



National Infrastructure Planning  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000

email: [DoggerBankSouth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:DoggerBankSouth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

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

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010125

Date: 24 September 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 4, 6, 9 and 13**

### **Application by RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms**

### **Appointment of the Examining Authority, invitation to the Preliminary Meeting and Notification of Hearings and Procedural Decisions**

Following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an Examination of the above application I am writing to introduce myself and the other members of the ExA. My name is Jo Dowling and the other members of the ExA are Andrew Mahon, Helena Obremski, Laura Shorney and Matt Tandy. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website ([project webpage](#)).

We would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted us when considering how we will examine this application.

### **Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting**

As a recipient of this letter, you are invited to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss **the procedure** for the Examination of the above application.

**Date**

**Start time**

**Joining details**



<b>Tuesday 22 October 2024</b>	<b>Registration Process from:</b> 09:30  <b>Preliminary Meeting starts:</b> 10:00	This Preliminary Meeting will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams  Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
--	---	---

**You must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by 8 October 2024 if you intend to participate in the Preliminary Meeting and provide all the information requested (see below).**

If you simply wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting, then you do not need to register as you will be able to watch a livestream of the event. A link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin. You will also be able to watch the recording of the event which will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

Please note that by attending the event online you are agreeing to be recorded. The recording of the event which will be published on the project page of our website. A transcript of the event will also be published on the project page of our website after the event.

### **Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting**

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to us about how the application should be examined. The ExA will therefore limit the scope of the Preliminary Meeting to consideration of **how the application will be examined**. See **Annex B** to this letter and 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 Preliminary Meeting is **not** an opportunity for you to give your views about what you like or don’t like about the application. The merits or disadvantages of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts, which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed. All relevant and important matters will be taken into account when we make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who will take the final decision in this case.

The agenda for the meeting is at **Annex A** to this letter. This has been set following our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues arising from our reading of the application documents and the Relevant Representations received. The Initial Assessment of Principal Issues is set out at **Annex C** to this letter.

### **Written submissions about how the application should be examined**



The Planning Act 2008 establishes a principally written process for the Examination of applications for Development Consent Orders and **representations made in writing carry equal weight to oral representations at all stages of the process.**

We are now requesting written submissions from recipients of this letter about how the application should be examined. We particularly wish to hear from you if:

- You consider changes need to be made to the draft Examination Timetable set out at **Annex D** to this letter; or
- you wish to comment about the arrangements for future Examination hearings, including the use of virtual methods.

You are invited to make a written submission about how the application is to be examined by the **Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline (23:59 on Tuesday 8 October 2024)** (see **Annex D** to this letter).

We request that all submissions are made using the '[Have your say](#)' section on the project webpage on or before the **Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline. Annex H** to this letter provides further information about using the '[Have your say](#)' section.

### **Requests to participate at the Preliminary Meeting**

Please note that **you are not required to attend, or make written submissions to, the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the Examination.** If you are an Interested Party you can make a Written Representation and comment on the Written Representations made by other Interested Parties during the Examination. You will also be able to participate in any hearings that are arranged.

If you wish to participate at the Preliminary Meeting you are required to notify the ExA in writing on or before **8 October 2024** (see the **Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline**).

Any request to participate in the Preliminary Meeting **must include** the following information:

- name and unique reference number (found at the top your 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); and
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make.

Requests to participate should be made using the [Event Participation Form](#) on or before the **Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline**.



**Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the Preliminary Meeting.**

## **Format of Examination Events – Preliminary Meeting and Hearings**

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.

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events form part of the Planning Inspectorate's operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings to be held during the Examination Stage when we provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

We are providing formal notification that the **Preliminary Meeting will be a virtual event and that the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1) and Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1) referred to at Annex E to this letter will also be held as virtual events.**

## **After the Preliminary Meeting**

After the Preliminary Meeting we will issue a letter (known as the Rule 8 letter) setting out the finalised Examination Timetable. A note of the meeting will also be published on the [project webpage](#).

## **Notification of initial hearings**

We have made a Procedural Decision to hold the following initial hearings:

- Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (abbreviation eg CAH1) on **22 October 2024** (Virtual event)
- Issue Specific Hearing 1 (abbreviation eg ISH1) on the scope of the Proposed Development, including construction activities and the principles of the Applicants' draft Development Consent Order on **23 October 2024** (Virtual event)

Important information about these hearings is contained at **Annex E** to this letter, including what details need to be provided with a request to be heard at a hearing and the procedure that will be followed.

## **Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority**

We have made some further Procedural Decisions which are set out in detail at **Annex F** to this letter. They are summarised as follows:

- Statements of Common Ground;



- Examination Progress Tracker;
- deadlines for the submission of Written Representations and Local Impact reports;
- notification by Statutory parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party;
- request for suggested locations for an Accompanied Site Inspection;
- deadline for submission of comments and summaries on Relevant Representations;
- request for regular updated documents throughout the Examination;
- Land Rights Tracker;
- submission of draft Development Consent Order;
- closing statements;
- clarifications and requests for further information; and
- acceptance of Additional Submissions into the Examination.

### **Changes to land interests**

When the Applicants become aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the Applicants are requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the PA2008 by [contacting the case team](#). The Examination Timetable includes various Deadlines for the submission of an updated Book of Reference and schedule of changes to the Book of Reference, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

### **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 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](#)' section 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 'Make a submission' portal is provided at **Annex H** to this letter.



There is also a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'E-mail 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 are a person or organisation who is involved in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project process. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [National Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#) for further details.

If, having read the advice, you are still unsure about how you are involved in the process 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 ExA) 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 at **Annex G** 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

*Jo Dowling*

**Lead Member of the Examining Authority**

## **Annexes**

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting
- C** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues



- D** Draft Examination Timetable
- E** Notification of initial hearings
- F** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- G** Availability of Examination Documents
- H** Information about the Information about the 'Have your say' section

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



## Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting

You must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by 8 October 2024 if you intend to participate in the Preliminary Meeting and provide all the information requested (see below).

Please note that by speaking at the event you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online livestream of the event and the recording of the event which will be published on the [project page](#). A transcript of the event will also be published on the [project page](#) of our website after the event.

If you simply wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting, then you do not need to register as you will be able to watch a livestream of the event. A link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin. You will also be able to watch the recording of the event which will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday 22 October 2024</b>
<b>Registration Process:</b>	<b>09.30am</b>
<b>Meeting start time:</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Virtual event (Microsoft Teams)</b> Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Invited parties who have pre-registered</b>

<b>Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting</b>	
<b>09.30am</b>	<p><b>Virtual Registration Process</b></p> <p>Please arrive at 09.30am to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the Case Team, greeted and given further instructions.</p> <p>The Registration Process will commence at 09.40am. This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for the Preliminary Meeting and allow for any questions to be asked about how to take part.</p>
<b>10.00am</b>	<p><b>Preliminary Meeting</b></p> <p>The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at <b>10.00am</b>. The Examining Authority (ExA) will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.</p>
<b>Item 1</b>	The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at <b>10.00am</b> . The Examining Authority (ExA) will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.
<b>Item 2</b>	The ExA's remarks about the Examination process including reference, where appropriate, to any procedural requests to this item that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in

	writing by the Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline ( <b>8 October 2024</b> ).
<b>Item 3</b>	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – see <b>Annex C</b> of the Rule 6 letter
<b>Item 4</b>	Procedural Decisions taken by the ExA – see <b>Annex F</b> of the Rule 6 letter
<b>Item 5</b>	Draft Examination Timetable – see <b>Annex D</b> of the Rule 6 letter
<b>Item 6</b>	Any other matters
<b>Close of the Preliminary Meeting</b>	

**If you are joining as an active participant of the Preliminary Meeting, please join the event lobby promptly by using the instructions that are sent to you. In common with Preliminary Meetings held in physical locations, the event will start at 10.00am irrespective of late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.**

It may take some time to admit participants from the virtual lobby, your patience whilst you are waiting is appreciated.

The agenda for the Preliminary Meeting is subject to change at the discretion of the ExA, although in making changes the ExA will be mindful of the need to provide opportunities for fair involvement to all Invited Parties.

Any request to participate in the Preliminary Meeting **must include** the following information and be made on the [Event Participation Form](#):

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of your 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); and
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make.

## Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting

### Background

The Preliminary Meeting (PM) will take place virtually, using Microsoft Teams.

The Examining Authority (ExA) is conscious of videoconferencing fatigue and will aim to keep the proceedings focussed and as efficient as possible. This annex provides advance access to information that would usually be included in the ExA's introductory remarks. Please read this carefully. The ExA will only present a summary of the key points set out here in order to ensure that the time available for participants to speak is maximised.

### The Examining Authority and the Case Team

The ExA will introduce themselves at the start of the PM.

The ExA will be supported by the Planning Inspectorate Case Team. During the Registration Process a member of the Case Team will welcome and admit participants from the virtual lobby, and will be available to answer questions by email before and after the PM. The contact email address is:

[DoggerBankSouth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:DoggerBankSouth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk).

### The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting

The PM is being held to discuss the arrangements for the Examination of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Dogger Bank South Wind Farms, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and which will generally be referred to in the PM and Examination as the 'Proposed Development'. The application has been made by RWE Dogger Bank South (East) and RWE Dogger Bank South (West), who will be referred to as 'the Applicants'.

You will find information about the application, and in due course, documents produced for the Examination on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website. The [project webpage](#) has links to the Examination Timetable, Relevant Representations and Examination documents and Examination procedure.

You are encouraged to look at the [project webpage](#) if you haven't already done so, because it will be used to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the Examination.

The main purpose of the PM is to discuss the arrangements for the Examination of the application. It focuses on the process only, and it will not be looking at the substance of the proposals: questions, discussions and representations about the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development are for the Examination itself which will begin after the close of the PM.

The PM will be your opportunity to influence the process that the ExA intends to follow. The agenda for the PM is attached to this Rule 6 letter at **Annex A**. It is important to have the letter and the agenda in front of you and to refer to them during

the course of the PM. You may wish to print these in advance of the PM for reference.

### **Government guidance and policy**

The application is a NSIP under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as a consequence of sections 14(1)(a) and 15(3) as the application is for the construction, operation and maintenance of an offshore wind farm together with associated offshore and onshore infrastructure and all associated development. The designated National Policy Statement(s) (NPSs) for Energy Infrastructure, specifically the Overarching NPS for energy (NPS EN-1), renewable energy infrastructure (NPS EN-3) and electricity networks infrastructure (NPS EN-5) apply to this Examination and to decision-making relating to this application.

The ExA will consider the Proposed Development in accordance with the NPSs and any other applicable policy or considerations the ExA deem to be important and relevant. The PA2008 makes it clear that, in making a decision, the relevant Secretary of State (SoS) “*must decide the application in accordance with any relevant NPS*” (s104(3) of the PA2008), subject to certain provisos. Essentially, the provisos are that the application must not breach legal or treaty obligations, and that any adverse impact of the Proposed Development would not outweigh its benefits.

The SoS is entitled to disregard any representations that relate to the merits of the designated NPSs. In practice, this means that the ExA will not spend time examining representations that challenge policy set out in NPSs, or the validity of the NPSs themselves. The focus will be on the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development, tested to the appropriate extent using the tests set out in relevant designated NPSs that are in force.

Other important and relevant planning policies that the ExA may consider include policies in the relevant local authorities’ development plans. However, if these conflict with policy in a NPS, then the NPS will take precedence.

In summary, the PM will establish the procedures and timetable for the Examination of the Proposed Development. It will set a framework for the ExA to enable the SoS to consider and decide the application. In doing so, the ExA will have regard to:

- the positions and representations of all Interested Parties (IPs);
- any Local Impact Reports (LIRs) prepared and provided by relevant local authorities;
- other prescribed matters; and
- any other matters that appear to be both relevant and important to the relevant SoS’s decision.

### **Preliminary Meeting invitees**

The Applicants are invited to the PM and are generally given the opportunity to reply to any representations made.

Everyone who has made a valid Relevant Representation has been registered as an IP and has been invited to the PM. All IPs are entitled to involvement in the Examination.

Each person or organisation with an interest in land or rights that are affected by a Compulsory Acquisition request in this application is an Affected Person (AP) and has been invited to the PM. In addition to a general entitlement to involvement in the Examination, APs have a right to be heard in relation to any objection about the effects of Compulsory Acquisition on their interests in land, and a right to be notified of any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing. All APs are IPs, whether or not they have made a valid Relevant Representation.

Certain bodies are Statutory Parties and they have been invited to the PM. Statutory Parties can elect to become IPs without having made a valid Relevant Representation by notifying the ExA in writing.

The ExA has the power to involve people who are not IPs in the Examination as though they are IPs, including by inviting them to the PM. However, this is only done in exceptional circumstances, for example if it was clear that the application would materially affect a person, they are not automatically an IP or eligible to elect to become an IP and they had been unable to take the necessary action to register as an IP.

### **Conduct of the Preliminary Meeting**

The ExA estimates that the PM will take a few hours to complete.

During the PM, participants may have to make allowances and be patient if there are delays associated with the technology used. In recognition of the fatigue associated with on-screen communication, the ExA will provide breaks during the PM as appropriate.

A digital recording of the PM will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the PM. The recording allows any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed at the PM. The making and publication of these recordings are a means by which the ExA meets the legal requirement to hold the PM (and any other hearings) in public. In this regard, **anyone speaking at the PM will need to introduce themselves each time they speak**, to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the event is clear who was speaking. A written note of the PM will be produced and published as soon as practicable following the close of the PM.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) applies. Participants must do their best to avoid providing any information which should otherwise be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the

Case Team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and retain them for a period of five years from the SoS's decision on the DCO. If you actively participate in the PM, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording will be made available in the public domain. Please see our [Privacy Notice](#) for more information about how we handle your data.

Following the ExA's introductions, each participant who has been registered to speak will be asked to introduce themselves, including any organisations or groups that they represent. The ExA will then conduct the meeting in accordance with the agenda. If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you can switch off your camera at any point.

### The Examination process

The examination of NSIPs follows different processes to those, for example, of a Public Inquiry into a planning appeal following the refusal of planning permission. The main differences are that the examination of NSIPs is primarily a written process and hearings take on an inquisitorial approach as opposed to an adversarial one.

This means that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence primarily using written questions. While some hearings are held to provide supplementary evidence, questions to the Applicants or to witnesses will come from the ExA. Questioning or cross-examination of witnesses by other parties will not generally be allowed.

In terms of opportunities to provide evidence in writing, the draft Examination Timetable makes provision for the following written processes:

- Local authorities can submit LIRs if they wish. Whilst these are voluntary, the PA2008 provides that if they are provided, they must be considered by the SoS in reaching a decision. Consequently, LIRs are a very important method for local authorities to communicate issues of concern to the ExA, the SoS and their residents.
- IPs can make Written Representations (WRs) and comment on WRs made by other parties.
- IPs can respond to the ExA's written questions (ExQs) and comment on responses to these written questions provided by others.
- IPs may be asked to contribute to the making of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) if it appears that there are matters on which they and the Applicants agree, and if it would be useful for this to be clarified. SoCGs most usefully extend to catalogue matters that are not agreed or are outstanding.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a series of numbered Deadlines for receipt of written submissions. Timely submissions received by the relevant Deadline and that address its purpose will be accepted. **Documents received after the relevant Deadline are only accepted at the discretion of the ExA and may not be accepted to ensure fairness to all parties.** Circumstances where documents are

submitted late without good reason, causing inconvenience or delay to other parties can amount to unreasonable behaviour.

These written processes will be the principal means used by the ExA to gather information, evidence and views about the application. However, the Examination will only be effective if all parties resolve to give timely, full, frank, clear and evidenced answers to every question that is relevant to their interests and to engage fully with any other related processes such as the completion of WRs and SoCGs.

There is no merit in withholding or delaying information, or in failing to co-operate, and should it occur, any unreasonable behaviour that caused another party to incur wasted expenditure could lead to an award of costs against the offending party.

The ExA has discretion to make amendments to the Examination Timetable for the wider benefit of the Examination. If possible, events will be arranged for times when all relevant parties are available, but the ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination by the end of the six-month period beginning with the day after the close of the PM. This requirement is set by legislation, and while the ExA will try to rearrange event dates to accommodate all relevant parties, in practice there will be limited scope to alter dates set out in the draft Examination Timetable.

The statutory time limit for the Examination means that where there are matters that still need to be discussed and agreed between the Applicants and IPs, it will be very helpful to the ExA if these could be progressed as early as possible.

### Hearings

The draft Examination Timetable includes provision for hearings, at which the ExA takes oral evidence from the various parties.

Any registered IP may request an **Open Floor Hearing** (OFH) to make oral representations about the application if they believe this to be preferable to relying on their written representation, though both carry equal weight. Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing, but they should not simply repeat matters previously covered in the written submission. Rather, they should focus on specific detail and explanation to help inform the ExA. There should be no new or unexpected material in oral representations. A written summary note with any supporting evidence or references will be requested of each speaker following the hearing.

As with all Examination events, OFHs are subject to the powers of control of the ExA, as set out in the PA2008 and supporting legislation. Participants must register in advance by the Deadline shown in the Examination Timetable and in accordance with the instructions. It is common practice for the ExA to set a time limit for each speaker and speakers with common points are asked to come together to nominate a spokesperson or representative speakers to cover specific topics, so as to avoid repetition. Speakers representing public authorities, community and membership organisations or multiple IPs are normally provided with an additional time allowance, recognising their representative role.

The Applicants' draft DCO provides for the Compulsory Acquisition of land and rights, and the Temporary Possession of land. APs (ie those whose land or rights over land are affected) have a right to request and be heard at a **Compulsory Acquisition Hearing** (CAH). If one or more APs request to be heard, then a CAH must be held. Provisional dates for CAHs are included in the draft Examination Timetable along with Deadlines by which requests to be heard must be submitted.

The ExA has the discretion to hold **Issue Specific Hearings** (ISHs) if it would aid the Examination and there is a specific reason this would be more helpful than reliance on written evidence only. The lack of an ISH on one or more topics does not suggest that, that topic is less important than others which are subject to a hearing. Rather, it is an indication that the ExA is satisfied that the issues can be fully considered through written submissions and responses to its written questions and that each party has had a fair opportunity to put its case.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a number of dates reserved for ISHs, and IPs may make suggestions for topics to be discussed at an ISH in their written or oral representations to the PM.

It may be necessary for the ExA to hold more than one ISH on the draft DCO. This is normal practice, and they are held on a without prejudice basis. Parties can suggest modifications and amendments to the draft DCO provided by the Applicants with the application, without prejudicing their overall position on the application.

Holding such hearings does not imply that the ExA has reached any judgements on the merits of the application. Whatever the ultimate recommendation is, the ExA must make sure that the draft DCO is fit for purpose if the SoS decides to grant consent, as any consent will be subject to Requirements (ie conditions) set out in the DCO.

At hearings it will not normally be necessary for parties to make long and detailed submissions that require (for example) PowerPoint presentations. Any supporting detail/ information can be provided in writing following the event by the relevant Deadline.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a Deadline (**8 November 2024**) for participants to notify the ExA that they wish to speak at an OFH or a CAH.

### **Site inspections**

As part of the Examination process, the ExA may undertake site inspections. These can be either unaccompanied or accompanied.

The purpose of these is for the ExA to see features of the proposals within the context of the evidence put forward. Notes of Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) will be published on the [project webpage](#).

Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with

open public access. The purpose of ASIs is familiarisation only and no discussion of the merits of the Proposed Development will be entertained during an ASI.

The ExA may decide to hold USIs to relevant nominated locations, supported by the submission of additional written, photographic, video or even drone material if this would be preferable to not visiting sites or holding ASIs in circumstances which could make them difficult and unduly time-consuming to conduct (for example if public health restrictions are in place). The ExA may also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of a USI on an access required basis (ARSI).

The draft Examination Timetable includes a Deadline for IPs to make submissions suggesting sites and locations that the ExA should visit. These will be used to inform further USIs/ ARSIs as well as possible ASIs.

## Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (IAP) prepared as required under section 88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). It has been prepared by the Examining Authority (ExA) following its reading of:

- the application documents;
- the Relevant Representations received in respect of the application; and
- its consideration of any other important and relevant matters.

This initial assessment has guided the ExA in forming a provisional view as to how the application is to be examined. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of the issues that will be subject to examination and inevitably some issues will overlap or interrelate.

The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero after the Examination has concluded.

**The order of the issues listed is alphabetic and does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance.** The bullet points under each issue are indicative and do not preclude other sub-items being considered.

Legal, policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the PA2008 are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not listed as Principal Issues.

There are a number of matters that will be taken into account as overarching or integral components of the IAP. These include:

- the achievement of sustainable development;
- the effects of the Proposed Development;
- the effects of linkages/ overlaps between issues;
- the effects of the proposal on climate change; and
- the effects of the Proposed Development in relation to human rights and equality issues.

The ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these in mind.

<b>Principal Issue</b>	<b>To include but not be limited to:</b>
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodology of the air quality assessment.</li> <li>• Air quality effects on internationally and nationally designated sites from construction emissions.</li> <li>• Adequacy of air quality mitigation.</li> </ul>
Commercial fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assessment of effects on commercial fishing and fisheries, including baseline data and methodology.</li> <li>• Access to existing and alternative fishing grounds.</li> </ul>

Principal Issue	To include but not be limited to:
Compulsory acquisition and temporary possession of land and rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumulative and in-combination effects with other projects, policy and legislation.</li> <li>• Whether the extent of the land, rights and powers sought to be compulsorily acquired is required for the proposed development.</li> <li>• Whether the Temporary Possession powers sought are justified and proportionate.</li> <li>• Whether there is a compelling case in the public interest for the compulsory acquisition of the land, rights and powers sought by the draft Development Consent Order.</li> <li>• Whether all reasonable alternatives to Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession have been explored.</li> <li>• Whether sufficient work has been undertaken to try and acquire rights voluntarily.</li> <li>• Whether adequate funding is likely to be available to enable the Applicants to carry out the Compulsory Acquisition within the statutory period.</li> <li>• Approach adopted by Applicants to identifying ownership of land.</li> </ul>
Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction, form, extent and definitions of the draft DCO including Requirements, Protective Provisions, Deemed Marine Licences and design flexibility.</li> <li>• Adequacy of the draft DCO Requirements and Deemed Marine Licence Conditions and associated outline management plans to secure proposed mitigation and monitoring.</li> <li>• Whether any additional Requirements or Conditions would be necessary.</li> <li>• The scheme for the discharge of DCO Requirements and the Deemed Marine Licence Conditions and the appropriate authorities for approving such discharge.</li> <li>• The proposed Protective Provisions in respect of the land and equipment of Statutory Undertakers.</li> <li>• Relationship with other projects and consents.</li> </ul>
Ecology and nature conservation (onshore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on terrestrial species and habitats during construction and operation.</li> <li>• Adequacy of proposed mitigation and biodiversity enhancements, including appropriateness of Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy.</li> </ul>
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approach taken to the EIA and definition of significance of effects in the ES.</li> </ul>

Principal Issue	To include but not be limited to:
Environmental Statement (ES)	
Good design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and justification of design parameters.</li> <li>• Consideration of sustainable design.</li> <li>• Design aesthetic rationale.</li> <li>• Selection of the converter station site.</li> </ul>
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening of protected sites.</li> <li>• Adequacy of information on which the HRA would be based, including the in-combination assessment.</li> <li>• Likely Significant Effects (LSE), and identification of those taken forward for assessment.</li> <li>• Identification and assessment of Adverse Effects on the Integrity (AEol) of protected sites, including baseline identification, approach to collision risk assessment, displacement and mortality rates, and population viability analysis.</li> <li>• Implementation and effectiveness of the proposed Site Integrity Plan (SIP) and Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP).</li> <li>• Transboundary impacts.</li> <li>• Derogation case.</li> <li>• Compensation proposals, including identification and securing of candidate locations and activities, compensation ratios, and the appropriateness of a strategic or collaborative approach to compensation.</li> </ul>
Historic environment (onshore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodology of the assessment of effects on designated and non-designated heritage assets, including but not limited to the definition of heritage importance and assessment of the effects on heritage assets as groups rather than as individual receptors.</li> <li>• Effects on the onshore historic environment, including archaeology and setting of designated assets.</li> <li>• Consideration of the statutory tests under the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990 and Scheduled Monuments and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.</li> <li>• Appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed mitigation.</li> <li>• Future archaeological investigation, monitoring and supervision.</li> <li>• Effects on designated and non-designated heritage assets from decommissioning.</li> <li>• Cumulative effects on designated and non-designated heritage assets.</li> </ul>

Principal Issue	To include but not be limited to:
Hydrology, hydrogeology and flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on water resources and watercourses, including measures to prevent pollution of aquifers and watercourses.</li> <li>• Effects on flood risk, hydrology and drainage.</li> <li>• Compliance with the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.</li> </ul>
Infrastructure and other users (offshore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope of the assessment of effects.</li> <li>• Effects on other infrastructure, including but not limited to wake loss and loss of productivity of other offshore wind farms.</li> <li>• Effectiveness of mitigation and monitoring.</li> <li>• Cumulative effects.</li> </ul>
Landscape, seascape and views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequacy of the assessment methodology and approach, including the extent of study areas.</li> <li>• Whether the offshore platforms proposed outside of the array areas should be scoped out of the assessment.</li> <li>• The effects of the converter station being a gas insulated switchgear design or air insulated switchgear design.</li> <li>• Adequacy of viewpoint locations and visualisations.</li> <li>• Effects on landscape character and landscape designations.</li> <li>• Construction effects.</li> <li>• Effects of lighting (onshore).</li> <li>• Short and long-term effects on visual amenity.</li> <li>• Effects on trees, hedgerows, including veteran trees and ancient woodland, and the adequacy of mitigation.</li> <li>• Efficacy of proposed landscaping and visual mitigation.</li> <li>• Adequacy of proposed landscape management and monitoring.</li> </ul>
Land use, agriculture, land quality and socio-economic effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on agricultural land, soil quality and farming operations.</li> <li>• Risks from discovery of contaminated soils/ ground water and associated mitigation.</li> <li>• Effects on local and wider economy, employment, tourism and recreation.</li> </ul>
Marine archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on intertidal, inshore and offshore marine historic environment.</li> <li>• Adequacy of archaeological investigation, monitoring and supervision works.</li> </ul>
Marine and coastal processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequacy of assessment methodology and marine and intertidal process modelling.</li> <li>• Effects from coastal erosion.</li> </ul>

Principal Issue	To include but not be limited to:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequacy of cable protection measures and cable crossings.</li> <li>• Assessment of dredged sediment and their disposal.</li> <li>• Effects on the Flamborough Front.</li> <li>• Effects on the Dogger Bank.</li> <li>• Adequacy of scour protection and predictions.</li> <li>• Post decommissioning effects, including but not limited to the potential removal and exposure of buried infrastructure.</li> </ul>
Marine ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on benthic and intertidal habitats.</li> <li>• Effects on fish and shellfish, including seasonal restrictions and other mitigation measures.</li> <li>• Methodology and effects in relation to coastal and marine birds.</li> <li>• Effects on marine mammals, including marine noise and mitigation measures.</li> </ul>
Noise and vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequacy of noise assessment methodology.</li> <li>• Effects of construction and operation on residential amenity.</li> </ul>
Proposed development and site selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of alternatives.</li> <li>• Need for the Proposed Development.</li> <li>• Proposed radial connection to the national electricity grid network.</li> <li>• Co-ordination with other projects.</li> </ul>
Shipping, navigation and military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of safe air and marine navigation during construction and operation.</li> <li>• Effects on emergency response, search and rescue operations.</li> <li>• Effects on shipping routes and ports.</li> <li>• Effect on air defence radar and military training operations.</li> </ul>
Traffic and transport including public rights of way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on road network and local communities from traffic during construction phase.</li> <li>• Effects on public rights of way network including temporary and permanent diversion and stopping up.</li> </ul>

## Draft 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><b>Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to the Rule 6 letter including any written submissions on the Examination Procedure and Examination Timetable, including any submissions about the use of virtual methods</li> <li>• Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting including which agenda items you wish to speak on, points you want to make and why these need to be made orally rather than in writing</li> <li>• Responses to Relevant Representations (RRs) (please read PD7 of <b>Annex F</b> of this letter)</li> <li>• Summaries of all RR exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>• Request to participate in the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing on 22 October 2024 (please see <b>Annex E</b> of this letter)</li> <li>• Request to participate in Issue Specific Hearing 1 on 23 October 2024 (please see <b>Annex E</b> of this letter)</li> <li>• Suggested locations for an Accompanied Site Inspection, including the reason for the nomination, issues to be observed there and whether the locations require access to private land (please read PD6 of <b>Annex F</b> of this letter)</li> </ul>	8 October 2024
2.	<b>Preliminary Meeting</b>	22 October 2024 at 10:00
3.	<b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)</b>	22 October 2024 at 14:00
4.	<b>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1) on the scope of the Proposed Development, including construction activities and the principles of the Applicants' draft Development Consent Order (DCO)</b>	23 October 2024 at 09:30

5.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination Timetable</li> </ul>	<p>As soon as practicable after the close of the Preliminary Meeting</p>
6.	<p><b>Deadline 1</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Written summaries of oral submissions to the Hearings</b></li> <li>• <b>Any post-Hearing submissions or other documents requested by the ExA at the Hearings</b></li> <li>• <b>Any specific responses to points raised in oral submissions at the Hearings</b></li> <li>• <b>Responses to RRs</b> (if not provided at the Pre-Examination Deadline)</li> <li>• <b>Summaries of all RR exceeding 1500 words</b> (if not provided at the Pre-Examination Deadline)</li> <li>• <b>Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from Local Authorities</b> (see PD4 of Annex F of this letter)</li> <li>• <b>Written Representations (WRs) including summaries if exceeding 1500 words</b></li> <li>• <b>Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party by the ExA</b></li> <li>• <b>Requests to be heard at an OFH</b> Fully reasoned requests by Interested Parties to be heard at an Open Floor Hearing (OFH)</li> <li>• <b>Requests to be heard at a CAH</b> Requests by Affected Persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH)</li> <li>• <b>Applicants' suggested draft itinerary for an ASI</b> (if held) (see PD6 of Annex F of this letter)</li> <li>• <b>Initial Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)</b> (see PD1 of Annex F of this letter)</li> <li>• <b>Statement of commonality of SoCG</b> (see PD2 of Annex F of this letter)</li> <li>• <b>Examination Progress Tracker</b> (see PD3 of Annex F of this letter)</li> </ul>	<p>8 November 2024</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Land Rights tracker and/ or updated schedule of Progress for Voluntary Land Interest Agreements</b> (see PD9 of <b>Annex F</b> of this letter)</li> <li>• <b>Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by ExA</b> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>• <b>Comments on any further information/ submissions accepted by the ExA</b></li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Deadline 2</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comments on the LIRs</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on WR</b></li> <li>• <b>An updated draft DCO from the Applicants in clean and tracked versions</b> (if not provided at Deadline 1)</li> <li>• <b>An updated Land Rights tracker and/ or updated schedule of Progress for Voluntary Land Interest Agreements</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated Guide to the Application</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on the Applicants' suggested draft itinerary for an ASI</b> (if held)</li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by ExA</b> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 1</b></li> </ul>	<b>22 November 2024</b>
8.	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Written Questions (ExQ1)</b></li> </ul>	<b>9 December 2024</b>
9.	<p><b>Deadline 3</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Response to ExQ1</b></li> <li>• <b>Responses to comments on the LIRs</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on the Applicants' revised draft DCO</b> (if submitted)</li> </ul>	<b>6 January 2025</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>An updated Land Rights tracker and/ or updated schedule of Progress for Voluntary Land Interest Agreements</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated Guide to the Application</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by ExA</b> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 2</b></li> </ul>	
10.	<p><b>Dates reserved (if required) for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</li> <li>• Any Issue Specific Hearing</li> <li>• Any Open Floor Hearing</li> <li>• Accompanied Site Inspection</li> </ul>	<b>Week commencing 20 January 2025</b>
11.	<p><b>Deadline 4:</b> For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases and other documents requested by the ExA at the Hearings (if required)</b></li> <li>• <b>Any specific responses to points raised in oral submissions at the Hearings (if required)</b></li> <li>• <b>Comments on responses to ExQ1</b></li> <li>• <b>The Applicants' revised draft DCO (if required)</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated Examination Progress Tracker</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated Land Rights Tracker and/ or Schedule of Progress for Voluntary Land Interest Agreements</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated Book of Reference and Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated SoCG</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated Statement of Commonality of SoCG</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated Guide to the Application</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by ExA</b> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 3</b></li> </ul>	<b>3 February 2025</b>

12.	<p><b>Dates reserved (if required) for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</li> <li>• Any Issue Specific Hearing</li> <li>• Any Open Floor Hearing</li> </ul> <p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further written questions (ExQ2)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Week commencing 3 March 2025</b></p>
13.	<p><b>Deadline 5</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases and other documents requested by the ExA at the Hearings</b> (if required)</li> <li>• <b>Any specific responses to points raised in oral submissions at the Hearings</b> (if required)</li> <li>• <b>Responses to ExQ2</b> (if issued)</li> <li>• <b>The Applicants' revised draft DCO</b> (if required)</li> <li>• <b>An updated Land Rights Tracker and/ or Schedule of Progress for Voluntary Land Interest Agreements</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated Guide to the Application</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by ExA</b> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 4</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>17 March 2025</b></p>
14.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Report on the Implications of European Sites (RIES)</b> (if required)</li> </ul>	<p><b>20 March 2025</b></p>
15.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The ExA's preferred draft DCO, proposed schedule of changes, or commentary on the draft DCO</b> (if required)</li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by ExA</b> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (if required)</li> </ul>	<p><b>27 March 2025</b></p>
16.	<p><b>Deadline 6</b></p>	<p><b>9 April 2025</b></p>

	<p>For the receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comments on the RIES</b> (if issued)</li> <li>• <b>Comments on the ExA’s preferred draft DCO, proposed schedule of changes, or commentary on the draft DCO</b> (if issued)</li> <li>• <b>Comments on responses to ExQ2</b> (if required)</li> <li>• <b>An updated Land Rights Tracker and/ or Schedule of Progress for Voluntary Land Interest Agreements</b></li> <li>• <b>Updated Guide to the Application</b></li> <li>• <b>Any further information requested by ExA</b> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>• <b>Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 5</b></li> </ul>	
17.	<p><b>Deadline 7</b></p> <p>For the receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final DCO</b> Final DCO to be submitted by the Applicants in the SI template.</li> </ul> <p>Applicants to provide the email notification from <a href="https://publishing.legislation.gov.uk/validation">https://publishing.legislation.gov.uk/validation</a> confirming the document has successfully passed validation, and the PDF version of the SI validation report obtained from the link in the notification email. The Applicants should also provide a clean (all tracking removed) standalone MS Word version of the draft DCO, with no header or cover page.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final updated BoR</b> Final BoR and schedule of changes to BoR</li> <li>• <b>Final SoCG</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Statement of Commonality of SoCG</b></li> <li>• <b>List of matters not agreed where SoCG could not be finalised</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Guide to the Application</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Examination Progress Tracker</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Land Rights Tracker and/ or Schedule of Progress for Voluntary Land Interest Agreements</b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Midday</u> on 16 April 2025</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Signed and dated planning obligations</b> (if required)</li> <li>• <b>Closing statements</b> (see PD11 of <b>Annex F</b> of this letter)</li> <li>• <b>Comments on any further information received</b> Comments on any additional information/submissions received by <b>Deadline 6</b></li> </ul>	
<b>18.</b>	The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months	<b>22 April 2025</b>

### Submission times for Deadlines

The time for submission of documents for any Deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, **except for Deadline 7** which is **midday** on 16 April 2025. The acceptance of documents received after the expiry of a Deadline is subject to the exercise of the discretion 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 of 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 Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

## Notification of initial hearings

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following initial hearings:

Date	Hearing	Start time	Joining details
22 October 2024	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)	<b>Registration Process from:</b> <b>13:30</b> <b>Hearing starts:</b> <b>14:00</b>	This hearing will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams  Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
23 October 2024	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1) on the scope of the Proposed Development, including construction activities and the principles of the Applicants' draft Development Consent Order (DCO)	<b>Registration Process from:</b> <b>09:00</b> <b>Hearing starts:</b> <b>09:30</b>	This hearing will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams  Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
<p><b>NOTE:</b> If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification that a particular date is no longer required will be published as soon as practicable on the <a href="#">project webpage</a>, providing reasonable notice to Interested Parties of the decision to cancel them.</p>			

**You must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by Tuesday 8 October 2024 if you intend to participate in any of the hearings and provide all the information requested (see below).**

If you simply wish to observe the hearings then you do not need to register as you will be able to watch a livestream of the events. A link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin. You

will also be able to watch the recording of the events which will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the events have finished.

Any request to participate in a hearing **must 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);
- 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;
- for Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the [Book of Reference](#) and the [Land Plans](#); and
- the [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/ page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Requests to participate should be made using the [Event Participation Form](#) on or before the **Pre-Examination Deadline**.

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

### Hearing agendas

For Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings the ExA will publish a detailed draft agenda on the [project webpage](#) 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.

### Procedure at hearings

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 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](#)

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.

## Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

The Examining Authority (ExA) has made the following Procedural Decisions:

### 1. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

In relation to some of the Initial Principal Issues identified in **Annex C** to this letter, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the Applicants and certain Interested Parties. The draft Examination Timetable at **Annex D** to this letter therefore establishes **Deadline 1** for initial submission of draft SoCGs.

The aim of a SoCG is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at an early stage in the Examination process. It should provide a focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute or need not be the subject of further evidence. It can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information. Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the Applicants and the other relevant Interested Party or parties and submitted **by the Applicants**.

SoCGs are requested to be prepared between the Applicants and:

Party(ies)	Topics to include but not be limited to:
The East Riding of Yorkshire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• planning policy;</li> <li>• the need and principle of the Proposed Development and the examination of alternatives;</li> <li>• air quality and health;</li> <li>• noise and vibration;</li> <li>• geology and ground conditions;</li> <li>• land use and agriculture;</li> <li>• landscape and visual impacts;</li> <li>• ecology;</li> <li>• design;</li> <li>• water resources, flood risk and drainage;</li> <li>• construction effects on people and communities;</li> <li>• socio-economics;</li> <li>• historic environment; and</li> <li>• highways and transport including Public Rights of Way (PRoW).</li> </ul>
Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• water environment effects, including flood risk and effects on flood alleviation and storage schemes, watercourses, waterbodies and drainage matters;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Applicant's Flood Risk Assessment with particular reference to climate change allowances;</li> <li>• compliance with the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017;</li> <li>• biodiversity and fisheries;</li> <li>• land contamination and groundwater, including source protection zones, groundwater dependent ecosystems and existing landfill;</li> <li>• waste management; and</li> <li>• environmental permits, consents and licences.</li> </ul>
Historic England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• consultation adequacy;</li> <li>• existing environment;</li> <li>• assessment methodology;</li> <li>• assessment findings;</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact Assessment;</li> <li>• approach to mitigation;</li> <li>• Outline Onshore Written Scheme of Investigation;</li> <li>• Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation;</li> <li>• Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP); and</li> <li>• onshore cultural heritage.</li> </ul>
Hull City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• planning policy;</li> <li>• the need and principle of the Proposed Development and the examination of alternatives;</li> <li>• construction effects on people and communities;</li> <li>• socio-economics; and</li> <li>• highways and transport including Public Rights of Way (PRoW).</li> </ul>
Marine Management Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• consultation adequacy;</li> <li>• marine water and sediment quality;</li> <li>• commercial fishing and fisheries;</li> <li>• shipping and navigation;</li> <li>• adequacy of marine and coastal geophysical surveys and process modelling;</li> <li>• adequacy of survey and assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the Flamborough Front;</li> <li>• characterisation of the baseline and assessment of effects on benthic and intertidal habitats;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• definition and evaluation of disposal site(s) for dredging(s);</li> <li>• impacts on fish and shellfish, including the effects of marine noise on spawning herring and potential transboundary effects; and</li> <li>• approach to underwater noise survey, assessment and mitigation, including the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol:</li> </ul>
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• consultation adequacy;</li> <li>• Navigational Risk Assessment;</li> <li>• compliance with guidance issued by the MCA;</li> <li>• traffic routing baseline;</li> <li>• identification of impacts and worst-case scenario;</li> <li>• cumulative impact assessments;</li> <li>• layout design/ Single Line of Orientation of Win Turbine Generators; and</li> <li>• safety zones.</li> </ul>
National Grid Interconnector Holdings, National Grid Transmissions Ltd, National Grid Electricity Transmissions Plc, Northern Powergrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• impact on existing apparatus;</li> <li>• any connection issues; and</li> <li>• Protective Provisions.</li> </ul>
National Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used; and</li> <li>• highways and transport implications.</li> </ul>
National Federation of Fisherman's Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• consultation adequacy;</li> <li>• assessment methodology;</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact Assessment;</li> <li>• Navigational Risk Assessment; and</li> <li>• safety zones.</li> </ul>
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• adequacy of marine and coastal geophysical surveys, baseline characterisation, identification of sensitive receptors and process modelling;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adequacy of survey and EIA of the Proposed Development on the Flamborough Front;</li> <li>• adequacy of survey and assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the Dogger Bank;</li> <li>• screening and assessment conclusions for the Marine Conservation Zones assessment;</li> <li>• approach to underwater noise survey, assessment and mitigation, including the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol;</li> <li>• approach to the assessment of impacts on bottlenose dolphins;</li> <li>• assessment of marine mammal disturbance and collision impacts from vessels moving to and from port;</li> <li>• approach to the characterisation of benthic habitats;</li> <li>• consideration of cumulative and in-combination effects, including benthic ecology;</li> <li>• identification and assessment of the disposal of dredged sediment and drilling spoil;</li> <li>• assessment and mitigation of the potential impacts on herring;</li> <li>• Electro Magnetic Field impacts on fish and shellfish;</li> <li>• the approach to the analysis of the baseline offshore ornithological characterisation data and the consequent reliability of density and abundance estimates;</li> <li>• the approach to assessment of effects on seabird populations, including seasonal definitions, seasonal variation in the use of the affected sea areas, collision risk modelling, barrier effects, population viability analysis, age structures and apportionment to Special Protection Area (SPA) flocks;</li> <li>• cumulative effects on offshore bird populations;</li> <li>• the approach to the assessment of indirect effects on seabirds as a result of impacts on their prey species;</li> <li>• the approach to, and findings of, the Applicant's shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (RIAA);</li> <li>• the Applicant's without prejudice derogation case;</li> <li>• the nature, definition, suitability and likely effectiveness of the Applicant's without prejudice compensation proposals; and</li> <li>• assessment of effects on onshore ecology, including the likely effectiveness of any mitigation, enhancement and biodiversity net gain measures that have been proposed</li> </ul>
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the effect on existing railway infrastructure and services with particular reference to level crossings; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protective Provisions.</li> </ul>
The RSPB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• the application of the model used to analyse the baseline offshore ornithological characterisation data and the consequent reliability of density and abundance estimates;</li> <li>• the approach to assessment of the effects on seabird populations, including seasonal definitions,</li> <li>• collision risk modelling (gannet avoidance rates), population viability analysis, age structures and apportionment of SPA flocks;</li> <li>• the Applicant's without prejudice derogation case; and</li> <li>• the nature, definition, suitability and likely effectiveness of the Applicant's without prejudice compensation proposals.</li> </ul>
The Wildlife Trusts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• underwater noise and impacts of the Proposed Development on marine mammals and the associated European sites;</li> <li>• impacts on benthic and intertidal ecology; and</li> <li>• the Applicant's without prejudice derogation case and compensation proposals for any Adverse Effects on the Integrity of European Sites.</li> </ul>
Trinity House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• consultation adequacy;</li> <li>• baseline environment;</li> <li>• assessment methodology;</li> <li>• identification of impacts;</li> <li>• Navigational Risk Assessment; and</li> <li>• mitigation and management.</li> </ul>
UK Chamber of Shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of EIA topics and issues carried through to the assessment, and the appropriateness of the assessment methodologies used;</li> <li>• consultation adequacy;</li> <li>• baseline environment;</li> <li>• assessment methodology;</li> <li>• Cumulative Impact Assessment;</li> <li>• identification of impacts;</li> <li>• route deviations;</li> <li>• Navigational Risk Assessment; and</li> <li>• mitigation and management.</li> </ul>

**All of the SoCGs listed above should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft Development Consent Order.** Any Interested Party seeking the rewording of an Article or Requirement should provide the form of words which is being sought.

Where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed between the parties by **Deadline 6**, or if any local authority position needs to be signed off at a higher level, the Applicants are requested to submit a draft version of that SoCG at **Deadline 7**. The draft Examination Timetable makes provision for updated SoCGs to be submitted at various Deadlines with final versions by **Deadline 7**.

The content of SoCGs will help to inform the ExA about the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings during the Examination and enable the ExA and the Applicants to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

## **2. Statement of Commonality**

At each point that the updated SoCGs are submitted to meet a deadline in the Examination Timetable, the Applicants are requested to submit a Statement of Commonality of SoCG or update to this statement. This document should provide an overview of the position of each SoCG at the relevant deadline, for example noting where discussions are ongoing and where a final signed SoCG has been submitted. It would also assist the ExA to have summaries of commonality in respect of the main topics of the Examination. The material should be presented in a tabular 'traffic light' coloured format wherever possible.

The ExA requests that the initial Statement of Commonality to be submitted by **Deadline 1** with subsequent deadlines set out in the Examination Timetable.

It would be helpful and reduce duplication if the Statement of Commonality was combined with the Examination Progress Tracker (see below).

## **3. Examination Progress Tracker**

The ExA requests that the Applicants submit an Examination Progress Tracker, in the form of a table, reporting on what it considers are the principal and other notable issues in the Examination. The ExA would like the Applicants to set this out by issue and/ or sub-issue, the Interested Parties which have raised them, the summary of the concerns raised, the progress being made to address them (if any), the up-to-date position and any progress to resolution. The Applicants could consider 'traffic-lighting' the table for ease of reference.

The ExA requests that the initial Progress Tracker to be submitted by **Deadline 1** with subsequent deadlines set out in the Examination Timetable.

It would be helpful and reduce duplication if the Examination Progress Tracker was combined with the Statement of Commonality of SoCG (see above).

#### 4. **Deadline for the submission of Written Representations (WR) and Local Impact Reports (LIRs)**

In order to maximise the time available within the Examination, the ExA has made a procedural decision to request WRs and LIRs at **Deadline 1**. For the avoidance of doubt the ExA wishes to make it clear that WRs and LIRs are two separate documents and must be submitted separately and independently of each other.

For the purpose of Rule 10(2) of the Examination Procedure Rules, the 'period of 21 days' within reference to which the ExA must provide notice for the submission of WRs commences on the 24 September 2024. This is a date before the start of the Examination. However, as the deadline for submission of WRs and LIRs is set at **Deadline 1** this provides more than the 21 days' notice and the ExA is satisfied that Interested Parties have been permitted sufficient time in which to draft and submit WRs and LIRs.

By providing early notice, the ExA is ensuring that all Interested Party's (IPs) will have a reasonable time period in which to draft their WRs or LIRs.

For more information about the importance and content of LIRs, see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for Local Authorities](#).

#### 5. **Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an IP**

The ExA has made the Procedural Decision that, in order to facilitate a timely start to the Examination, Statutory Parties who have not yet done so should decide whether they wish to be considered as an IP. If they do, they need to notify the Planning Inspectorate of their decision in writing by **Deadline 1**.

#### 6. **Accompanied Site Inspection – suggested locations**

The draft Examination Timetable at **Annex D** to this letter includes a date reserved for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) during the week commencing 20 January 2025.

The ExA's starting position is that ASIs will be used only when it is necessary to inspect a site in the company of an Interested Party, for example where access to private land is required. It may also be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they can be inspected as part of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on an 'access required' basis.

The ExA requests that IPs submit suggested locations for the ExA to visit as part of an ASI by the **Pre-Examination deadline (8 October 2024)**. The request must include:

- sufficient information to identify the location;
- the issues to be observed at the location;

- information on whether the site can be accessed via public land; and
- the reason why the location has been suggested.

**It would be helpful if nominations could be sent separately from any other written submission.**

The Applicants are requested to prepare a draft itinerary for the ASI to be submitted by **Deadline 1**. This should include:

- relevant locations referred to in the Relevant Representations received;
- any other locations at which the Applicants have predicted likely significant environmental effects; and
- the locations suggested by Interested Parties submitted by the Pre-examination deadline.

Comments by IPs on the Applicants' draft itinerary must be submitted by **Deadline 2**.

The ExA will consider each suggested site location, including those provided in the Applicant's draft itinerary, to determine if it could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view it on an accompanied basis.

The ExA will publish its final itinerary at least five working days before the date of the ASI.

**IPs should be aware that ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed Development.** However, participants may be invited by the ExA to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

#### **7. Deadline for the submission of comments and summaries on Relevant Representations (RRs)**

Rule 3(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) requires written comments on any RRs to be submitted either on the date of the Preliminary Meeting (PM), or a date specified in the Rule 8 letter which follows as soon as practicable following the PM, whichever is the later. To comply, the ExA has requested responses to RRs and summaries for those that exceed 1500 words by **Deadline 1**. However, it would be very helpful to the ExA, for the PM and subsequent hearings, if comments on the RRs could be submitted by the **Pre-Examination deadline**.

Comments on RRs should:

- specify the names of the parties making the representations and the relevant Examination Library reference in order to demonstrate that all RRs have been responded to; and

- where a detailed or tabular representation has been submitted, present responses in a comparable manner in order to ensure that all points are responded to in similar terms.

## 8. Request for regular updated documents throughout the Examination

The ExA requests that at each deadline the Applicants provide an updated Guide to the Application to be able to identify the latest versions of documents that have been submitted into the Examination. This is a 'living' document which should capture all updates/ revisions to the application documents along with any new documents submitted into the Examination by the Applicant. A final version must be submitted at **Deadline 7** before the close of the Examination. This document should form part of the certification of plans identified in the draft DCO.

## 9. Land Rights Tracker

The ExA notes the submission of the Schedule of Progress for Voluntary Land Interest Agreements Document [APP-030].

However, the ExA wishes to take this data a stage further with the capture and manipulation of all non-agreed land rights at the outset of the Examination in a simple, usable table. The aim is to make the process of the Applicants' on-going discussions with Affected Persons and others much easier, and the reporting of such matters to the Secretary of State more efficient.

With that in mind, the ExA has made a Procedural Decision to request that the Applicants complete and maintain a Land Rights Tracker; an example is shown in the figure below and will be sent to the Applicants by the Case Team. In the example, the structure of the Land Rights Tracker would provide a comprehensive account of the status of non-agreed matters with Affected Persons.

The ExA recognises that the figure below is draft only and is not a statutory requirement. However, it is hoped that the Applicants and Affected Persons will recognise that the purpose of the Land Rights Tracker is to simplify the whole Examination, recommendation and decision-making process. The ExA requests that all parties therefore positively engage with the process.

Should the Applicants consider that the required information for the Land Rights Tracker can be captured in a different and more efficient way or by using different software, it may wish to discuss this with the Case Manager and update the ExA at the Preliminary Meeting. The ExA requests that the Land Rights Tracker is submitted at **Deadline 1** with requests further updates at **each deadline**. A final version must be **submitted by Deadline 7**.

The Applicants can avoid submitting updates as stated above if there are no changes to the previous version.



## 10. Submission of draft Development Consent Order (DCO)

When the Applicant's submit an amended draft DCO at any deadline, the submission should include a new version number identifying that the submitted draft DCO is an amended version. Amended draft DCOs must:

- be submitted in Microsoft Word except for the version to be submitted at **Deadline 7** which must include a version that has been validated against the Statutory Instrument template;
- be accompanied by a track change version;
- where necessary be accompanied by an updated Explanatory Memorandum; and
- a consolidated schedule of changes listing all changes to the draft DCO since the application version [APP-027] and for what purpose each change was introduced.

## 11. Closing Statements

The ExA invites the Applicants and IPs to submit closing statements at **Deadline 7**. Closing statements should build upon the Examination Progress Tracker/ final Statement of Commonality of SoCG. They should set out a concise record of the party's position prior to the close of the Examination, specifically focusing on the areas where any disagreement may remain. Closing statements should be **brief** and should not introduce any new evidence.

## 12. Clarifications and requests for further information from the Applicants

### Identification of functional floodplain

The Applicants are asked to identify the location and extent of the functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b), within the onshore Order limits. If components would be located within Flood Zone 3b, the Applicants are requested to provide confirmation that there would be no net loss of floodplain storage during all phases of the proposed development. In addition, the Applicants are asked to provide evidence that the sequential approach has been followed or signpost where in the application documentation this evidence can be found. This information is to be submitted at the **Pre-Examination deadline**.

### Agricultural Land Classifications

In the response to the Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 advice [AS-003] the Applicants advised that further surveys in relation to agricultural land classifications were being undertaken for the remaining Onshore Development Area. The ExA can confirm that it would like to see the results of these surveys. Please provide the results of this further work or indicate when it will be provided. This information is to be submitted at the **Pre-Examination deadline**.

### Archaeological trial trenching

In the response to the Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 advice [AS-003] the Applicants advised that trial trenching was on-going post submission. If the results of this work are available, please provide the updated Archaeology Geophysical Assessment Report and Interim Phase 2 Trial Trenching Report which should include details of how any post submission findings might affect the conclusions of the Environmental Statement. If this work is still on-going, please provide details of when it will be completed and when the updates/ additional information will be submitted. This information is to be submitted at the **Pre-Examination deadline**.

### Arboricultural surveys

In the response to the Planning Inspectorate's Section 51 advice [AS-003] the Applicants advised that further arboricultural surveys were being undertaken. If available, please submit these surveys and their conclusions. If the surveys are not available, please indicate when they will be provided. Please note that to maximise the time available to the ExA to review these surveys they should be submitted as and when they are available rather than being submitted together. This information is to be submitted at the **Pre-Examination deadline**.

### Request for additional plans

To help the ExA with its consideration of the Application please provide the following additional plans:

- a typographical map for the convertor station zone of theoretical viability;
- a plan identifying, in relation to the Order limits, the locations of developments identified within Table 23-22 of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [APP-192];
- a plan showing Option 01 B and Option 01 D for Landfall 8 that are identified within Table 4-12 of [APP-067]; and
- a plan identifying the schemes identified within Table 22-14 of [APP-172] and their proximity to the Order limits.

This information is to be submitted at the **Pre-Examination deadline**.

The plans contained within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan, Annex 2 Outline Access Designs [APP-238] and 7.24.24.2 Appendix 2 Transport Assessment, Annex 20 – Outline Access Designs [APP-198] are not orientated in the direction of north. Furthermore, a number of the plans appear to incorrectly show north (eg AC8, AC11 etc). The ExA would find it helpful if all these plans could be orientated to the direction of north. As a minimum, the General Arrangement Plans and related Swept Path Analysis should be shown orientated in the same direction. In addition, Swept Path

Analysis for AC2 would not appear to show the same road layout as shown for AC2 General Arrangement. Please amend these plans as necessary and submit the amended by plans at **Deadline 1**.

### Clarifications

It is unclear what the brown/ green area with white hatching relates to in Figure 23-6 of [APP-193]. Can the Applicants confirm whether this area is “area to be returned to agriculture” or represents something else. Currently, it does not match the key and thus difficult to understand. Could the Applicants re-provide this document to ensure that this is clearer.

It is hard to distinguish between the two different shades of green representing “Other Hedgerows” and “Line of Trees” on the key for the Tree Preservation Order and Hedgerow Plan [APP-024]. Could the Applicants re-provide this plan using two different colours that enable the two categories to be easily identified.

This information is to be submitted at the **Pre-Examination deadline**.

### 13. Additional Submissions

The ExA has exercised its discretion and made a Procedural Decision to accept the following Additional Submissions:

- Written submission by the Coal Authority [AS-001];
- Written submission by the Ministry of Defence [AS-002];
- Written submissions by the Doggerland Foundation [AS-004]; and
- Applicant’s response to the Planning Inspectorate’s Section 51 Advice [AS-003]

These documents are available on the [project page of the National Infrastructure website](#). Interested Parties are asked to submit any comments they may have on any of these documents by **Deadline 1**.

## Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available 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 made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference 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 these locations.

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.

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	<a href="#">Bridlington Central Library</a> 14 King Street, Bridlington, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO15 2DF	Monday: 09:30 – 17:00 Tuesday: Closed Wednesday: 09:30 – 18:00 Thursday: 09:30 – 15:00 Friday: Closed	A4 Black and White £0.20 A4 Colour £0.50

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
		Saturday: 09:30 – 13:00 Sunday: Closed	
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	<a href="#">Cottingham Library and Customer Service Centre</a>  Market Green, Cottingham, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU16 5QG	Monday: 09:30 – 16:30 Tuesday: 09:30 – 16:30 Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 09:30 – 18:30 Friday: 09:30 – 13:00 Saturday: 09:30 – 12:30 Sunday: Closed	A4 Black and White £0.20 A4 Colour £0.50
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	<a href="#">Driffield Centre</a>  Cross Hill, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO25 6RQ	Monday: 09:30 – 18:30 Tuesday: 09:30 – 16:30 Wednesday: 09:30 – 16:30 Thursday: 09:30 – 16:30 Friday: 09:30 – 16:30 Saturday: 09:30 – 12:30 Sunday: Closed	A4 Black and White £0.20 A4 Colour £0.50
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	<a href="#">Hornsea Library and Customer Services</a>  Broadway, Hornsea, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU18 1RU	Monday: 09:30 – 16:30 16:45 – 21:00 * Tuesday: 12:30 – 18:30 18:45 – 21:00 * Wednesday:	A4 Black and White £0.20 A4 Colour £0.50

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
		<p>Closed: except for Library Now</p> <p>09:30 – 21:00 *</p> <p>Thursday:</p> <p>09:30 – 13:30</p> <p>13:45 – 21:00 *</p> <p>Friday:</p> <p>09:30 – 16:30</p> <p>16:45 – 20:00 *</p> <p>Saturday:</p> <p>09:30 – 12:30</p> <p>12:45 – 17:00 *</p> <p>Sunday:</p> <p>Closed: except for Library Now</p> <p>09:30 – 17:00 *</p> <p>* Please note: These are the opening times for Library Now Service at this location. This location has a <a href="#">Library Now Service</a> in operation.</p>	
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	<p><a href="#">Leven Library</a></p> <p>Recreation Hall, 74 East Street, Leven, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU17 5NG</p>	<p>Monday: Closed</p> <p>Tuesday: Closed</p> <p>Wednesday: 10:30 – 12:30 and 15:30 – 19:00</p> <p>Thursday: Closed</p> <p>Friday: Closed</p> <p>Saturday: Closed</p> <p>Sunday: Closed</p>	<p>A4 Black and White £0.20</p> <p>A4 Colour £0.50</p>

## Information about the 'Have your say' section

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 your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either 200 or DGBS. 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 D** 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.