



# Preliminary Meeting Note

<b>Application:</b>	Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project
<b>Reference:</b>	EN020024
<b>Time and date:</b>	Wednesday 22 March 2023, 10:00am
<b>Venue:</b>	Novotel York Centre, Fishergate, York YO10 4FD

*This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed. A video recording of the event is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed via the following link: [Recording of the Preliminary Meeting](#)*

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

Jessica Powis (JP) welcomed those present and introduced herself as the lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors to examine the Yorkshire GREEN application. Gavin Jones and Annie Coombs also introduced themselves as panel members. Together they form the Examining Authority (ExA).

The ExA explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 13 December 2022 [[PD-004](#)] and later amended on 16 March 2023 [[PD-006](#)] following a change in the appointment of panel members.

The ExA explained that it would be examining the application made by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

The ExA explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes. 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 noted the Procedural Deadline A (PDA) submission from North Yorkshire County Council [[PDA-003](#)] regarding availability for the PM. The ExA has tried to mitigate any further overlap in the draft timetable. The ExA also highlighted the forthcoming organisational merger between a number of Local Planning Authorities, highlighted within [[PDA-003](#)].

## 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](#).

## 2. ExA's Remarks and 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 referred all parties to [Annex B](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 22 February 2023, which provided further information about the purpose and context of the PM and subsequent Hearings.

The ExA drew attention to Additional Submissions from the Applicant with the document references [AS-002] to [AS-019], inclusive. The ExA also highlighted submissions made at PDA, with the document references [PDA-001] to [PDA-004], inclusive. All are accessible through the [Examination Library](#). Comment on these submissions were invited by Deadline (D) 1.

The ExA highlighted the importance of submission of information in accordance with Examination Deadlines. The ExA requested that all parties familiarize themselves with the [Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website to this Examination](#), which will be used to communicate with parties throughout the Examination.

## 3. 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. The ExA drew attention to the response from the Applicant in Schedule 3 of its response to Procedural Deadline A [[PDA-002](#)]. The Applicant confirmed it is content with the identification of Principal Issues. No further comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

## 4. Examination Timetable

The ExA noted requests already received in writing to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in [Annex D](#) of Rule 6 letter. The Applicant summarised the main points raised about the Examination Timetable in its response to PDA [[PDA-002](#)]. No further comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

The ExA advised that it was within its power to complete the Examination at any point following the final deadline. Interested Parties would be notified when the Examination closed. The ExA advised that early finalisation of Protective Provisions could assist this matter.

The Applicant proposed that parties (including Local Planning Authorities) shared deadline submissions with each other

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations of these and the submissions at PDA would be reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

The Examination Timetable can be found in the Rule 8 letter published on 29 March 2023.

## 5. Hearings and Site Inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue Specific Hearings
- Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (CAH)
- Open Floor Hearings (OFH)
- Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI)
- Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USI)

The ExA summarised the time reserved for these events within [Annex D](#) of Rule 6 letter. The ExA sought comments on further OFHs or CAHs by D1. No assumptions had been made about how future hearings will be held (blended or virtual events).

The Applicant summarised its views on future hearings and surrounding deadlines as set out in [\[PDA-002\]](#). The ExA confirmed it would consider these requests and suggestions when finalising the Examination Timetable.

The ExA advised that it was considering ISHs in May covering the broad categories of construction matters and effects, environmental effects and potentially Green Belt matters. The final hearing agendas would be dependent on submissions received at D1 and D2.

The ExA drew parties' attention to the notes from its USI undertaken on 7 and 8 February 2023 [\[EV-001\]](#), and suggested locations for an ASI in [\[PDA-001\]](#) and Schedule 2 of [\[PDA-002\]](#). The Applicant was invited to review these to inform the draft ASI itineraries (options for both a one day and one and a half day ASI), to be submitted at D1. The ExA advised it would be useful to have certain proposed non-linear works pegged out, with landowners agreement. Technology could be used to pinpoint exact proposed locations of pylons. The arrangements for any ASIs will be confirmed in the Rule 8 letter and all Interested Parties are invited to comment on proposals and request to attend by D1. No further comments were made by any of the parties in attendance on ASIs.

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

## 6. Procedural Decisions

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

The ExA summarised the reasons for its requests for Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) in Part 1 of [Annex F](#). The Applicant expanded on its comments, as set out in Schedule 5 of its letter dated 8 March 2023 [\[PDA-002\]](#). The ExA requested that where matters are agreed, a statement from both parties to that effect is submitted. In absence of a written statement, a SoCG would be expected.

Part 2 of [Annex F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter set out the ExA's request for Local Impact Reports (LIR) from the host local authorities. The ExA welcomed LIRs from any other relevant local authorities who may wish to submit one. The Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 1](#) provides advice about the production of Local Impact Reports.

Part 5 of [Annex F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter covered the documents that have been accepted as Additional Submissions at the discretion of the ExA. The ExA reminded all parties that once the Examination commences, the approach of only publishing submitted documents once a Deadline has passed would be generally be taken. Any references to documentation should cite the [Examination Library](#) reference numbers.

Part 6 of [Annex F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter requested from additional information from the Applicant. The Applicant confirmed it was content with the request. The ExA referred to Schedule 4 of the Applicant's letter dated 8 March 2023 [[PDA-002](#)] and the plans on pages 21 and 22. The ExA provided clarification on a number of viewpoints.

The ExA drew attention to [s51 advice](#) issued to the Applicant by the case team on 21 March 2023 in connection with the submission of additional environmental information. The Applicant advised of its intention to submit an addendum to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to address an omission. The additional assessment was likely to identify significant adverse effects and the relevant documentation will be submitted at D1, and relevant parties would be signposted to it.

The ExA provided an overview of the remainder of Part 6 of [Annex F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter. The Applicant confirmed that in relation to the National Policy Statement (NPS) schedule of compliance, this would be unaffected if draft NPSs were to become designated during the course of the Examination because it expects the transitional provisions to apply to this project. However, in the event of new NPSs being designated during the Examination, the Applicant would make further submissions about them as important and relevant matters.

The ExA asked any Statutory Parties who wish to be considered as an Interested Party to notify them by D1.

## **7. Any Other Matters**

The ExA invited comments from participants on any other matters. No further comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

## **8. Close**

The Preliminary Meeting closed at 11:40am.