their oral submissions.

Once you have spoken at one OFH you do not have a right to speak again at another. It is important that you use your allotted time well to communicate your messages to the ExA. The evidence presented orally at these hearings should be included in post-hearing submissions and submitted at Procedural **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 18 February 2025)**.

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

If, once the hearing has opened, there are no parties wishing to make oral submissions either virtually or in person, then the hearing will be closed. **IPs should be aware that there may not be another OFH held during the Examination.**

The Applicant

The Applicant will attend for the purpose of listening to the submissions of IPs and providing any points of clarification requested by the ExA. The Applicant will be invited to respond to matters raised and to questions arising from the ExA either orally after all IPs and Non-IPs have spoken, or in writing by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 18 February 2025)**.

Registration Process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a Joining Instruction email shortly before the Hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the Hearing to start on time at **10.00am** those attending virtually should join promptly at **9.30am** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the Registration Process in good time.

Procedure at OFH

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

Furthermore, the ExA may refuse to hear evidence which is, in its view, irrelevant, vexatious, or frivolous; relates to the merits of a National Policy Statement; repeats other representations already made or relates to compensation for compulsory acquisition of land or an interest in or over land. Additionally, the ExA may request any person behaving in a disruptive manner to leave the hearing, or to remain only if that person complies with specified conditions.