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### Preliminary Meeting 1

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All right. So it's now 1140 and we shall now resume this preliminary meeting.

00:00:13:04 - 00:00:37:29

So as as Miss Martin's referred to, we will now hear any submissions on the draft examination timetable. And we have had a number of of comments in writing to procedural deadline A that we'll look at and then obviously hear any oral submissions from those in the room and in teams. So.

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That, first of all, starting with with Lincolnshire County Council.

00:00:47:08 - 00:00:57:01

It does seem to me that we may have addressed the points that you made in your written submission under items two and three. Is there anything further you want to add on timetabling specifically, Mr. McBride?

00:00:59:03 - 00:01:48:21

Now Brightlingsea County Council think it's just, I suppose, an observation to, to understand how there might be any sort of collaboration or contact with the other examining authorities, particularly Cottam and Eckington who which obviously Cottam started this week and hacking in a couple of weeks. I think it's just to try and to ensure that as far as possible, um, deadlines for those examinations don't clash with deadlines of this examination because obviously having limited resources and pretty much it's the same team will be feeding into um, the deadlines for all the different examinations.

00:01:48:23 - 00:02:00:21

So if we can avoid clashes where possible, that would be helpful. I think just noting already that it's deadline free that.

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On the 4th of January is the same day as a deadline from the gate. Burton. So it just we can avoid sort of clashes like that. Think that would be that would be helpful.

00:02:16:24 - 00:02:37:16

All right. Thank you, Mr. McBride. Um, and yes, whilst the SSAs are separate, then it is possible that case teams can work behind the scenes to look at where potential conflicts might arise and how and

how they can be alleviated. So that is that is something that we we we will be encouraging. And thank you for that

00:02:39:12 - 00:02:52:29

and. And we have a submission from West Lindsey District Council again about about timetabling. Again, we have talked about the pressures and concerns. Is there anything in particular that you wanted to highlight, Mr. Shaikh?

00:02:54:01 - 00:03:35:24

West Lindsey District Council. Yes. Thank you, madam. Firstly, just pointing to we have produced a cumulative timetable that forms representations. Hopefully that gives you the examining authority and indication of some of the deadlines that currently run in parallel to each other. And our key concerns really were around the two weeks, two sequential weeks of issue specific hearings. If it's the case that the issue specific hearings for this examination are going to be in January, instead result would probably be that the relevant deadlines that we have potential concerns about would be pushed back and therefore actually would be an agreement that would solve the issues.

00:03:36:02 - 00:04:09:07

And obviously our position was that there are lots of deadlines running concurrently which meant that it would be difficult for us resource wise to be preparing for hearings in other hearings and then deal with, for instance, post hearing submissions when we were about to go into new issues, specific hearings. So it was the resource implications in particular and the ability to properly prepare and submit those and but think that probably solves the issue. Just one thing to note on that is that there are potential changes that are going to be made to the cotton examination timetable.

00:04:09:09 - 00:04:32:16

That is something that we discussed in Tuesday's preliminary meeting. And so if those changes are going to be made, we would request that there's some sort of collaboration between the case teams just to make sure that the changes don't result in essentially the same situation we are in now, which is still concurrent and clashing deadlines. Yeah.

00:04:32:24 - 00:04:37:20

Okay. Understand the point. Yes, that is something we are we are looking at. Thank you, Mr. Shaikh.

00:04:39:24 - 00:04:53:09

Um, and then we have a submission from 7000 acres setting out again, concerns about about deadlines and conflicting deadlines. Is there anything further you wanted to to add? But.

00:04:54:24 - 00:05:38:16

Thank you. 7000 acres. Yes. Obviously, we submitted a long list of issues which you felt the deadlines were very close to one another. And the real thing we just wanted to add is that this in effect, means that the quality of our submissions and evidence submitted to the examining authority for each scheme is then impacted because we feel as if we can't give them the due time and diligence we would like to. And obviously, as we are the affected parties and interested parties and the end user, if you like, um, we feel we do need to be given appreciate you've got a timeline, but you know, we're suffering the effects of all of this.

00:05:38:18 - 00:06:11:00

So, you know, we do need to be respected in this way to be given enough time for people to understand they're not specialists in this at all. They need to be able to understand the process, the

different schemes, the different applicants, the different issues, the timeline. Um, issues. Um, it's a lot of people to take on board and I'm sure we've obviously you've heard this before, but it really is an important point. I'm sorry to labour it that, you know, if some accommodation can be given to allow more time for residents and appreciate, you're going to give some discretion.

00:06:11:02 - 00:06:27:06

But um, it really is an important issue because our, the quality of our submissions is affected due to all these schemes coming in all at once and be thrust upon us. And therefore that affects these authorities ability to get good evidence in return to make a recommendation to Secretary of State.

00:06:27:18 - 00:07:01:02

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Carpet. Yes. And I think we acknowledge those concerns and made some comments and suggestions about perhaps looking at the most effective use of your resource in terms of the submissions made and maybe having generic submissions that can be adapted for each examination, but do understand the wider concern. And that's that's something that's come out in the comments made at procedural deadline A and say we are reviewing the timetable and looking wherever possible to and to ease ease the pressures if we can do so.

00:07:01:04 - 00:07:17:09

But so thank you for your comments. Um, and then, um, Gilbert, think you made some comments on the timetable and your representation. Again, it's we've been through a number of points. Is there anything further you wanted to, to add?

00:07:18:16 - 00:07:23:08

Carol Gilbert Stoughton by Stow. Now I just can't concur with with.

00:07:23:10 - 00:07:24:13

The understood okay.

00:07:24:19 - 00:07:27:08

Opinions already given. Thank you very much.

00:07:29:05 - 00:07:33:00

Does anyone else in the room have any comments on the examination timetable before we move on?

00:07:36:21 - 00:07:38:11

Yes. The applicant.

00:07:38:29 - 00:08:14:19

Yes. As mentioned earlier, the potential suggestion that we put forward for the hearings to be moved to starting on the 9th of January. It was just to highlight that as far as we're aware, based on the information that's available at the moment, that that that week wouldn't clash with any deadlines for any of the other projects based on the current rule. Six letters for for cotton and also the current rule six letter for Herrington Fen. So um, just mention that as thank you that we've taken that into account when putting that suggestion forward.

00:08:14:21 - 00:08:16:08

Thank you. All right. Thank you very much for that.

00:08:19:28 - 00:08:21:02

The final comments.

00:08:23:02 - 00:08:23:17

Okay.

00:08:24:25 - 00:08:59:18

So just just to conclude on this item. And as I've said, we will take into account everything that's been said to us in writing and and orally at today's meeting in thinking about the best way forward for for this examination. And as you can appreciate, it's not a straightforward task as well as all of the points raised here and and in writing on the timetable. There are there are various internal deadlines that we are required to adhere to, such as the publication of notification. So we need to put all of this into the melting pot and try and work our way forward.

00:09:00:07 - 00:09:11:04

It is inevitable that we won't be able to address all of the concerns raised. But but please be assured that we'll do our best to to try and balance the competing interests.

00:09:13:06 - 00:09:20:26

All right. So moving on, I'm going to ask Mr. Medlin to to to run through agenda item five, please.

00:09:24:00 - 00:09:56:27

Will not take us through the next agenda item. This is the initial assessment of principal issues and I will run through it fairly speedily. It is the initial assessment of principal issues set out at Annex D to the Rule six letter dated 10th of August. As the title of this annex suggests. It is our initial assessment of the important issues which will be considered through the examination. It's based on the applicant's documentation and relevant representations received.

00:09:57:26 - 00:10:31:09

Whilst this will assist in guiding, the early stages of the examination is not set in stone and can change depending on the future information received at the examiner as the examination progresses. Just to note, at this stage we have received a submission from historic England at procedural deadline A This is requesting that the medieval Bishop's palace and Deer Park State Park be specifically mentioned in the initial assessment, and that request is under consideration.

00:10:33:23 - 00:10:40:15

Does anybody in the room have any comments or questions about the initial assessment of principal issues?

00:10:45:06 - 00:11:23:13

Collaborative with the applicant. It was just another way. It was the aware of historic England submission. And note that you mentioned some topics that you were giving consideration to, whether there would it would be useful to have an issue specific hearing on that particular topic. I don't believe that cultural heritage was one of those on the list, but we will perhaps suggest that in light of that request and the position between the applicant and Lincolnshire County Council on topics relating to cultural heritage that some consideration should be given as to whether it would be helpful to have a hearing on that topic as well.

00:11:24:05 - 00:11:24:23

Thank you.

00:11:27:08 - 00:11:34:18

Thank you. Um, any other participants in the room have any comments on that?

00:11:38:02 - 00:11:46:16

No know any attendees taking part via Microsoft teams have any comments about the. Lighten.

00:11:50:24 - 00:11:58:01

It doesn't appear so. So thank you for your comments received. And they will be noted and we will act on them. Thank you.

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Thank you, Miss Medlin. So.

00:12:05:00 - 00:12:31:11

I'm just want to thank everyone for their contributions this morning and very conscious of the fact that some very important issues for the examination and for the timetable have been raised. And written comments to procedural deadline. And already this morning there are a few matters that we want to consider a little bit further before we

00:12:33:06 - 00:12:40:26

conclude the meeting today. So we are going to take another short adjournment now to allow us just to reflect and consider

00:12:42:16 - 00:12:46:00

how we move forward. So it's now.

00:12:47:28 - 00:12:56:03

1153. And I'd like an adjournment until I'm at 12:10, please.

00:12:59:07 - 00:13:00:09

Thank you, everyone.