



Hearing Transcript

Project:	North Falls Offshore Wind Farm
Hearing:	Preliminary Meeting (PM) - Part 1
Date:	28 January 2025

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:05:16 - 00:00:06:29

Good morning everyone.

00:00:08:15 - 00:00:09:09

Excuse me.

00:00:12:12 - 00:00:48:14

Good morning everyone. It's 10:00 and time for this meeting to begin. I'd like to welcome you all to this preliminary meeting, which is being held with. In connection with the application made for the North Walls Offshore wind farm project. Before I go any further, can I just get everyone to confirm that they can hear me clearly? Perhaps someone from the back could give a wave. Thank you. Can I also confirm with the case manager, Miss Allen, that the live streaming and recording of this event has begun? Thank you.

00:00:48:16 - 00:01:10:18

Thank you. My name is Wendy McKay. I'm a Bachelor of Law and non-practicing solicitor, and I've been appointed by the Secretary of State to be the lead member of the panel to examine this application. I'm now going to ask my other panel members to introduce themselves to you.

00:01:13:13 - 00:01:23:27

Good morning. My name is Matthew Shrigley. I am an inspector and a chartered town planner, appointed by the Secretary of State as a member of the panel to examine this application.

00:01:27:08 - 00:01:36:22

Good morning. My name is Jonathan Medlin, and I'm a chartered town planner. I'm also appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the panel to examine this application.

00:01:39:08 - 00:01:41:21

Good morning. My name is Helen Van Willingham.

00:01:41:25 - 00:01:50:18

I am a solicitor and also a chartered town planner, and have been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the panel to examine this application.

00:01:53:26 - 00:02:03:16

Good morning. My name is Anthony Johnson. I'm a chartered civil engineer and have been appointed by the Secretary of State to be a member of the panel to examine this application.

00:02:05:15 - 00:02:18:06

Thank you. Together, we constitute the examining Authority, and we've been appointed to examine, report and make a recommendation on this application to the Secretary of State.

00:02:20:08 - 00:02:54:28

Now, the initial examination proposals were sent out in the rule six letter dated 10th December 2024, inviting you to this meeting. We will be following the agenda and referring to the annexes attached to that letter. This meeting provides you with an opportunity to influence the way in which the examination will proceed. However, before we go further, there are just a few housekeeping matters for those intending in person.

00:02:56:19 - 00:03:08:27

Please, could I ask you to either switch off or set all devices and phones to silent during the meeting so that participants are not disturbed by them whilst they are speaking?

00:03:11:07 - 00:03:19:06

Now you will have seen as you came in the toilets that are located in the public area. Just before the entrance to this room,

00:03:21:03 - 00:03:58:16

I'm told that there is no fire alarm testing scheduled during the meeting today. Therefore, if the fire alarm does sound, please leave the building by the nearest clear exit and do not re-enter until instructed to do so by staff. The assembly point is on the sunken lawn, or there is an alternative muster point in the main car park opposite the front entrance. Can I ask if there is anyone present who would need assistance in the event of a fire or other emergency.

00:04:03:09 - 00:04:14:23

A short mid-morning break will be taken at around 1130. And a longer lunchtime break will be taken at around 1:00. If the meeting is not concluded by that time.

00:04:16:27 - 00:04:32:19

Could I also ask virtual attendees not to use the teams chat? You can draw our attention by raising a virtual hand, and that's the way in which you should communicate and not use the teams chat.

00:04:34:13 - 00:04:58:13

I aim to keep proceedings as focused and efficient as possible to assist this. We issued annex six to our rules. Annex B to our rule six letter. That annex sets out an introduction to the preliminary meeting process. We trust that you have all read this in advance, as I will only be providing a summary now.

00:05:00:23 - 00:05:26:21

You will find the information about this application on the Planning Inspectorate National Infrastructure Planning website, and we would strongly encourage you to familiarise yourself with

this website, because the examining authority will be using it to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the examination.

00:05:28:22 - 00:05:51:17

Today's meeting is being undertaken in a hybrid way, meaning some of you are present with us at the meeting venue and some of you will be joining us virtually using Microsoft Teams. However, whichever way that you are attending today, you will be given a fair opportunity to take part.

00:05:53:20 - 00:06:28:08

Now, a recording of today's meeting will be available on the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm section of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the meeting is finished. Please, therefore, ensure that you speak clearly into the microphone stating your name and who you are representing each time before you speak. That will make it easier for people to follow the recording of the meeting after the event.

00:06:29:29 - 00:06:57:27

Those present will see that there is an on off button on the tabled microphones. If you could please ensure that your microphone is on only when you are speaking. It's on when the red light is showing. If you are not at a table with a microphone. There is a roving microphone. So please wait for one of these to be brought to you before you speak.

00:07:01:01 - 00:07:31:25

A link to the planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice was provided in our rule six letter. We assume that everybody here today has familiarized themselves with this document, which establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in data protection laws. Please speak to the case manager, Miss Allen, if you have any questions about this.

00:07:34:01 - 00:07:51:20

This meeting will follow the agenda as set out in annex A to the rule six letter. It would be helpful if you had a copy of this in front of you. The case team have copies of the agenda if you need them, and one can be displayed on the screen if necessary.

00:07:53:08 - 00:08:24:28

Now let me briefly explain the purpose of this preliminary meeting. The purpose of this morning's meeting is to assist the examining authority in determining how the application should be examined on that basis. We will only be inviting discussion about the procedural aspects of this examination. Considering such matters, the hearings which need to be held, and the overall timetable of events and written submissions.

00:08:26:13 - 00:08:50:11

The purpose of this meeting is not to discuss either the merits or any concerns you may have regarding the application. The merits or concerns can only be considered once the examination of the application begins, Gains, which will be the day after the close of the preliminary meeting.

00:08:52:29 - 00:09:25:21

A number of interested parties have notified us in advance of the meeting that they wish to speak. I will now ask those people who wish to participate in today's meeting to introduce themselves in turn. When I state your organization's name, could you introduce yourself stating your name, who you represent and which agenda item you wish to speak on? If you are not representing an organization, please confirm your name.

00:09:26:11 - 00:09:39:14

Summarize your interest in the application and confirm the agenda item upon which you wish to speak. Please, could everybody also state how they wish to be addressed?

00:09:41:00 - 00:09:44:28

I'll start with the applicant who will be representing the applicant today.

00:09:46:27 - 00:10:17:12

Good morning. My name is Claire Broderick. I'm a legal director at Pinsent Masons, solicitors for the applicant North Wales Offshore Wind Farm Limited. I can be referred to as Miss Broderick. I'm joined by various members of the applicant team today who I'll ask to introduce themselves. Um, we will be primarily speaking in relation to item number four, but happy to answer any questions or contribute to any other agenda item.

00:10:17:15 - 00:10:18:03

Thank you.

00:10:19:04 - 00:10:24:24

Thank you. Could I just confirm your surname is Broderick? Is that Broderick? Broderick.

00:10:24:26 - 00:10:27:23

Broderick. Thank you. Thank you.

00:10:30:16 - 00:10:43:05

Good morning. Panel. My name is Gary McGovern. I'm a partner at Pinsent Masons LLP. Solicitors for the applicant. I'm very happy to be addressed as Mr. McGovern. Thank you.

00:10:46:24 - 00:10:56:07

Good morning. My name is Danny Harper. I'm a chartered surveyor. I'm the consensus manager for North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited. Thank you.

00:10:58:23 - 00:11:11:25

Good morning. Panel. My name is Andy Payne. I'm the project director for North Falls Offshore wind farm. I'm a chartered engineer and fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. I'm happy to be addressed as Mr. Payne.

00:11:15:06 - 00:11:26:22

Good morning. My name is David Reed. I'm the engineering manager for North Falls. I am a chartered electrical engineer with the Institute of Engineering and Technology. And I'm happy to be addressed as Mr. Reed. Thank you.

00:11:28:13 - 00:11:30:11

Thank you. And that concludes your team.

00:11:32:09 - 00:11:43:12

Right. I'll now move on to the local authorities that have given notice of their intention to speak. I'll begin with Suffolk County Council, who's representing Suffolk County Council today.

00:11:43:27 - 00:12:11:09

Good morning ma'am. Um, my name is Isaac Nunn. I'm a chartered town planner working for Suffolk County Council. Um, I'm joined by my colleague, Mr. Graham Granby. Um, also a charter town planner, and he's the national infrastructure development manager at Suffolk County Council. Um, I would like to speak on agenda item three. And Mr. Gumbby would like to speak on agenda items four and seven. Thank you.

00:12:13:02 - 00:12:13:23

Thank you.

00:12:15:18 - 00:12:18:11

And Tendring District Council.

00:12:19:11 - 00:12:40:15

Uh good morning panel. My name is Jacob Pajama. I'm a chartered, uh, town planner working for Tendring District Council, and I'm representing Tendring District Council. Uh, I'm happy to be referred to as Mr. Yarmouth. And, uh, depending on the nature of the discussions, I may wish to speak on items three and six. Thank you.

00:12:45:03 - 00:12:56:01

Thank you, Mr. Yasmineen. Please. Please do correct me if I mispronounce your your your name later on. Um, Essex County Council.

00:12:57:28 - 00:13:25:16

Ma'am. Thank you. Um, and good morning to both yourself and the remainder of the panel. My name is Mark wood. I'll spell it for you, ma'am. It's w w d g e r. I'm a charter town planner, and my job title is. I'm a principal planner working on national strategic infrastructure projects. And you can refer to me as Mr. Walker. I have two of my colleagues with me today, ma'am, and I'll ask them to introduce themselves to you. Thank you.

00:13:29:03 - 00:13:34:07

Good morning. Carol Wallace. Um, principal planner of Essex County Council. Thank you.

00:13:37:00 - 00:13:40:19

Good morning, Eleanor Storey, senior planner, Essex County Council.

00:13:45:13 - 00:14:16:21

Right. Thank you. I think that covers all the local authorities. Unless I've overlooked one. Or there's another one here. Um, if I now move on to other organizations and individuals that have given notice of their intention to speak, we had been notified that Harwich Harbour Fishermen's Association were going to speak today, but they are, uh, not coming. Today I'm informed, but will be attending later events.

00:14:18:03 - 00:14:20:21

Um, so I also have

00:14:22:07 - 00:14:24:16

Thomas Fairley, is that correct?

00:14:27:13 - 00:14:42:15

Thank you. Good morning. Uh, Thomas Fairley, Mr. Fairley, representing T Fairley and Sons Limited. Um, I don't think I should have too much to say today, but I'm happy to contribute. Um, if that's required. Thank you.

00:14:43:19 - 00:14:51:02

Thank you, Mr. Fairlie. And I did. Have you. You had sort of noted you wanted to speak on item seven. AOB.

00:14:53:13 - 00:14:58:25

Thomas. Fairly, fairly. Uh, that was just a tick. A box on the website.

00:15:00:20 - 00:15:07:01

Thank you. Thank you. Well, you may you may want to raise something by the time we get there.

00:15:12:21 - 00:15:20:21

Right. I also had Councillor Zoe Fairley um, down as may attend virtually. But you're here.

00:15:21:06 - 00:15:22:15

I am, thank you. Good morning.

00:15:22:17 - 00:15:37:05

Everyone. Um, my name is Zoe Fairley. I am district councillor, Tendring district councillor for Ardley and Little Bromley, and I am also with another hat on interested party in terms of t family and sons. So I will just be observing today. Not speaking. Thank you.

00:15:37:19 - 00:15:38:11

Thank you.

00:15:42:25 - 00:15:51:24

Right. So I would like to now ask if there is anyone else in the room who wishes to speak today.

00:15:55:05 - 00:16:17:09

No, I have no hands up there. Right. In that case, I will move on to virtual attendees. Um, if you're with us on Microsoft Teams today, uh, please, could you raise a virtual hand, and I will invite you to introduce yourself. And again, please let us know the item on which you wish to speak.

00:16:24:16 - 00:16:34:04

So I had down as, um, is Jeremy Bloom here? Anybody representing National Highways. Yes.

00:16:35:05 - 00:17:06:16

Thank you. Um. So, um. I'm here with my colleague Sarah Marshall, but Jeremy Bloom, um, representing National highways, I'm a senior, um, transport consultant and leading on the project for National Highways. Um, we may want to speak on items three and six, depending on how the discussion, um, pans out. I'm happy to be addressed as Mr. Bloom. Um, and my colleague Sarah Marshall, I introduce, um, is joining me today.

00:17:08:22 - 00:17:10:22

Sarah, if you'd like to introduce yourself.

00:17:11:21 - 00:17:12:25

Thank you. Ma'am. Uh, yes.

00:17:12:27 - 00:17:30:25

My name is Sarah Marshall, representing. I'm a senior lawyer representing National Highways. Uh, on this matter. Um, my, uh, Mr. Bloom has confirmed that we will be potentially speaking on items and gender items three and six. I'm happy to be referred to as Mrs. Marshall. Thank you. Ma'am.

00:17:32:21 - 00:17:37:03

Thank you. Uh, and is Louis Phil attending? Virtually?

00:17:39:05 - 00:18:03:27

Yes. Hello? Um, Louis. Phil, um, I'm agent acting on behalf of Stratton Parker Farms and Elliana Enterprises. Uh, who are freeholders and farmers on this route? Um, I, um, I think it would be, um, item three and six that we have comments on, I suspect.

00:18:04:26 - 00:18:20:20

Thank you. Um, I have Simon Amstell down, uh, for Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths national landscape, but I, um, understand that you don't intend to speak. If Mr. Amstell is here, perhaps he could confirm that.

00:18:26:05 - 00:18:28:06

No, I think he's, he's probably saving

00:18:30:04 - 00:18:34:28

His comments for later in the event. Chris. Krystle,

00:18:36:27 - 00:18:38:16

again, that was an observer.

00:18:40:22 - 00:18:42:21

So we have Vicki Fowler.

00:18:46:24 - 00:19:00:16

Good morning ma'am. Yes, my name is Mrs. Vicki Fowler. I'm a partner and solicitor at Gowling Wlg, and I'm here representing the Port of London Authority. And I'd potentially like to speak on items three and four.

00:19:03:04 - 00:19:03:25

Thank you.

00:19:05:22 - 00:19:08:13

And again, is Lucy Owen with you?

00:19:11:01 - 00:19:13:10

Uh, Miss Owen's not joining today.

00:19:14:15 - 00:19:15:03

Thank you.

00:19:18:19 - 00:19:20:26

Councillor Marianne fellows.

00:19:28:02 - 00:20:00:01

Good morning, ma'am. Uh, ladies and gentlemen, participants examining authority are very grateful for the opportunity to be with you today. Um, I'm representing over a town council, and I would wish to speak on item three. Initial assessment of principal issues. Item four. Draft examination timetable. Item six. Commonality issues. North Falls and five estuaries. And to assist yourselves. Any other business? Uh, should that be relevant? Thank you so much.

00:20:00:21 - 00:20:09:03

Thank you. And you can refer to me. You can refer to me either as Counselor Fellows or Miss Fellows, whichever is most natural and appropriate for you. Thank you.

00:20:09:14 - 00:20:11:07

Thank you. Thank you for that.

00:20:15:15 - 00:20:20:28

Um. We have. Is it bronchitis?

00:20:23:08 - 00:20:24:06

Good morning, ma'am.

00:20:24:22 - 00:20:43:13

Yes, bronchitis for baby District council. Um, I can be addressed as Miss Curtis, please. I am principal planning officer for, um Baby District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council leading on our DCO projects. And I would like to speak, um, as appropriate on items three and six. Thank you.

00:20:45:08 - 00:20:45:26

Thank you.

00:20:49:15 - 00:21:03:01

I did have her Glynnis Robertson down, but I don't see any more. Hands up. Um, have I covered everyone that's attending virtually today? Ah, yes we have. Thank you. If you could introduce yourself.

00:21:04:17 - 00:21:05:26

Uh, just putting the mic.

00:21:08:24 - 00:21:27:11

Hello. My name is Glynnis Robertson. I'm a, um, Dover, and I live in Suffolk. Um, and, uh, I'm wanting to speak on, um, items two and six. Alternatives and cumulative impact. fact, you can refer to me as Miss Robertson.

00:21:28:03 - 00:21:30:09

Thank you. Thank you very much.

00:21:32:13 - 00:21:36:18

Right. Hopefully I've covered everybody that wants to speak today.

00:21:42:04 - 00:22:07:12

Right. If anyone else does decide that they wish to speak during the course of this morning's proceedings, for example, to make comments in response to representations made by other parties, you may do so. Please raise your hand, either physically or using the function with Microsoft Teams if you wish to speak. Are there any other comments anyone wishes to make under Agenda Item one?

00:22:09:29 - 00:22:22:10

If not, that concludes that item of the agenda. Thank you. And we now turn to item two on the agenda. And I'll ask my colleague Mr. Shrigley to deal with this.

00:22:24:15 - 00:22:56:00

Thank you very much. In order to streamline the running of this event in annex B of our rule six letter, we have provided an introduction to the preliminary meeting and the examination process, explaining how it will be conducted and how you will, can participate rather. For expediency, I'm assuming that everyone has read this, and therefore I don't propose any time or to spend time repeating what is said.

00:22:56:12 - 00:23:13:00

However, it is important that you are clear in your understanding of the examination process. Therefore, if there is anything you anybody is unclear about or which you need clarification, then this is your opportunity to ask.

00:23:14:22 - 00:23:16:22

I'll just pause there for a few moments.

00:23:19:16 - 00:23:30:02

I don't think anybody wants to raise anything, But please tell me if I'm wrong. Um, with that said, I'm now going to turn to item three on the agenda.

00:23:30:04 - 00:23:46:15

Could could I just check because, um, did our last speaker mentioned she wished to, um, speak on agenda item two. If there's anybody attending virtually that wants to speak on this item, please put your hands up.

00:23:48:16 - 00:23:49:17

No. Okay.

00:23:49:19 - 00:23:54:00

Sorry, I, I misled you there. It's item is item three that I need to speak on. Thank you.

00:23:54:02 - 00:23:56:17

All right. Just checking. Thank you very much. Thank you.

00:23:57:09 - 00:24:07:02

Okay. Um, yes. So, um, with that said, I'm going to turn to item three on the agenda and ask my colleague, Mr. Madelin to deal with this. Thank you.

00:24:10:12 - 00:24:49:00

Thank you. So, similarly to the previous agenda item in annex C of the rule six letter, all details were provided of our initial assessment of the principal issues. This is sometimes referred to as IRP. Initial the acronym for Initial Assessment of Principal issues, those of which we will be considering during the examination. We are again proceeding on the assumption that everyone has read this. I would like to reiterate that the issues listed in annex are not intended to be a comprehensive, definitive, or exhaustive list.

00:24:49:14 - 00:24:59:20

However, they do take account of responses in the relevant representations as well as our own assessment. From the details submitted with the application.

00:25:01:12 - 00:25:31:10

The Xa would stress that the assessment represents a snapshot in time. It provides a nonexclusive list of issues identified at the start of the pre examination period. We do recognise that additional important and relevant issues are likely to continue to emerge during the examination. The scope of

the examination will not therefore be constrained by the initial assessment. Principal issues and all important and relevant issues will be examined.

00:25:32:28 - 00:25:55:13

For these reasons, the essay does not propose to amend or republish the initial assessment, nor do we propose to go through the items in detail there clearly laid out in the letter at annex, so it may be useful if you turn to those. It's roughly page 19 of the rule six letter.

00:26:00:08 - 00:26:31:23

Based on the information set out in annex. Are there any questions about our assessment of principal issues? Bearing in mind that this meeting is about the procedure and not a time to make representations or express views on the merits of those issues. I should go first to those who've indicated in advance that they wish to speak on this agenda item. Um, during the introductions we had that Suffolk County Council may wish to speak on item three. So Suffolk County Council.

00:26:32:21 - 00:26:33:25

Thank you.

00:26:33:27 - 00:27:27:03

Sorry. Thank you sir. Um, noting what you've just said and that you don't want us to get too into the weeds of the issues. I just wanted to say that, you know, we agree with the inclusion of landscape, visual and seascape effects as, um, issue 12, in the initial assessment of principal issues, but we thought it's worth, um, clarifying. And we take that to include, um, interactions between the project and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. Um, and we think it is worth specifically um, bringing out as a principal issue um, the um, the application of the recent well, I say recently revised section 85, duty um of section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, because we think it has been underexplored in offshore wind um, examinations to date.

00:27:27:12 - 00:28:01:00

The only decision to assist the Xa um, since the duty came into force was the Sheringham and Dudgeon um extension, but that examination happened before the duty came into force. And though as far as we can see, there weren't any submissions before the examining authority. It is becoming quite an important issue in the Five estuaries um, examination. But obviously the Ukhsa can't take into account evidence an argument that has been submitted to that panel. So I just wanted to raise at this point that we think that that's a significant issue.

00:28:01:23 - 00:28:06:21

Um, that needs to be, um, borne in mind. Thank you.

00:28:09:16 - 00:28:19:10

Okay. Thank you for for that and bringing that to our attention. um, Tendring District Council. Is it Mr..

00:28:22:09 - 00:28:25:05

Jacob for Tendring district Council.

00:28:28:10 - 00:29:03:25

So at this stage we don't have any specific comments to make other than we are. We are pleased to see that the cumulative impact is a is an item on there. It is very, very important for the residents of Tendring, um, for the, the you know, the cumulative impact of all these proposals to be, to be assessed, uh, including the, um, you know, the, the sequence of the various projects, uh, in terms of where they are in the, in the, in the various stages of the process.

00:29:03:28 - 00:29:04:16

Thank you.

00:29:08:15 - 00:29:22:06

Thank you, Mr. Yazbek. Okay. Before turning to virtual attendees. Are there any other IPS within the room who wish to speak on the initial assessment of principal issues?

00:29:26:18 - 00:29:47:11

Okay, I will now bring in the virtual attendees who have introduced themselves in roughly in the order they indicated that they wish to speak on this item. I'll start with Mr. Fel. Mr. fel, if you could bring yourself on the screen.

00:29:47:13 - 00:30:22:00

Um, the, um, my client is a farmers landowners. So really, the main bits that we want to talk about is the agriculture. So this is fine, but there's not much detail in here. So things such as drainage, cable depth, uh, corridor location, um, uh, the haul road, and you talk about soil quality and ground conditions during construction, but you don't talk about it. Um, and how we monitor all that beforehand.

00:30:22:02 - 00:31:02:28

Make sure we're getting the land back. This is our primary medium for growing and making, uh, running our business, uh, which we're going to lose. Uh, a big part of, um, for flexibility. Also, from our point of view. It's not only it's the other land uses. We've got other land uses planned for this land, which is in direct conflict with the development proposals. So I'm not sure whether that where that falls under. And that's a bit of reference. One and two. Um, the thing I was slightly concerned about is that under the social economic effect, there's no reference to agricultural businesses, but there's reference to every industry that's affected by it.

00:31:03:18 - 00:31:13:06

Um, I'd like to think that there is a bit of, uh, Consideration for the effect of the agricultural businesses that are going to be massively impacted by this.

00:31:19:06 - 00:31:30:13

Okay. Thank you for those comments, which the panel will have noted. Um, certain issues do cut across various items on the IRP,

00:31:32:09 - 00:31:43:00

but I confirm that we've heard what you've said. Um, I would expect most of those issues, all of those issues to be explored during the course of the examination.

00:31:46:01 - 00:32:02:10

I think I also asked, uh, add for Mr. Fell's benefit that we have, uh, read thoroughly your representations and are aware of the issues that that you are concerned about.

00:32:04:03 - 00:32:04:19

Thank you.

00:32:07:23 - 00:32:10:27

Thank you. Okay. Um,

00:32:12:24 - 00:32:15:20

I now turn to Port of London Authority.

00:32:18:02 - 00:32:21:20

Which is finally. Will you be speaking to this?

00:32:23:02 - 00:32:55:11

I will, sir, so, yes. Mrs. Vicky Fowler, on behalf of the Port of London Authority. Um, so, sir, um, the um, Port Authority's concern was with um item six, cumulative impact. And and again, I do acknowledge the comments you've made that this is not exhaustive. Um, but particularly in relation to cumulative impacts and, um, offshore effects. Um, so, for example, where there's cable crossings with other schemes. So for example, we've got the five estuaries scheme in, in the locality and then also on shipping and navigation.

00:32:55:13 - 00:33:06:13

Again no reference to cumulative impacts in. So in terms of the impacts with other schemes. Uh should the construction periods overlap or, or in the case of cable crossings.

00:33:12:25 - 00:33:13:12

Thank you.

00:33:13:18 - 00:33:14:10

Thank you sir.

00:33:15:01 - 00:33:36:06

Okay. Yes. So is you. Six as drafted looks at all cumulative cumulative impacts of the proposed development. While shipping and navigation are not specifically listed there. They weren't identified in the environmental statement as resulting in significant cumulative effects, but they will be considered during the examination.

00:33:37:22 - 00:33:50:18

Uh, again, that there appear to be issues there which straddle items within the IRP. And we have obviously been through your representations to date.

00:33:52:24 - 00:33:53:15

Okay.

00:33:56:01 - 00:34:01:29

And now Albert Aldeburgh Town Council. Councillor. Fellows.

00:34:04:17 - 00:34:05:05

Oprah.

00:34:09:12 - 00:34:40:06

Thank you. Sir. Uh. Planning. Examining authority. Thank you. Um, I'm really procedurally pleased to hear the examining authority information that you've just shared, that you are open to emerging issues. Um, including specifically our interests around community impact, impact on communities and well-being, and principles that may actually, in fact, influence other projects in the future or concurrently.

00:34:41:17 - 00:35:20:04

A couple of specific points. I note that some interested parties have only recently been invited, and they have until deadline one, which is the 18th of February, to notify you. So there is certainly a degree of flexibility needed, because some of those parties are not present with us today and may not have identified concerns that would assist you. Local knowledge is especially important to you, I know. Secondly, the level of detail is still missing within the application, although in CIPs are supposed to be front loaded.

00:35:20:12 - 00:35:52:20

As you know, in practice, even after many rounds of consultations. Relevant information to enable town and parish councils and individuals and organizations who don't receive additional funding to engage, to take part and to understand what information you may need is quite limited. So as such, I think it's really important that moving towards statements of common ground or otherwise are given the time that they need within the examination.

00:35:53:08 - 00:36:30:24

And I understand that obviously of great relevance is written, uh, comments which you do encourage as well as appearing in person or speaking. Um, but I think there's something magic that happens when people actually listen and respond to each other in real time. That gives the confidence to communities that they are being heard through this process. So to enable matters to be resolved or mitigated or, if necessary, compensation plans to be formulated. I think there does need to be more issue specific hearing time and potentially more open floor hearings.

00:36:31:02 - 00:36:56:00

Sorry councillor fellows, we at the moment we are dealing with the agenda item three, which is the principal issues. Yes. We'll be coming on to the draft examination timetable in as the next item. And I think some of these comments in relation to hearings are more pertinent to that agenda item. So if we if we if we could bring them, bring bring you in there.

00:36:56:18 - 00:37:19:01

I'll come up. I'll come back to that then. Then, um, in terms of what I believe should be added into the timetable, I was reflecting the fact that we are at a point now where there's still some uncertainty, and I'm grateful for your ability to be able to embrace that and build that into the framework, um, recognising where we are currently.

00:37:21:16 - 00:37:23:01

Thank you. Thank you.

00:37:25:19 - 00:37:37:09

Thank you very much. Okay. Um, I've noted also, National highways may wish to speak on this item. Mr. bloom.

00:37:37:18 - 00:38:28:02

Thank you. Thank you, sir. Jeremy Bloom, representing national highways, uh, National Highways. Principal interest will be in terrestrial traffic and transportation. Uh, just to clarify, um, our interest is in, uh, only in, um, the impact during construction and specifically on the A120, which is part of the strategic road network. I just wanted to draw a particular attention to the, uh, the, uh, item that's identified on abnormal loads, because it's a very specific and unusual, um, aspect that is of concern on, on, on that issue, which is the, um, potential risk to the, um, the road surface, which is, um, you know, particularly unusual as a life expired, um, concrete surface that need replacement.

00:38:28:04 - 00:38:36:00

So it's, it's that particular issue rather than sort of general abnormal loads issues. Um, that, that we're concerned about.

00:38:39:21 - 00:38:40:08

Thank you.

00:38:42:02 - 00:38:46:07

Thank you, Mr. Bloom. Um.

00:38:48:09 - 00:38:53:08

Is Miss Curtis here from Labour District Council?

00:38:54:21 - 00:39:35:22

Yes. Thank you, Sir Bronchitis for baby. District council. Um, just wanting to draw attention to item six for cumulative effects and, um, inviting the Xa to ensure that the, um, the application documents include reasonably foreseeable developments and all aspects of those reasonably foreseeable developments, such as pylons. And also to reiterate the comments from my colleague from Suffolk County Council regarding item 12 and inviting the Xa to ensure that the there is appropriate assessment of the effects on the setting of the national landscape and how the um applicant intends to discharge their statutory duty.

00:39:35:24 - 00:39:36:10

Thank you.

00:39:40:18 - 00:39:41:16

Thank you very much.

00:39:44:29 - 00:39:45:25

Miss Curtis.

00:39:51:18 - 00:39:58:03

Do you. Any other virtual attendees wish to speak on this agenda item?

00:40:03:23 - 00:40:13:13

Ah, I have a raised hand. Apologies. I missed your change from item two to item three.

00:40:22:03 - 00:40:38:12

Hello. Hello, sir. Dennis Robertson. Hi. Um, I'm a as a an independent observer. I reside in Suffolk, and, um, we have, uh, recently gone through, um, a huge, gruelling, uh. Uh, sorry. I'm quite nervous here. So

00:40:40:04 - 00:41:10:27

we've gone through some, some grueling examinations, uh, for the DCO of Scottish powers, East Anglia, uh, one North and East Anglia two. Plus, we've also had Sizewell DCO as well, which was an enormous event that we all had to cope with as a community. Um, I would like to, um, actually talk about the fact that, uh, we were not able to discuss the cumulative effect of other, um, projects because they were not in the planning Inspectorate's website at the time.

00:41:11:03 - 00:41:41:17

They were Sealink, um, Neuralink, uh, Nautilus, um, and, uh, this, to my mind, uh, was an unfair, uh, DCO, um, examination because they weren't allowed to take these particular, um, projects into account for the cumulative effect. Now we have Sizewell, uh, doing a lot of preparatory work. We have, um, East, uh, Scottish powers doing their preparatory work for their project.

00:41:41:19 - 00:42:34:16

We have Lion Link doing their, um, uh, examination work. We have ceiling during their pre examination work. I would like to put it onto the agenda. Our principal issues that this, uh, that this particular um, examination. Take into account North Falls, five estuaries, tarpon interconnector and of course the unbuilt National grid substation ECN and consider them all within the cumulative impact. And and I would like to invite the um, the panel to actually come and see what is actually happening, the desecration of the land, uh, that is happening, the cumulative effect that is happening on the, the, um, uh, mental and wealth and well-being of the, um, the communities we've already had, uh, some fatalities.

00:42:34:27 - 00:43:14:20

And, uh, so that's really what I was, uh, wanting to to take on the cumulative effect. Um, the other, uh, issue was alternatives. Um, I was astounded at the failure of the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme. Um, I believe it's a huge step backwards for the UK, and a shocking affirmative that National Grid do not have the UK's best interests at heart. Um, in 2020, National Grid ESO report stated that

there were 2 billion savings in East Anglia alone if offshore wind was integrated offshore and a 6 billion saving nationally.

00:43:15:01 - 00:43:46:12

I would like this to be put on to the gender of the principality if possible. Uh, there is been, uh, communities, uh, advising that they could have done two pilot schemes, one, um, where it would be North Falls and five estuaries, wind farms combining with Nautilus interconnector to West Green. Um, Scottish Power's wind farms. E one and two could combine with line link interconnector going down to Bradwell on Sea.

00:43:46:22 - 00:44:20:15

Um, and we should be using brownfield sites. So the applicant has actually submitted three connection points on the DC application. A radio point to point, a co-located ducted cables with five estuaries but separate substations, and an offshore hosted by a third party. The suggestions of these three sources are the interconnectors Nautilus and Lyon link. Um, and I would like this to be seen to be discussed. Uh, um, in the principal issues for the the DCO.

00:44:21:07 - 00:44:24:09

Um, I think that's it. Thank you very much for listening to me.

00:44:26:08 - 00:44:57:29

Thank you, Miss Robertson. Um, yes. Again, these points, the examining authorities had them now made against this item as I set out at the beginning of the item. All important and relevant issues will be considered during the examination. There would be opportunities to submit those comments and and make further submissions and explore those through the examination.

00:45:00:15 - 00:45:01:00

Okay.

00:45:04:13 - 00:45:12:23

I think that was it for virtual attendees. Are there any other virtual attendees online today who would like to speak to item three?

00:45:21:16 - 00:45:33:13

Okay, I think in that case, I will just turn to the applicant and invite them to comment on anything on item three should they wish to do so.

00:45:39:27 - 00:45:55:23

A clear project for the applicant. Um, just to note that we've made a note of some of the comments that have been made today. A number of those have been made in the relevant representations that were submitted, and the applicant's response to those points will be made in writing at deadline. One thank you.

00:45:59:05 - 00:45:59:23

Thank you.

00:46:03:07 - 00:46:10:13

Okay then that concludes item three and I will hand back over to miss McKay for item four.

00:46:12:12 - 00:46:13:01

Thank you.

00:46:15:07 - 00:46:52:18

Now we'll now consider agenda item four on the agenda, namely the draft examination timetable in accordance with section 98 of the Planning Act 2008. As the examining authority, we have to complete the examination within six months, beginning with the day after the start date, which is the day on which the preliminary meeting is held. We have set out a detailed timetable in annex four of our rule six letter, which shows what is required, when and of whom.

00:46:53:03 - 00:47:25:02

Over the coming six months. It is important that everyone reviews this to ensure that any requests of you are complied with within accordance with the deadline set, as has been stated. This examination is primarily in the form of written submissions and there is little flexibility in the timetable, hence the need to meet all deadlines set, which of course includes us as examining authority.

00:47:26:15 - 00:47:51:21

You will see that there are reserve dates for a number of different types of hearings and site inspections. The details of these will be finalised with the applicants and the interested parties will be duly notified of the arrangements. We've already given notice in the rule six letter of the open floor hearing, which will be held tomorrow

00:47:53:07 - 00:48:28:00

on the basis of the information detailed in annex D. We shall now consider comments about the proposed timetable we have set out for the examination of this application. We are grateful for the comments and suggestions that have been made. I'll turn first to the timetabling of the different types of hearings that can take place, and in particular, the dates reserved for issue specific hearings and further open floor hearings if required.

00:48:28:19 - 00:48:45:13

On second and 3rd of April and week commencing 7th of April and for a compulsory acquisition hearing issue specific hearings or open floor hearings if required, during week commencing 16th of June.

00:48:47:14 - 00:49:26:08

The applicant's procedural deadline a submission points out that item ten of the draft examination timetable. That is to say, the dates reserved for issue specific hearings or a further open floor hearing during week commencing 7th of April. Fall within the Easter School holidays for Essex and submits that to ensure interested persons can attend. It may be preferable for any further open floor hearing to be scheduled during the previous week, namely on second and 3rd of April.

00:49:27:06 - 00:49:52:17

The applicant also makes the same suggestion for any compulsory acquisition hearing. However, we would point out that the draft timetable does not propose the holding of a compulsory acquisition hearing in either of those weeks. The reserve dates for a compulsory acquisition hearing being specified under item 14 during week commencing 16th of June.

00:49:55:05 - 00:50:37:24

Now the Examination Authority Examining authority was aware of, and did bear in mind any implications arising from the timing of the school holidays when preparing the draft timetable. And we do, of course, recognise the additional demands this could place upon those with families wishing to take part in the process. However, the flexibility of the timetable is constrained to some extent by the fixed statutory examination period and the need to provide reasonable notice of hearings and other timings for the receipt and Some consideration of documentation.

00:50:38:17 - 00:51:15:16

The hearing dates proposed for week commencing 7th of April reflect those factors and the need to allow time for the deadline two and three documentation to be fairly considered before those hearing dates, so that the best and most efficient use may be made of hearing time. We would also reiterate the representations made in writing carry equal weight to oral representations at all stages of the process, and that recordings of hearings will be made available after the event.

00:51:17:05 - 00:51:53:05

The open floor hearing agenda did state that interested parties should be aware that there may not be another open floor hearing held during the examination. That said, there is an opportunity within the timetable for any further open floor hearing if required to be held during the week commencing 16th of June alongside any compulsory acquisition hearing. And whilst we will give consideration to all submissions made on this topic, that would seem to be the most appropriate timing for such an additional event.

00:51:53:16 - 00:52:06:05

With the April weeks utilised solely for issue specific hearings so I could turn to Miss Broderick. Would that resolve your concerns in that respect?

00:52:07:10 - 00:53:21:02

Claire Broderick, the applicant? Yes. Thank you for taking into account our submissions. I think, um, reserving, um, the week commencing the 16th of June for a potential further open floor hearing, should it be requested? Um, removes the concerns we potentially had about people not being able to attend. Um, it also, um, by allowing time, um, in the week of the 2nd of April to concentrate on issue specific hearings. The applicant would like to request, if at all possible, that onshore environmental topics are considered during that week, as we have been informed that a number of our experts who drafted the relevant environmental statement chapters are not available in the week of the 7th of April, and that includes landscape, traffic, noise and health particularly so if it is at all possible when you are finalising the agendas for those issues, specific hearings to have the onshore topics on those matters on the 2nd or 3rd of April, that would be very much appreciated by the applicants team.

00:53:21:04 - 00:53:43:25

We have also checked with the venue and the Friday, the 4th of April is available should you wish to reserve the morning of the Friday as. As time in case those issues specific hearings run over so that we would be able to finalize any topics that are being discussed on the second and 3rd of April. Thank you.

00:53:44:04 - 00:53:48:08

That's really helpful. Thank you. In terms of

00:53:49:26 - 00:54:08:08

ecology and, you know, offshore ecology and all the the sort of navigation, shipping and fisheries, those are topics that your witnesses would or experts would be available for the following week.

00:54:09:06 - 00:54:20:14

Uh, Claire, for the applicant. Yes. That's correct. It's just those topics that I mentioned in relation to onshore environmental matters, where, um, where we were struggling to have expert availability.

00:54:21:09 - 00:54:39:14

Thank you. Oh. Thank you. That's helpful. Um, can I turn to the local authorities and just check if they have any comments in relation to those reserved hearing dates and the events that they should accommodate. No thank you.

00:54:41:13 - 00:54:46:02

Uh, councillor Marianne Fellows, if I could bring you back in on this topic.

00:54:46:12 - 00:54:50:06

Excuse me, madam, I think. Essex County. All right. I'm sorry. Okay. Thank you.

00:54:50:08 - 00:54:50:26

Sorry I.

00:54:50:28 - 00:55:15:01

Looked. Thank you. Ma'am. Ma'am. Would you assist county council? Uh, we would support the applicant's comments that onshore should be should be dealt with, if at all possible in the first week in April, please. Obviously, as it school holidays affects, um, certain members of staff and not others. We will be able to, um, um, provide attendance at both, but it would make absolute sense to me if we went down that route. Thank you.

00:55:15:08 - 00:55:28:11

Thank you. Thank you. That's useful to know. Right. Anyone else in the room wants to comment on hearing dates or the topics they should a compass.

00:55:30:14 - 00:55:38:24

No. In that case, I'll go to our virtual attendees and councillor fellows first.

00:55:43:05 - 00:56:17:15

Thank you ma'am. And, uh, examining authority. So, foreshadowing any difficulties I may have in speaking to you today and in the future hearings. I just wanted to thank you for your patience, and perhaps to say that it's more difficult to engage with this process. And I may not be as eloquent or as calm as yourself. Um, you know, it is something I don't do every day, but I recognize the importance of engaging with you to assist your proceedings.

00:56:18:00 - 00:56:51:11

And wanted to apologize if we stray into things that are not, you know, as as I say, as succinct as you She may explain them. I also wanted to note the small number of people engaging today, both physically and virtually, with this process, compared to other experiences I have had of these projects, and it does concern me the level of awareness. And so that's why I would say that open floor hearings especially, are important to make time for.

00:56:51:13 - 00:56:59:16

And I welcome the later date of the 16th of June, although I recognize it is quite late in the process should anything.

00:57:01:25 - 00:57:40:18

Brand new occur for yourselves to then deal with and research. I understand the difficulty you have in balancing what you have to achieve within six months, and I'm a bit horrified that the government is proposing to seek to reduce these hearings to four months, actually. But I would request that if at all possible, you could allocate time for open floor hearings with regard to issue specific hearings. As other other colleagues have already explained or expressed, I won't repeat what people have already said about cumulative impact and national landscapes within Suffolk as well and things like that.

00:57:40:23 - 00:58:17:24

But, um, the, the two that I would like to you to put some focus towards, if possible, is the importance of the deed of obligation and the formation of that. So in the timetable we talk about the DCO. But my experience of the DCO for Scottish Power, Renewables, East Anglian one, North East Anglian two and Sizewell C leaving them now post-approval is how much doesn't get into the deed of obligation.

00:58:17:26 - 00:58:58:16

That then becomes a problem for communities, for the applicant, for those that have to monitor and enforce the deed of obligation. Going through the DCO, we thought it was a sort of work in progress. What is very clear is that as soon as something is approved, that deed of obligation virtually stops and there's very limited opportunity to change anything. So I'd like to raise publicly for everyone taking part today and watching in the future that actually these hearings are even more important than you think they are.

00:58:59:10 - 00:59:36:28

It's not about blocking or preventing. It's about making the applications the best they can be and to limit any negative impacts as much as possible. And so I think there has to be mention of the deed of obligation. And the items that go into that do need to have some time to be examined or explored or made clear to everybody. Then the other one is how the new design guidance for National Strategic Infrastructure Projects, which has only recently come out this year.

00:59:37:09 - 01:00:07:20

How that will change. Uh, items within the infrastructure proposed. And although there is a issue specific hearing on design, there is more in that design guidance that talks about how communities should be involved, for example, in shaping that design. So this is the first hearing I'm aware of or that I'm able to participate in that's happened post the publication of that new design guidance.

01:00:08:09 - 01:00:12:03

So, um, I'm grateful for your consideration of those. Thank you.

01:00:15:13 - 01:00:48:18

Thank you. Um, councilor fellows, uh, and, uh, And if I may say, you always make your points clear at all times. So thank you for for taking part. I would also mention that I did speak earlier and mentioned that we are holding an open floor hearing tomorrow. Uh, very early in the examination process to cover the aspect that you mentioned that, you know, we wish to get as many views as possible at the outset.

01:00:48:27 - 01:00:57:27

But as I say, we do have the reserve date for later on. Uh, should other people give notice of their intention that they wish to speak to an open floor hearing?

01:01:03:07 - 01:01:12:22

Can I just check if there are any other speakers, uh, attending virtually, that wish to comment on the aspect of hearings?

01:01:19:20 - 01:01:59:11

Right. I don't have any more. So I will now move on to some of the written submission dates. Um, we have previously made a procedural decision. I'll now seek comments on the deadlines proposed in our procedural decision letter. That's PD 005 of the examination. Uh library dated the 28th of November, 2024. And that's relating to the submission dates for various documents, namely, first, the preparation and submission of local impact reports by the local authorities.

01:01:59:25 - 01:02:30:09

And the date proposed for that was deadline one 18th February. The submission of updates to the Natural England principle, areas of disagreement, summary statement and the dates suggested were deadline for six and a final update at eight. And then the submission by the applicant of Alan's rights tracker and a collated national policy statement, and both of those to be at deadline one.

01:02:30:18 - 01:02:49:06

So first of all, I look at the submission date proposed for local impact reports. So I will turn to the local authorities and ask them to confirm that they have no concerns with the proposed date for that.

01:02:51:19 - 01:03:27:07

Thank you ma'am. Uh, Brian Gamby Suffolk County Council. I just want to make a sort of general point. Really. Um, we've noted the submission dates for the various documents, states, common ground, local impact reports, questions, etc. and, and obviously, um, and also in respect of the wider, you know, we've got the six months, haven't we? It's all. Um, and the difficulty in arranging, um,

hearings to suit everybody. But the backdrop to that is, is that, um, we're dependent, um, on planning performance agreements to fund our effort.

01:03:27:18 - 01:03:58:12

And, um, unfortunately, as regards this project, unlike most of the other projects we've dealt with, we're unfortunately we're not in a position we do not have a planning policy, planning performance agreement, um, with North Falls. And I think that's also true of all the other Suffolk authorities. Um, I did want to flag it at, uh, under this item. You might feel that it'd be better to explore this a little bit further under any other business. Um, or I could continue now.

01:03:59:06 - 01:04:11:19

Now, I think that's right. If you leave that for later and I'll just. We'll just concentrate on the matter in hand. So if I could just ask you to comment on the deadline for the local impact report.

01:04:12:15 - 01:04:31:21

Yeah. So, I mean, I, um, we will be endeavouring to meet that date. Um, we do note that, um, the deadlines are pretty tight. Um, but I think we'll, um, over other generally, uh, any extra time is appreciated, but we will endeavor to meet those deadlines. Thank you.

01:04:32:08 - 01:04:37:09

Thank you. And, uh, do any other local authorities want to comment? Thank you.

01:04:38:14 - 01:04:58:20

Ma'am. Thank you. Ma'am. Essex County Council. Um, this deadline obviously has been in place since the publication of the rule six letter, which is the deadline we are currently working to. Mum and, um, Essex County Council, as a matter of habit, doesn't wish the authority, the Planning Inspectorate, to extend those deadlines. So yes, we will work towards that deadline. Thank you.

01:04:58:24 - 01:05:17:12

That's helpful. Thank you. Thank you. Right. No more comments on that. Um, then the land rights tracker and MPs accordance table. I'll ask the applicant About the proposed submission date of deadline. One for those documents.

01:05:17:20 - 01:05:24:02

Miss Broderick Claire project for the applicant? Yes. The applicant is proposing to submit those documents for deadline one.

01:05:24:08 - 01:05:25:00

Thank you.

01:05:28:14 - 01:06:00:09

And then, um, finally, on the Natural England, um, principle areas of disagreement, summary statement, they're not represented to here today. However, their procedural deadline, a written submission, confirms they will submit the Risk and Issues log at deadline one, and updates to the log will be provided at subsequent subsequent deadlines. They'll also provide updates to the pads from deadline for onwards.

01:06:01:00 - 01:06:03:19

Um, so that is covered.

01:06:06:10 - 01:06:16:09

So can I just check. There are no comment. Other comments on submission dates for those documents proposed in the earlier procedural decision.

01:06:17:18 - 01:06:20:19

Thank you ma'am. Excuse me.

01:06:21:07 - 01:06:22:09

Ma'am?

01:06:22:11 - 01:06:23:02

Yeah. Sorry to.

01:06:23:04 - 01:06:50:08

Interrupt you. Uh, it's Curtis for baby district council. Thank you. Um, just to reiterate the comments from my colleague from Suffolk County Council, but also to recognize that deadline, one for the 18th of February, includes the initial submission by the applicant of the Statement of Common Ground, which was, uh, directed in one of the earlier letters. And whilst we have had contact with the applicant, we haven't had sight of that yet. So that adds some additional pressure, especially with that PPA established for this project.

01:06:50:24 - 01:06:57:10

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And I will be coming on to the topic of Statement of Common grounds in a moment.

01:07:00:01 - 01:07:37:15

So if I'll turn now to concerns raised in procedural deadline A submissions in relation to the dates of other proposed deadlines. First deadline for the applicants. Procedural deadline. A submission request that this deadline is moved from Tuesday the 22nd of April to Friday the 25th of April, due to the Easter Bank holiday weekend. The applicant makes the point that, as originally proposed, there were only five working days between the end of the hearings and deadline for um.

01:07:37:17 - 01:08:07:01

So if I can turn, uh, there are others that also question the timing of the deadline for including, um, MMO and Natural England. And they're seeking, um, more a few more days. So in terms of the applicant, if I could turn to you, Miss Broderick, for example, would, um, Friday the 25th of April, um, be a more comfortable date for that deadline for you.

01:08:08:16 - 01:08:50:19

Clare. For the applicant. And yes, from the applicant's perspective, we were obviously mindful of the bank holiday weekend, both for the applicants team and also other parties participating in the process, making sure that, um, there were sufficient working days, um, to submit summaries of oral

submissions and then deal with any particular actions that might have come out of those hearings. We were mindful of, um, the comments that you made at the beginning, um, about the tight program and the need to ensure there sufficient time between the various deadlines, which is why we suggested the Friday um, we note that, um, Natural England and others have requested a deadline in the following.

01:08:50:21 - 01:09:06:04

The following week. Obviously we will consider. Yes. Yeah. Obviously we'll we'll consider the timing of that. Um, just to check before we leave that topic for any other persons present in the room that want to comment on that deadline for date?

01:09:07:25 - 01:09:14:28

No. And no one attending virtually that wants to comment on that deadline for timing.

01:09:18:03 - 01:09:56:10

Right. Thank you. So if I turn now to the submission dates for Statement of Common Ground. Now, we did set out in our procedural decision. And that's PD o five of the examination library, the statement of common ground between the applicant and the parties listed that we request are submitted during the examination of the exact application. And we would point out that the real value of a statement of common ground is generally in identifying the points that are still at issue between the parties or the uncommon ground, and parties that are requested to highlight those aspects.

01:09:57:01 - 01:10:37:02

The parties should note that it is the aim of the relevant cost guidance to ensure that statements of common ground are prepared by all involved in a positive and constructive manner, and we can confirm that what we seek at deadline want our initial statements of common ground. Whatever drafting stage they have reached. And the examination timetable includes various submission dates for draft statements of common ground, with the final signed version between the applicants and those parties listed to be submitted by deadline eight, which is the 23rd of July 2025.

01:10:38:04 - 01:11:21:08

Um, we have had comments from the Marine Management Organisation questioning the timing, and they make the points that between deadline two and three, there are only two weeks between each deadline. Um, so there are question marks raised and we will be looking at that and whether we need a statement of common ground at every deadline that we have listed. However, um, I also note and it was the comment that's just been made by another party that the marine management organizations procedural deadline, a submission, was that they had not yet received a draft statement of common Ground.

01:11:21:10 - 01:11:29:26

So I wanted to check with the applicant what the position was on that and with the progress of other initial statements of common ground.

01:11:31:18 - 01:12:08:00

Daniel Harper, the applicant, I'm pleased to confirm all those parties notified at rule six were contacted on the 2nd of December, 2024. All other voluntary statements of common ground, um, have been in response to the 1400 relevant representations that we are now providing responses to have

been somewhat delayed, but they are now being issued, uh, during this month, uh, the Marine Management Organization will have received a statement to Common Ground from North Falls Limited in the last 48 hours, alongside responses to Essex Police.

01:12:09:24 - 01:12:10:09

Thank you.

01:12:15:10 - 01:12:27:04

Right. Does anyone in the room want to comment on the timing and submission? And as set out in the examination timetable for those statements of common ground?

01:12:36:02 - 01:12:43:25

Is there anyone attending virtually that wishes to comment in relation to submission dates for statements of common ground?

01:12:59:24 - 01:13:18:12

All right. I will now move on to other written submission deadlines. Um, there have been a number of points made on this. Uh, perhaps if I could go to Vicky Fowler first. That's representing Port of London Authority.

01:13:21:11 - 01:13:55:27

Thank you, ma'am. Mrs. Vicky Fowler, on behalf of the Port of London Authority. Uh, ma'am, we did query the, um, effectively the time period between deadline two and three. Um, deadline two is the period for written representations. And we're just conscious that, um, a couple, a couple of weeks to, to review and consider those. Um, but I do appreciate the comments you've made at the start of this particular agenda item. Um, I think also, um, I mean, I mean, generally it depends on how quickly the documents can be uploaded.

01:13:55:29 - 01:14:10:22

So we are finding on, um, five estuaries, um, that it is taking a while for documents to get uploaded, which is limiting the time. But, but, but but I appreciate, um, as I say, your earlier comments about the tight timetable, and that may not be possible.

01:14:12:03 - 01:14:27:21

No, that's that's right. So I was just going to ask the to explain. So you're seeking more time between those deadlines so that you can consider and then have sufficient time to make your comments.

01:14:29:12 - 01:14:34:18

Vicky Fowler on behalf of the Port of London Authority. Yes, that's correct, madam.

01:14:34:20 - 01:14:41:21

Write that. Thank you. I'm sure the, um, case team, we're listening very carefully as well to what you've just said.

01:14:51:23 - 01:15:23:12

That there have been various written submissions, relating to timing of deadlines, which we will also consider. We've got them from the Marine Management Organisation and Natural England. Um, can I just check if there are any other, um, people present who wish to comment on the timing of those deadlines? For example deadline two, five, 7 or 8.

01:15:29:09 - 01:15:35:00

And is does anyone who's attending virtually want to comment on those deadlines?

01:15:40:28 - 01:15:48:01

No, I have no hands up. So if I just turn to the applicant, um, is there anything that the applicant wants to say in response or at.

01:15:51:04 - 01:16:09:22

Uh, the applicant? Um, no, we would just also appreciate if documents could be uploaded as soon as possible, appreciating that where there's a large volume that can sometimes take a period of time, but just to ensure there are as much time as possible between deadline two and deadline three would be appreciated. Thank you.

01:16:09:27 - 01:16:10:17

Thank you.

01:16:12:10 - 01:16:43:09

Right, I'll turn now to the accompanied site inspection. This has been timetabled for the 1st of April 2024. There is also a reserve date for a further accompanied site inspection if required, during week commencing the 16th of June. The rule six letter annexes sets out the procedural decision that we've made in respect of this, and we will deal with this next under agenda item five.

01:16:44:11 - 01:16:57:19

Um, so under agenda item five, this relates to other procedural decisions we've made, And I will ask my colleague, Mrs. Van Milligan, to lead on this topic.

01:17:02:22 - 01:17:38:09

Thank you. In terms of other procedural decisions, I would refer to reference PD 005. Firstly, changes to land interests. The examining authority has made a procedural decision to the effect that when the applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership or a new interest in relevant land, the applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the examining authority to become an interested party.

01:17:38:18 - 01:17:51:12

Under section 102 A of the Planning Act 2008 by emailing the Planning Inspectorate using the email address, which is set out at the top of the Of the accompanying letter.

01:17:54:02 - 01:18:23:28

Turning to annex F of the rule six letter. The other procedural decisions that we have made. Are listed in annex F. Of the rule six letter. These decisions may not all apply to every interested party, but we

suggest that you do. Familiarize yourself with the decisions to ensure that you do know if there is a request being made to you, or information that you may find useful.

01:18:26:09 - 01:18:58:02

Turning to procedural decision. Item one the accompanied site inspection. We would specifically like to draw attention to item one, which relates to suggested locations for the accompanied site visit that we have proposed to be held on 1st of April, 2025. Please note that the deadline for this has now passed. Being part of the procedural deadline A, which was dated 20th of January 2025.

01:18:59:00 - 01:19:36:11

We thank those of you who have already made suggestions both for accompanied and unaccompanied site inspections. The applicant is now requested to prepare a draft itinerary for the accompanied site inspection, which we hope to be submitted to us by deadline one, which is the 18th of February 2025 and thereafter. Comments by interested parties on the applicant's draft itinerary should be submitted to us by deadline two, which is the 4th of March 2025.

01:19:37:20 - 01:19:49:09

We will be carefully considering all suggested locations and the comments made before the publication of our final itinerary for the accompanied site inspection.

01:19:51:29 - 01:19:55:16

If I could turn to Councillor Fellows.

01:19:58:05 - 01:19:59:13

Uh, on this matter?

01:20:03:18 - 01:20:04:06

Yes, ma'am.

01:20:04:29 - 01:20:34:01

Um, counselor. Fellows, um, you made a request for an accompanied site visit to come to your, uh, Aubra area. Uh, I would be grateful if you could assist us, uh, by providing us with some more information as to why that is required. Um, and what areas you would want the examining authority to see that could not be seen in an unaccompanied site visit?

01:20:36:04 - 01:20:58:15

Um. Thank you. Yes. To assist. As you're aware, there may be mutual interest between North Falls and five estuaries with regard to proposed breeding, habitat enhancement, mitigation on within the Old North Estuary spar, the Special Protection Area and Orphan Ness Island.

01:21:00:07 - 01:21:32:13

Um, and it would be helpful I think, that that's accompanied because the those local with local knowledge can assist to point out areas. Um, there's also the issue, should it emerge of coordination options of offshore and onshore infrastructure, specifically onshore infrastructure, that I think would assist you to see the area of all the beach and the, uh, national landscape area there.

01:21:33:13 - 01:21:49:17

Um, to put into context. So it was really a marker rather than an immediate request to say that this may become important to yourselves, uh, to also have that dimension to your examination.

01:21:51:05 - 01:22:04:09

And we would like to assist by providing that opportunity and not to overlook it at this stage, but just make sure that we can foreshadow any requests. You might have to say that this is important. Thank you.

01:22:05:26 - 01:22:07:04

Thank you. That's helpful.

01:22:07:18 - 01:22:21:17

Sorry. Could I also add if if you could include those details within your deadline, one summary of your submissions written of your oral submissions that would be very helpful to us. Thank you.

01:22:21:19 - 01:22:24:29

Yes, we will do so. Thank you.

01:22:25:15 - 01:22:35:26

If I could ask if anybody else has any procedure or queries in relation to the accompanied site visit, if they could raise their.

01:22:37:03 - 01:22:59:24

Uh, Clare project for the applicant. Thank you. I just wanted to clarify, as far as we can see from, the Inspector website. There haven't been any specific requests for locations. In response to procedural deadline. Eh, in terms of the applicant preparing. A draft itinerary. And I just wanted to check that that was correct.

01:23:00:14 - 01:23:04:18

I'm not aware of any specific locations.

01:23:05:06 - 01:23:10:00

No, I think I think all the only one we've seen has been from Councillor Fellows.

01:23:12:02 - 01:23:15:04

In, in terms of meeting that deadline. So the answer's no.

01:23:22:13 - 01:23:28:18

Is there anybody else who wishes to raise any issues at this point on this site visit.

01:23:34:28 - 01:23:36:06

I can see a hand up.

01:23:47:24 - 01:23:49:19

Yes. I would like to comment, if I may.

01:23:52:15 - 01:23:53:19

Um, please go ahead.

01:23:54:06 - 01:24:26:03

Yes, sir. Council of fellows, all the town council. I just wanted to reflect back that, um, it is difficult to understand sometimes these requests and the fact that my Rs was the only one that came into you by that deadline does reflect. We only understand the importance of discussions like this. Because we've been through two other CEOs. We've had to learn as we went. There's no manual, although Suffolk County Council and others have helpfully now provided, um, guidance to town and parish councils.

01:24:26:09 - 01:24:57:20

But it is so important the town and parish councils and local organisations and individuals engage with the development consent order process. So it wasn't a question. It was just to put that down that please don't think if you don't get information, that's because people don't care or don't have anything of relevance. They may not understand the importance or the, you know, need a bit of an explanation as to why this this can happen.

01:24:57:22 - 01:25:00:03

The possibilities. Thank you. Sorry.

01:25:01:07 - 01:25:08:21

Thank you. Uh, I can see that, uh, Miss Robertson was also raised her hand.

01:25:13:07 - 01:25:26:24

Thank you. Yes. I just wanted to back up Councillor Fellow's request for a visit. Um, it was part of my cumulative effect information. Uh, that they should also look at the devastation that.

01:25:30:15 - 01:26:00:25

The, uh, five mile, square mile area. Uh, looking at Sizewell, looking at East Anglia Ave A1 and A2. Um, the A2 and um, the lion link and the C link. Um pre examination. Um, investigations. Uh, just to see what the accumulative, um, the cumulative impact is, um, that is happening in this area for such the national infrastructure projects. Um, so therefore I.

01:26:04:21 - 01:26:09:12

And maybe extend it to actually looking around the whole area. Thank you.

01:26:10:09 - 01:26:15:03

Thank you, Miss Robertson. Miss Broderick, do you want to respond?

01:26:15:21 - 01:26:17:09

Uh, clever project.

01:26:17:11 - 01:26:51:00

For the applicant. Um, it was just to note that on in respect of this particular DCO application, we do have, um, a very high level of participation. We had over 300 relevant representations. So people are engaging in this process. Um, I guess we would want to just reiterate that this particular agenda item is relating to an accompanied site visit, which, as you mentioned, related to places where the examining authority wouldn't be able to obtain access or view the location from a publicly accessible footpath or, um, the highway.

01:26:51:12 - 01:27:27:23

Um, as far as we're aware, the suggestions being made in relation to potential areas are not, um, private land. Um, that people are requesting are sort of viewing locations from the beach or other publicly accessible areas, and therefore, should the examining authority feel it, um, necessary or useful to go there, then they would be able to do so. But we as from what we've heard in today's hearing, these are not areas that we would be needing to consider in terms of preparing an itinerary itinerary for the accompanied site visit.

01:27:27:27 - 01:27:34:24

Um, and that would be looking, um, at areas within the order limits that are not currently publicly accessible.

01:27:35:17 - 01:27:37:12

Thank you. Thank you.

01:27:39:15 - 01:27:42:20

Does anybody else have any comments they wish to make?

01:27:44:05 - 01:28:02:05

Moving on to procedural decision item two. Additional submissions. This explains that the examining authority has exercised its discretion and made a procedural decision to accept the additional submissions that are set out in annex F of the rule six letter.

01:28:03:26 - 01:28:11:05

Since the issue of the rule six letter. Further additional submissions have been made and accepted by the examining authority.

01:28:13:08 - 01:28:51:19

These are reference as 0401.3. Guide to the application revision to clean as 0411.3. Guide to the Application revision two. Tracked as 0428.2. Applicant's response to procedural decisions as 0438.3. Applicant's commentary on Land Rights tracker template as 0448.4 applicants.

01:28:51:21 - 01:29:02:25

Land Rights Tracker template as 045. Natural England's response to the procedural decision letter by the Examining Authority.

01:29:06:15 - 01:29:29:27

Moving to procedural decision item three. This requests statutory parties to notify the Planning Inspectorate of their wish to be considered as an interested party by deadline one which is 18th of

February 2025. We request the various statutory parties to carefully note that deadline and respond as appropriate.

01:29:31:21 - 01:29:46:20

Before we move on from agenda item five. And on the basis of the information detailed in the annex F of the rule six letter. Are there any other questions about the various procedural decisions that we have made?

01:29:50:16 - 01:30:03:27

I can't see any any hands up. Um, and on that basis, uh, we will move on to the next agenda item. And I will now pass over to Mr. Johnson.

01:30:05:13 - 01:30:19:03

It is now 1130. And so it seems an appropriate point at which to take a short break. So the meeting is now adjourned for a quarter of an hour until 1145.