



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application:	Slough Multifuel Extension Project
Reference:	EN010129
Time and date:	21 February 2023
Venue:	Microsoft Teams (virtual)

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

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/slough-multifuel-project/>

1. Welcome and Introduction

Simon Warder welcomed those present and introduced himself as the single Examining Authority (ExA) to examine the Slough Multifuel Extension application.

The ExA explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS)

The ExA explained that he would be examining the application made by SSE Slough Multifuel Limited ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State about whether the Development Consent Order should be made. The SoS will then decide whether to make an Order granting consent for the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)

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

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

2. Audio recording

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

3. General Data Protection Regulation

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

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

4. The ExA's Remarks about the Examination Process

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

The ExA noted the Applicant's update on Statement of Common Grounds (SOCG's) in its response to Procedural Deadline A.

The Applicant updated the ExA on its position. Firstly, the SoCG with Slough Borough Council was submitted and has been accepted. The Rule 6 letter identified some additional matters, so the Applicant is engaging with the council to address the matters raised.

The SoCGs with the Environment Agency and Natural England have been drafted and the Applicant will shortly be in a position to share these with both parties and then expect to be in a position to submit these by Deadline 2.

The Applicant noted it has been in discussions with Cadent and hopes to provide a further update in advance of Deadline 2.

The Applicant has provided its responses to the relevant representations made by Royal Mail Group and Segro. The Applicant queried if it was appropriate to provide SoCG's with the two parties. The ExA suggested that brief SoCGs with each party would be helpful.

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (IAPI)

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C](#) of the Rule 6 letter of 23 January 2023 and asked for any observations on them.

No comments have been made by any of the parties in attendance.

6. Procedural decisions

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

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

The ExA requested the Applicant re-submits its suggested locations for the site visit itinerary at Deadline 1.

The ExA recommended the Applicant submits its revised work plans at Deadline 1.

7. Draft Examination Timetable

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

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

The Examination Timetable can be found in the Rule 8 letter published on 28 February 2023.

The ExA explained the draft timetable does not include a provision for the Planning Inspectorate to prepare a Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES). The Applicant stated it is in agreement with this approach and brought attention to Natural England's response of 14 January which appears to be in line with this view.

All comments received were noted by the ExA and will be considered when drafting the Final Examination Timetable

8. Hearings and Site Inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue Specific Hearings
- Open Floor Hearings
- Accompanied Site Inspections
- Unaccompanied Site Inspections

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. These were duly noted and will be considered by the ExA.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in our [Advice Note 8.5](#)

The ExA noted he had undertaken an [Unaccompanied Site Visit on 31 January 2023](#).

The ExA advised that the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) is scheduled for 20 April and requested suggestions or locations for the ASI by Deadline 1 on 9 March.

The ExA confirmed an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) will only be carried out if requested by an Interested Party (IP) and any requests should be made by Deadline 1. The ExA also confirmed all hearings will be held virtually.

The Applicant confirmed it is content with the approach of all hearings being held virtually.

9. Any Other Matters

No comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.