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

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010121

Date: 30 October 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam

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

**Application by Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd for an Order Granting
Development Consent for the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets**

Examination Timetable and procedure

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

- The Examination Timetable
- An invitation to submit Written Representations
- A request for Statements of Common Ground
- Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)
- Information about Hearings and Site Inspections
- Information about the availability of Examination Documents
- Guidance on the use of the 'Have Your Say on an application' page on the project webpage

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

The Examination Timetable

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

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our [Rule 6 letter](#). In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the Preliminary Meeting. A list of the main changes we have made to the draft Examination Timetable is set out at **Annex B** to this letter.

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of Deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All Deadlines are at **23:59 hours** on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the Deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the time and dates specified in the timetable, we may disregard them.

We request that all Interested Parties make their submissions using the [Have your say on an application page](#) on the project webpage on or before the applicable Deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the [Have your say on an application page](#).

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

Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **Deadline 1** in the Examination Timetable.

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues ([Appendix C of the Rule 6 letter](#)).

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

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

Any Written Representations and any further written submissions requested during the Examination, that exceed 1500 words, should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. Please see the Planning Inspectorate's [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about Written Representations.

Examining Authority's Written Questions

The timetable indicates that we will issue our first set of Written Questions on 18 December 2024 and responses should be received at **Deadline 3 (Wednesday 22 January 2025)**. Submissions should be made through the [Have your say on an application page](#) on the project website.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

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

- Changes to the Examination Timetable;
- Examining Authority's Written Questions;
- Statements of Common Ground; and
- Update of modelling in light of latest bird collision risk guidance.

Format of Examination Events

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when we provide formal notification of each hearing. We do, however, anticipate that the hearings in the week commencing 3 February 2025 will take place using a blended format.

Hearings and Site Inspections

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

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

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

On this basis the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and we will notify all Interested Parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the Examination. Generally, this will at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. However, there may be times when a hearing may take place at shorter notice; here we will ensure reasonable notice in the circumstances. Notifications will include a Deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to participate at the notified hearing(s).

We have already undertaken Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USI) and thus have a good understanding of the location of the Application site and its relationship to the English and Welsh coasts. Details can be found in our Notes [\[EV2-001\]](#), [\[EV2-002\]](#) and [\[EV2-003\]](#). Consequently, we do not need to revisit these locations or visit other locations where the Proposed Development would have similar effects.

The position set out in the Rule 6 letter was that Accompanied Site Inspections (ASIs) would be used only when it is necessary to inspect a site in the company of an Interested Party, for example when access to private land is required. Interested Parties were invited to submit any suggested locations for us to inspect by Procedural Deadline A (Tuesday 15 October 2024). No such nominations were made.

Consequently, we have made a Procedural Decision not to hold an ASI at this time. This does not prevent us making a further Procedural Decision at a later date to hold an ASI or undertaking further USIs should the evidence indicate that this is necessary.

If an ASI is necessary, then we would provide information about that when we publicise that we will make such an inspection.

Annex C provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings.

Managing Examination correspondence

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

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

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

A [Have your say on an application page](#) is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the [Have your say on an application page](#) is provided at **Annex E** to this letter.

There is also a function of the project webpage called '[Get updates](#)'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the Examination.

Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's document [What is My Status in the Examination?](#)

If your reference number begins with '2004' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'MCOW-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'MCOW-OP' you are in Group C. The meaning and purpose of those groups are explained in the document published at the link above.

If having read this document you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#).

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this Examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#).

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

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

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

Yours faithfully

Robert Jackson

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

- A** Examination Timetable
- B** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Arrangement for hearings
- D** Availability of Examination Documents
- E** Information about the 'Have your say on an application' page

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to **complete** the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	<p>Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline A</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written submissions on the Examination Procedure, including any submissions about the draft Examination Timetable • Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs) (Appendix G) • Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words • Submission of Pre-examination Progress Tracker (Appendix G) • Receipt of matters requested in Rule 9 letter of 4 September 2024 [PD-006] (apart from those items referred to in Appendix G item 10). • Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting including which agenda items you wish to speak on • Requests to participate in the Open Floor Hearing (OFH1) on Wednesday 23 October 2024 • Requests to participate in the Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Thursday 24 October 2024 • Suggested locations for site inspections for consideration by the ExA, including justification, and whether such locations can be seen from public land or require private access 	<p>Tuesday 15 October 2024</p>
2.	<p>Preliminary Meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday 23 October 2024</p> <p>2:00pm</p>

3.	Open Floor Hearing (OFH1) (if required)	Wednesday 23 October 2024 5:00pm
4.	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1) ISH1 on the Scope of Development and Interrelationship with other Infrastructure Projects, the Development Consent Order (DCO) and Explanatory Memorandum (EM)	Thursday 24 October 2024 10:00am
5.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable • Any Written Questions deemed necessary arising from ISH1 (if required) 	As soon as possible following the Preliminary Meeting
6.	Deadline 1 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions for ISH1, including written submissions of oral cases and comments on any oral submissions put at the hearings • Declarations of use of Artificial Intelligence in preparation of any submissions to date • Written Representations (WRs) including summaries if exceeding 1500 words • Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words (if not provided at the pre-Examination Procedural Deadline) • Responses to RRs (if not provided at the pre-Examination Procedural Deadline) • Initial Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) and Statement of Commonality (or as combined with the Progress Tracker) • Submission of Report on interrelationship with other infrastructure projects • Outstanding information from the Applicant in response to Rule 9 letter of 4 September 2024 [PD-006] • Requests by Interested Parties to be heard at a Further Open Floor Hearing (OFH) 	Tuesday 26 November 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA • Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically • Comments on any further information/ additional submissions accepted by the ExA • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
7.	<p>Deadline 2</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on WRs • Responses to any written questions arising from ISH1 (if supplied) • Applicant's Progress Tracker / Statement of Commonality • Applicant's further update to the draft DCO and EM • Applicant's further update to the Guide to the Application • Any other updated documents and statements from the Applicant deemed necessary following responses at Deadline 1 (if required) • Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 1. • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	<p>Thursday 12 December 2024</p>
8.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Questions (ExQ1) 	<p>Wednesday 18 December 2024</p>
9.	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ1 • Comments on the Applicant's further update to the draft DCO and EM • Comments on the progress tracker / Statement of Commonality 	<p>Wednesday 22 January 2025</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other updated documents, including the Guide to the Application, and statements from the Applicant deemed necessary following responses at Deadline 2 (if required) • Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 2 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
10.	Dates reserved for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Issue Specific Hearings (if required) • Open Floor Hearing (if required) 	Week commencing 3 February 2025
11.	Deadline 4 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases (if required) • Applicant's mid-Examination Progress Tracker / update to the Statement of Commonality • Mid-Examination Report on interrelationship with other infrastructure projects • Applicant's update to the draft DCO and EM • Any other updated documents, including the Guide to the Application, and statements from the Applicant deemed necessary following responses at Deadline 3 (if required) • Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 3 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	Tuesday 18 February 2025
12.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required) 	Thursday 27 February 2025
13.	Deadline 5 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ2 (if required) • Any other updated documents, including the Guide to the Application, and statements from 	Tuesday 11 March 2025

	<p>the Applicant deemed necessary following responses at Deadline 4 (if required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 4 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
14.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required) • ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO (if required) 	Tuesday 25 March 2025
15.	<p>Reserve dates for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Hearings (if required) 	Week commencing 31 March 2025
16.	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases (if applicable) • Comments on responses to ExQ2 (if provided) • Comments on the RIES (if provided) • Comments on the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO (if provided) • Finalised Statements of Common Ground • Final Statement of Commonality/ Close of Examination Progress Tracker • Applicant's Summary and Signposting document with summary of areas of disagreement • Summary and Signposting documents from Interested Parties regarding matters that they have previously raised during the Examination and have not been resolved to their satisfaction (if desired) • Final Report on interrelationship with other infrastructure projects • Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI 	Tuesday 15 April 2025

	<p>template validation report together with final draft EM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Guide to the Application • Any other updated documents, including the Guide to the Application, and statements from the Applicant deemed necessary following responses at Deadline 5 (if required) • Comments on any further information/submissions received by Deadline 5 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
17.	<p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months.</p> <p>Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.</p>	<p>Wednesday 23 April 2025</p>

Submission times for Deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any Deadline in the timetable is 23:59 hours on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the Deadlines for submissions.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the Secretary of State. The ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and/ or Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

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

1. Changes to the Examination Timetable

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

- **Deadline 3** has been moved back by one week to **Wednesday 22 January 2025** to give Interested Parties more time to respond to the Examining Authority's Written Questions in light of the Christmas/ New Year break and deadlines for other concurrent Examinations of NSIP applications.
- The **first week of hearings, Deadline 4** and the **Examining Authority's Further Written Questions (if required)** have all also been moved back by one week to ensure appropriate and sufficient time between each deadline/ event.
- Removal from the timetable of matters relating to Accompanied Site Inspections.
- Renaming of 'Closing Statement' to 'Summary and Signposting document' to better reflect its purpose.

The final timetable returns to that as set out in draft timetable at **Deadline 5 (Tuesday 11 March 2025)**.

2. Examining Authority's Written Questions

As set out in the Examination Timetable, it is our intention to issue our first set of Written Questions on **Wednesday 18 December 2024**, with responses due at **Deadline 3 (Wednesday 22 January 2025)**.

Whilst most of our written questions will be directed at specific parties, no other party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question we ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

All relevant Statutory Parties are requested to check our Written Questions carefully in order that they may identify and respond to any questions posed to them.

For the avoidance of doubt, Statutory Parties are defined as the parties listed in Schedule 1 to [The Infrastructure Planning \(Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions\) Regulations 2015](#). Statutory Parties, including relevant local authorities, that have not already registered to become an Interested Party should consider notifying the ExA of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party, under Section 89(2A)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 as soon as possible.

3. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

The Applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it will aid the smooth running of the Examination if all Interested Parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the Applicant in respect of their production. We set out in **Annex G** of our [Rule 6 letter](#) the SoCGs we request are submitted during the Examination of this application. Final signed versions of the SoCGs listed below are requested to be submitted **by the Applicant at Deadline 6:**

Parties to the SoCG	Matters to be included in the SoCG (but not limited to such matters)
BAE Systems Marine Limited	Assessment of effects on civil or military aviation and proposed mitigation
Defence Infrastructure Organisation/ BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd	Assessment of effects on civil or military aviation and proposed mitigation
Blackpool Airport Ltd	Assessment of effects on civil aviation and proposed mitigation
Chrysaor Resources (Irish Sea) Limited/ Harbour Energy plc	Assessment of effects and mitigations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil aviation • Shipping and navigation • Proposed operations (including decommissioning of existing facilities)
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Assessment of effects on military aviation and proposed mitigation
Historic England	Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on marine archaeology • Effects on setting of terrestrial heritage assets including World Heritage Sites • Adequacy of Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeology and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries • Proposed temporary and permanent Archaeological Exclusion Zones and their radius or extent • Principles for cable laying and protection
Isle of Man Government (Territorial Sea Committee)	Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benthic Ecology and physical processes • Civil aviation and proposed mitigation • Commercial Fisheries • Fish and Shellfish ecology • Offshore Ornithology • Shipping and lifeline ferry services • Social or economic receptors (direct and indirect)
Isle of Man Steam Packet Company	Effects on shipping and lifeline ferry services
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Matters relating to benthic ecology and offshore habitats and species Note: This can be included within the SoCG/ Principal Areas of Difference Statement with Natural England (although it should identify those matters within and without 12 nautical miles from the coast where necessary).

Parties to the SoCG	Matters to be included in the SoCG (but not limited to such matters)
Marine Management Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Marine Policy Statement and North West Marine Plan 2021 • DCO and Deemed Marine Licence drafting and acceptability of conditions and outline plans • Assessment of effects and mitigations proposed, including cumulative impacts and effects for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marine physical processes and benthic ecology ○ Fish and shellfish ecology ○ Marine mammals and underwater noise • Coverage and content of all the outline plan documents submitted with the application • Time period secured for review and approval of detailed plans post-consent • Principles of proposals for safety zone applications • Principles for decommissioning
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 654 (and its Annex 1 Assessment of risks) and with mitigations proposed, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline Vessel Traffic Management Plan ○ Design layout principles ○ Outline Offshore Operation and Maintenance Plan • Assessment and proposed mitigation of cumulative impacts and effects to shipping and ferry services • Assessment of effects on Search and Rescue operations
NATS Safeguarding	Assessment and mitigation of effects on air traffic radars at Lowther, St Annes and Great Dun Fell
National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of baseline data • Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on commercial fishing • Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-Existence Plan
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore protected species • Protected habitats • Benthic Ecology and Physical Processes • European sites and features relevant to HRA <p>Note: We anticipate that this will be Natural England's Principal Areas of Difference Statement (PADS) rather than a Statement of Common Ground.</p>
Natural Resources Wales	Assessment and mitigation related to cumulative impacts, in-combination impacts, and/ or mobile species in relation to Welsh designated sites

Parties to the SoCG	Matters to be included in the SoCG (but not limited to such matters)
Other wind and transmission operators (both existing and proposed) who have made Relevant Representations	Assessment of effects to existing and proposed infrastructure including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search and Rescue • Shipping and navigation • Wake effects
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Assessment of effects on ornithology
Spirit Energy	Assessment of effects and mitigations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil aviation • Shipping and navigation • Proposed operations (including decommissioning of existing facilities and future carbon capture) • Habitats compensation delivery
Stena Line Ltd	Assessment of effects on shipping and scheduled ferry services and proposed mitigation
Trinity House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and mitigation of navigational safety effects • Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan • Outline Vessel Traffic Management Plan
The UK Chamber of Shipping	Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigation and Safety • Shipping Routes and scheduled services • Social and Economic receptors

All of the SoCGs listed above should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft Development Consent Order, together with Protective Provisions where appropriate. Any Interested Party seeking that an Article, Requirement or Protective Provision is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought and reasoning therefor.

In light of the discussions at the Preliminary Meeting, we are now requesting two SoCGs with BAE Systems to reflect the different situations at the Walney Aerodrome and Warton Aerodrome. We have retained that for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to allow for this to deal with any other assets potentially affected by the Proposed Development.

The content of SoCGs and the PADS will help to inform us about the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings during the Examination, and to enable us and the Applicant to give reasonable notice of such hearings.

4. Update of modelling in light of latest bird collision risk guidance

As discussed at the Preliminary Meeting, August 2024, the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) published revised guidance regarding bird collision risk modelling for offshore wind developments.

This advice note provided updated advice on collision risk modelling for Offshore Wind Farms. At the Preliminary Meeting the Applicant agreed to update both the Environmental Statement and Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment [[APP-027](#)] in light of this guidance, so as to ensure that the conclusions of those assessments are robust. The Applicant agreed to submit these at **Deadline 1 (26 November 2024)**.

Arrangements for hearings

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

Hearing agendas

High-level agendas for these hearings will be published alongside this notification on the [project webpage](#) to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate.

For Issue Specific Hearings we will publish a detailed draft agenda on the project website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Requests to participate at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in Hearings. The deadline(s) for this will be published with the notification of the high-level agendas (see above).

Any request to participate in a hearing **should include** the following information:

- name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/ or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise;
- the [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/ page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties. Generally, this will be at least 21 days in advance of the hearing taking place; however, there may be times when a hearing may take place at shorter notice. Here we will ensure there is reasonable notice in the circumstances.

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

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

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

Procedure at hearings

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

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed.

Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available to view on the [project webpage](#).

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the [Documents tab](#) of the project webpage.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#) (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the Documents tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document;
- each representation and submission made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference number which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. **Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.**

Electronic deposit locations

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in the table below. Please note that you will need to bring a form of identification and register as a library member in order to use a computer at the locations marked with an asterisk (*)

The opening hours and availability of information technology set out in the table below may be subject to changes. Please check the current circumstances with the relevant locations before you attend.

Locality	Venue/ Address	Opening hours	Printing costs
Isle of Man			
Douglas Borough Council	Henry Bloom Noble Library 8 Duke Street, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 2AY	Monday to Wednesday: 8:30am to 5:00pm Thursday: 10:00am to 7:00pm Friday: 8:30am to 5:00pm Saturday: 9:00am to 4:00pm	A4 20p A4 50p

Ramsey Town Commissioners	Ramsey Town Library Parliament Square, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM8 1RT	Monday to Thursday: 9:00am to 4:30pm Friday: 9:00am to 4:00pm Saturday: 9:00am to 4:30pm	A4 10p A4 50p
North West England			
Blackpool Council	Blackpool Central Library, Queen Street, Blackpool FY1 1PX	Tuesday to Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm Saturday: 10:00am to 4:00pm	A4 10p
Lancashire County Council	Lytham Library Assembly Rooms, Lytham Saint Annes FY8 5JY	Monday & Saturday: 9:00am to 1:00pm Wednesday: 9:00am to 7:00pm Thursday & Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm	A4 25p
Lancashire County Council	Fleetwood Library, North Albert Street, Fleetwood FY7 6AJ	Monday to Wednesday: 9:00am to 5:00pm Thursday: 9:00am to 7:00pm Friday to Saturday: 9:00am to 5:00pm	A4 25p

Information about the 'Have Your Say on an application' page

The '[Have Your Say](#)' section is available on the project webpage.

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top of your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either 2024 or MCOW-SP or MCOW-OP. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered Interested Party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third party website eg technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate Submission item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items then please select the Submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the '[Have Your Say](#)' section please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.