



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application:	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (Generating Station)
Reference:	EN010130
Time and date:	10:00am Thursday 10 th October 2024
Venue:	Nineteen33 Suite, Boston United Football Club

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

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010130>

1. Welcome and Introduction

Rod MacArthur welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors, with Mark James, Gavin Jones, Gaurav Joshi and Claire Megginson as the other panel members to examine the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind project application.

The Examining Authority (ExA) explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 26 April 2024.

Mr MacArthur explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by GT R4 Limited (trading as Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind) ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

Mr MacArthur 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.

The ExA asked the attendees present to introduce themselves.

2. Audio recording

The video 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. Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further information can be found on the following advice pages: [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
[Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

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 4 September 2024 and asked for any observations on them.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) raised a request in relation to item 15 of the ExA's Initial Assessment of Principal Issues. LCC noted that in relation to traffic the cumulative impact will be the main issue that the Council will be engaging on, and this will be where representations from the Council on the matter will be focused. LCC requested that the issue of the cumulative impact on traffic be considered when establishing the scope of Issue Specific Hearings and agendas.

Representations of behalf of T.H Clements requested that the impact upon agriculture should be considered as a principal issue for the Examination. Mr Westmoreland Smith KC representing T.H Clements outlined that the impact upon agriculture covered four principal areas of concern and requested that an Issue Specific Hearing covering the impact of agriculture be established as part of the Examination.

Neil Wilson, an Interested Party, spoke to give his views on the merits of the application. The ExA advised him that the Examination had not yet begun and that the most relevant forum for his views to be heard would be the Open Floor Hearing scheduled for that afternoon, which he was registered to speak at.

6. Examination Timetable

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

The ExA confirmed that comments received by Natural England had been noted and considerations would be reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

The Examination Timetable can be found in the [Rule 8](#) letter published on 17 October 2024.

7. 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 F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

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

8. Any other matters

The ExA outlined the Planning Inspectorate's approach to the management of change requests as set out in the advice pages. The ExA outlined that two requests had been received from the Applicant that did not follow the approach set out in guidance. The ExA explained that representations had been received from Interested Parties including Natural England requesting that deadlines be amended to allow for new information submitted by the Applicant to be reviewed and taken into account when making submissions. The ExA outlined an expectation that if in the future changes are required to be made, that the information be submitted in line with guidance. The Applicant was also advised to work with all interested parties in order to minimize the impact on their human resources as far as reasonably possible.

The ExA raised a request from LCC in its relevant representation [RR-004] requesting an interrelationship report which would be updated at each deadline. The ExA requested that LCC expand on how such a report might be structured and managed throughout the course of the Examination, and what LCC believes the benefit of such a document would be in the Examination. The Applicant confirmed that it was willing to discuss taking this matter forward with LCC.

The ExA outlined the Planning Inspectorate's approach to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Planning Inspectorate has recently issued guidance in relation to the use of AI, and due to the evolving capability and application of AI, this guidance will be kept under review. The ExA outlined how submissions using AI should provide information on what tools and systems have been used to create the submissions.

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