



# Preliminary Meeting Note

**Application:** Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets  
**Reference:** EN010136  
**Time and date:** Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 10:00am  
**Venue:** Princess Royal Suite, Princess Royal Strand, Aintree Racecourse, Ormskirk Road, Aintree, Liverpool, United Kingdom, L9 5AS

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

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Susan Hunt (SH), welcomed those present to the meeting for the application made by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited ('the Applicant') for an Order granting Development Consent for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets.

SH advised that she has been appointed by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Housing, Communities and Local Government and introduced herself as the lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors, the Examining Authority (ExA). The other members of the panel, Janine Lever and Stephen Bradley also introduced themselves.

SH confirmed that the ExA have made a formal Declaration of Interests and there are no known conflicts of interest in examining this application and explained that together the ExA will be reporting to the SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero with a recommendation as to whether the Development Consent Order (DCO) should be made.

SH explained that in [Appendix B](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter dated 5 August 2024 sets out the Preliminary Meeting (PM) process.

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. [Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets - Project information \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

## 2. 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 noted that [Appendix B](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter dated 5 August 2024 explains how the examination process will be conducted.

The ExA confirmed that this examination relates only to offshore works for an array of wind turbines and cables connecting them and offshore substation platforms all located in withing the Irish Sea with the connection to the grid not being included and no works on land as there had been some misunderstanding of this from representations. The electricity connection from the offshore substations to the National Grid will form part of a separate National Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) known as Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets Project which is expected to be submitted in Autumn this year for consideration by a different and entirely separate examinations.

The ExA noted that in the Rule 6 letter they highlighted that there are a number of other infrastructure projects in and around the Irish Sea which are currently being considered or proposed in the near future including: Morecambe Offshore Wind Farm Generation Assets Project; and Mona Offshore Wind Farm. The ExA confirmed that both DCOs will have their own separate ExAs.

The separation of this Application and the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets Project is a consequence of the Onshore Transmission Network review and the Holistic Network Design Review carried out for the UK Government by the National Grid Electricity system operator which aims to facilitate a collaborative approach to offshore wind projects connecting to the UK National Grid. A key output of the Holistic Network Design Review Process is that these two projects should work collaboratively.

The ExA will consider overlapping matters during examination including the cumulative and in combination effects with these other projects and how this will be done is set out in [Appendix D](#) and [Appendix G](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 5 August 2024. This includes a request to the Applicant for a submission of an interrelationship report with the content and timetable to be discussed.

BAE Systems explained their position and interest and noted that they have discussed individual Statement of Common Grounds with the Applicant. The ExA noted that the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) will become an interested party to this examination and asked if their representations will be preceded by consultation with BAE Systems as a separate organization. BAE Systems said that they will discuss and confirm this.

#### **5. Hearings and Site Inspections**

The ExA noted that there are a number of different types of hearings as set out in [Appendix B](#) and [Appendix F](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter dated 5 August 2024.

The ExA noted that they have received written correspondence from the Marine Management Organisation expressing concerns about the timetabling of Issue Specific Hearing 1 and asking for this to be rearranged and these concerns have been noted.

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

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

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. There were no comments.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found [here](#).

## **6. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (IAP)**

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Appendix C](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 5 August 2024 and asked for any observations on them.

The ExA noted that the Applicant's progress tracker can contain matters which are not listed in the IAP. The Applicant explained that the tracker will become more detailed as the examination progresses.

BAE Systems confirmed that their main principal issue will be aviation and radar and asked if this issue will be subject to an individual hearing as there are lots of organisations who have an interest in impacts on this issue. The ExA replied that they will have a better idea once they have seen further written representations.

The ExA noted that any further comments on this that arise after this meeting can be put in writing to the ExA by Deadline 1 ending on 3 October.

## **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 [Appendix G](#) of the [Rule 6](#) Letter.

The ExA noted that they received a submission at the procedural deadline from the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and it appears they were missed off the list of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) to be entered into. The Applicant confirmed that they will put them on the list for SoCG and noted that they have written to the fisheries groups to suggest that there might be some benefit in grouping the SoCGs. The Applicant also noted that the other offshore wind developers may also benefit from a joint SoCG and they are exploring that with them.

The ExA noted that Natural England (NE) confirmed that they will be focusing on their principal areas of disagreement summary statement (PADSS) and a risk and issues log instead of a SoCG. The ExA noted that this approach will only be for NE and the Applicant confirmed they consent to this.

The Applicant noted that the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Wildlife Trust do not wish to progress a SoCG. Also, Nature Scot have been included in list of SoCG but the Applicant has not received a response from them yet.

The ExA noted that any further comments on these procedural decisions that arise after this meeting can be put in writing to the ExA by Deadline 1 ending on 3 October.

## **8. Examination Timetable**

The ExA noted requests received in writing to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in [Appendix E](#) of [Rule 6](#) letter and also welcomed further comments from the parties in attendance. The ExA advised it would consider making minor revisions to the draft timetable in light of written and oral submissions made. The ExA also noted that there may be implications for the Morgan examination timetable as a result of other DCO applications under examination.

The resulting Examination Timetable can be found in the [Rule 8](#) letter published on 13 September 2024.