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VikingCCSPipeline@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

All Interested Parties;
Statutory Parties; and
any Other Person invited to the
Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

EN070008

Date:

15 February 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) – Section (s) 88 and 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (EPR) – Rules 4, 6, 9, 10 and 13

Application by Chrysaor Production (UK) Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Viking Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Pipeline

Appointment of the Examining Authority, invitation to the Preliminary Meeting and Notification of Hearings

Following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an Examination of the above application, I am writing to introduce myself and the other member of the ExA. My name is David Wallis and the other members of the ExA are Jonathan Gorst and Alex Jack. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website ([project webpage](#)).

We would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted us when considering how we will examine this application.

You may be aware of applications for other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) in Lincolnshire and surrounding areas. The Examinations of those will be conducted by other ExAs. Therefore, to ensure that we receive your submissions in relation to the Viking CCS Pipeline Project, please take care to make them in accordance with the specific procedures for this project, as set out in this letter, and as we subsequently notify. We will consider overlapping matters such as the cumulative effects of the other NSIP projects with the Viking CCS Pipeline project during our Examination.



The ExA's draft Examination timetable is set out in **Annex D**. The ExA anticipates that several parties will also wish to participate in the Examination of one or more of other projects in the area, as well as this one. It is also aware that there is likely to be an overlap of the Examination stage of this project with that for one or more other projects. As such, the ExA recognises the potential for resource challenges for parties wishing to participate in more than one Examination at the same time. The ExA has developed the draft Examination Timetable as necessary for its Examination. Consistent with that, it has also sought identify Deadlines and events that do not clash with those for this project. To do this the ExA has sought to maximise the time between Deadlines and events and minimising the number of Deadlines. If the ExA decides to change the Examination Timetable, then it will consider the potential for clashes with the Examination Deadlines or events of other projects.

1. Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

As a recipient of this letter, you are invited to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss **the procedure for the Examination** of the above application. The Examination will start after the Preliminary Meeting has closed. The agenda for the Preliminary Meeting is at **Annex A**.

The meeting will be a blended event, meaning that participants may attend in person, at the venue cited below, or virtually using the Microsoft Teams Platform.

Date	Start time	Venue and joining details
Tuesday 26 March 2024	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:15am Virtual Registration Process from: 9:30am Preliminary Meeting starts: 10:00am	Stallingborough Grange Hotel, Riby Road, Grimsby, DN41 8BU and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
<p>IMPORTANT: The Preliminary Meeting should be completed before 1:00pm. However, you are encouraged to keep the whole day free in case the meeting overruns or there is a technical problem that requires the meeting to be adjourned and resumed later in the day.</p>		

You must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by Friday 8 March 2024 (Procedural Deadline A) if you intend to participate in the Preliminary Meeting and provide all the information requested (see below).



If you simply wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Friday 8 March 2024 (Procedural Deadline A)** using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Friday 8 March 2024**.

2. Attendance and participation at the Preliminary Meeting

If you intend to attend and participate in the Preliminary Meeting, you must register by Friday 8 March 2024 and provide all the information requested below.

Any request to attend and participate in the Preliminary Meeting must include the following information:

- name and unique reference number (found at the top your letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person; and
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make.

Requests to participate should be made using the [Event Participation Form](#) on or before **Procedural Deadline A, Friday 8 March 2024**.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the Preliminary Meeting, either virtually or in person.

3. Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is for all parties to put their views to the ExA about how the application will be examined.

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to us about **how**



the application should be examined. The ExA will therefore limit the scope of the Preliminary Meeting to consideration of how the application will be examined. See **Annex B** to this letter and the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.3 - Influencing how an application is Examined: the Preliminary Meeting](#) for more information.

The Preliminary Meeting is **not** an opportunity for you to give your views about what you like or don't like about the application. The merits or disadvantages of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts, which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed. All relevant and important matters will be taken into account when we make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who will take the final decision in this case.

The agenda for the meeting is at **Annex A** to this letter. This has been set following our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues arising from our reading of the application documents and the Relevant Representations received. The Initial Assessment of Principal Issues is set out in **Annex C** to this letter.

4. Written submissions about how the application should be examined

The Planning Act 2008 establishes a principally written process for the Examination of applications for Development Consent Orders and **representations made in writing carry equal weight to oral representations at all stages of the process.**

We are now requesting written submissions from recipients of this letter about how the application should be examined. We particularly wish to hear from you if:

- You consider changes need to be made to the draft Examination Timetable set out at **Annex D** to this letter; and/or
- you wish to comment about the arrangements for future Examination Hearings, including the use of virtual methods.

You are invited to make a written submission about how the application is to be examined at the latest by **Friday 8 March 2024**. We request that all submissions are made using the ['Have Your Say' page](#) on the project webpage. **Annex H** to this letter provides further information about using the ['Have Your Say'](#) tab.

5. After the Preliminary Meeting

After the Preliminary Meeting we will issue a letter under Rule 8 of the EPR (Rule 8 letter) setting out the finalised Examination Timetable. A note of the meeting will also be published on the project webpage.



6. Format of Examination Events

The Examination of the application will principally be a written process (see [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)), supplemented where necessary by various types of Hearings (see [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#)).

The ExA expects that both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of how we will examine this proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project submission. We will however remain flexible and will confirm the format of any Hearings when we provide formal notification of each Hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

7. Notification of initial Hearings

We have made a Procedural Decision to hold the initial Hearings listed below. The Hearings will be blended events; they will be held in person at Stallingborough Grange Hotel, Riby Road, Grimsby, DN41 8BU, and virtual attendance will be available via Microsoft Teams.

- **Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)** on Wednesday 27 March 2024 at 09:30am.
- **Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)** into the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) and Strategic Matters, on Wednesday 27 March 2024 at 14:00pm.

As detailed in **Annex E** of this letter, the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing scheduled for 27 March 2024 will be to discuss the strategic, overarching principles of compulsory acquisition and not specifically to hear Affected Persons' personal cases. Time is reserved for this in the week commencing 24 June 2024, as shown in the draft timetable.

The Issue Specific Hearing scheduled for 27 March 2024 will be to establish the scope of the draft Development Consent Order and to clarify matters to ensure an agreed position on the Examination to follow.

If you intend to attend and participate in the Hearings, you must register by **Friday 8 March 2024 (Procedural Deadline A)** and provide all the information requested. Important information about these Hearings is contained in **Annex E** to this letter.

8. Notification of Unaccompanied Site Inspection

The ExA undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) on 6 February 2024. This is referred to as USI1 hereafter. A brief record of USI1 to inform the Applicant, Interested Parties and other parties of the actions taken by the ExA has been published on the project webpage with the [Examination Library](#) reference [\[EV1-001\]](#).



9. Other Procedural Decisions made by the ExA

We have made some further Procedural Decisions which are set out in detail at **Annex F** to this letter. They are summarised as follows:

- Statements of Common Ground and the organisations they should be entered into with, are requested from the Applicant by **Friday 26 April 2024**, which is Deadline 1 in the draft Examination timetable set out at **Annex D**.
- The ExA requests parties to include a schedule of changes when they are submitting updated versions of previously submitted documents.
- The ExA requested that information regarding Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession negotiations is presented in a format common to most nationally significant infrastructure projects, as detailed in **Annex F**.
- The ExA requests that, whenever changes are made to the drafting in the dDCO, the Applicant provides the clean and marked up versions of the dDCO as specified in **Annex F**. At the final deadline, the dDCO should be supplied in the Statutory Instrument (SI) template as a word document with the SI template validation report.
- Additional submissions have been accepted into the Examination at the discretion of the ExA. These have been listed in **Annex F**.

10. Changes to land interests

When the Applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the Applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the PA2008 by emailing VikingCCSPipeline@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. The Examination Timetable includes various Deadlines for the submission of an updated Book of Reference and schedule of changes to the Book of Reference, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

11. Managing Examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication, which is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer. If you have received a letter but are not able to receive communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the project webpage. The [‘Have Your Say’](#) tab is available on the [project webpage](#) which provides a portal through which Interested Parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the [‘Have Your Say’](#) portal is provided at



Annex H to this letter. There is also a function on the left-hand side of the project webpage called 'Get updates'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the Examination.

12. Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's document [What is My Status in the Examination?](#)

If your reference number begins with '2004', 'VNZP-0', 'VNZP-AFP', 'VNZP-S57' 'VNZP-APP' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'VNZP-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'VNZP-OP' you are in Group C. The meaning and purpose of those groups are explained in the document published at the link above.

If having read this document you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

13. Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders.](#)

14. Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this Examination (if accepted by the ExA) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#). Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex G** to this letter.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

We look forward to working with all parties in the Examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

David Wallis

Lead Member of the Examining Authority



Annexes

- A Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting
- C Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- D Draft Examination Timetable
- E Information about Hearings
- F Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- G Availability of Examination Documents
- H Information regarding the 'Have Your Say' page

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.



ANNEX A: Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting

You must register **by completing the [Event Participation Form](https://forms.office.com/e/yCj1PVWDFg)** by **Friday 8 March 2024 (Procedural Deadline A)** if you intend to participate in the Preliminary Meeting and provide all the information requested..

<https://forms.office.com/e/yCj1PVWDFg>

If you simply wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings. To ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Friday 8 March 2024 (Procedural Deadline A)**, using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Friday 8 March 2024**.

Date	Tuesday 26 March 2024
Time	10:00 am
Venue for parties attending in person	Stallingborough Grange Hotel, Riby Road, Grimsby, DN41 8BU
For parties attending by virtual means	Via Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.
Attendees	Interested Parties and Other Persons who have pre-registered

09.15 am	Seating available Seating available at Stallingborough Grange Hotel, Riby Road, Grimsby, DN41 8BU for in-person attendees.
09.30 am	Virtual Arrangements Conference Please arrive at 09:30 am to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the Case Team, greeted and given further instructions.

	The Registration Process will commence at 09:30am. This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for the Preliminary Meeting and allow for any questions to be asked about how to take part.
10.00am	<p>Preliminary Meeting</p> <p>The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at 10.00am. The Examining Authority (ExA) will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.</p> <p>A public livestream of the meeting will be made available on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website (project webpage) shortly before the meeting is due to open.</p> <p>Item 1 Welcome and introductions Item 2 Remarks about the Examination process Item 3 Initial Assessment of Principal Issues Item 4 Draft Examination Timetable Item 5 Procedural Decisions Item 6 Any other matters</p>
Close of the Preliminary Meeting	

Attendance at the Preliminary Meeting

Any request to participate in the Preliminary Meeting **must include** the following information and be made on the [Event Participation Form](#):

- name and unique reference number (found at the top your letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person; and
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make.

Observing the Preliminary Meeting

If you wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting in person and at the physical venue, you are still required to register by **Friday 8 March 2024 (Procedural Deadline A)** via the [Event Participation Form](#)

However, if you wish to observe virtually then you do not need to register. You will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event via a weblink that will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/ or
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

Late arrivals

The Preliminary Meeting will start at **10.00 am** irrespective of any late arrivals (in-person or virtual), for whom access to the event may not be possible. It may take some time to admit participants from the virtual lobby, your patience whilst you are waiting is appreciated.

Changes to the Agenda

The agenda for the Preliminary Meeting is subject to change at the discretion of the ExA, although in making changes the ExA will be mindful of the need to provide opportunities for fair involvement to all Invited Parties.

ANNEX B: Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting

Background

The Preliminary Meeting (PM) will be a blended event with some participants attending in person and some taking part virtually using Microsoft Teams. It will not be possible to send recordings to the blended event.

The Examining Authority (ExA) is conscious of video-conferencing fatigue and will aim to keep the proceedings focussed and as efficient as possible. In that regard, this annex provides advance access to information that would usually be included in the ExA's introductory remarks. Please read this carefully. The ExA will only present a summary of the key points set out here in order to ensure that the time available for participants to speak is maximised.

The ExA and the Case Team

The ExA will introduce themselves at the start of the PM. The ExA will be supported by the Planning Inspectorate Case Team. During the registration process a member of the Case Team will welcome and admit participants from the virtual lobby, and will be available to answer questions by email before and after the PM. The contact email address is: VikingCCSPipeline@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting

The PM is being held to discuss the arrangements for the Examination of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Viking Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Pipeline Project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and which will generally be referred to in the PM and Examination as the 'Proposed Development'. The application has been made by Chrysaor Production (UK) Limited, who will be referred to as 'the Applicant'.

You will find information about the application and, in due course, documents produced for the Examination on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website ([project webpage](#)). The project webpage has links to the Examination Timetable, Relevant Representations and Examination documents and Examination procedure.

You are encouraged to look at the [project webpage](#) if you haven't already done so, because it will be used to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the Examination.

The main purpose of the PM is to discuss the arrangements for the Examination of the application. It focuses on the process only, and it will not be looking at the substance of the proposals. Questions, discussions and representations about the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development are for the Examination itself which will begin the day after the close of the PM.

The PM will be your opportunity to influence the process that the ExA intends to follow. The agenda for the PM is at **Annex A**. It is important to have the letter and the agenda in front of you and to refer to them during the course of the PM.

Government guidance and policy

The application is a NSIP under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as a consequence of sections 14(1)(g) and 21 of the PA2008 as it includes the construction, operation and maintenance of a cross-country pipeline, together with related infrastructure, which exceeds the threshold of 16.093km. The designated National Policy Statements (NPS) 'Overarching NPS for Energy' (NPS EN-1) and gas supply infrastructure and gas and oil pipelines (NPS EN-4) apply to this Examination and to decision-making relating to this application.

The ExA will consider the Proposed Development in accordance with the above NPSs and any other applicable policy or considerations the ExA deem to be important and relevant. The PA2008 makes it clear that, in making a decision, the relevant Secretary of State (SoS) "*must decide the application in accordance with any relevant NPS*" (s104(3)), subject to certain provisos. Essentially, the provisos are that the application must not breach legal or treaty obligations, and that any adverse impact of the Proposed Development would not outweigh its benefits.

The SoS is entitled to disregard any representations that relate to the merits of the designated National Policy Statement (NPS). In practice, this means that the ExA will not spend time examining representations that challenge policy set out in NPSs, or the validity of NPSs themselves. The focus will be on the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development, tested to the appropriate extent using the tests set out in relevant designated NPSs that are in force.

Other important and relevant planning policies that the ExA may consider include policies in the relevant local authorities' development plans. However, if these conflict with policy in a NPS, then the NPS will take precedence.

In summary, the PM will establish the procedures and timetable for the Examination of the Proposed Development. It will set a framework for the ExA to enable the SoS to consider and decide the application. In doing so, the ExA will have regard to:

- the positions and representations of all Interested Parties (IPs);
- any Local Impact Reports (LIR) prepared and provided by relevant local authorities;
- other prescribed matters; and
- any other matters that appear to be both relevant and important to the relevant SoS's decision.

Preliminary Meeting invitees

The Applicant is invited to the PM and is generally given the opportunity to reply to any representations made.

Everyone who has made a valid Relevant Representation has been registered as an Interested Party (IP) and has been invited to the PM. All IPs are entitled to involvement in the Examination.

Each person or organisation with an interest in land or rights that are affected by a Compulsory Acquisition (CA) request in this application is an Affected Person (AP) and has been invited to the PM. In addition to a general entitlement to involvement in the Examination, APs have a right to be heard in relation to any objection about the effects of CA on their interests in land, and a right to be notified of any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH). All APs are IPs, whether or not they have made a valid Relevant Representation.

Certain bodies are Statutory Parties and they have been invited to the PM. Statutory Parties can elect to become IPs without having made a valid Relevant Representation by notifying the ExA in writing.

Conduct of the Preliminary Meeting

The PM will start promptly at 10:00 am on **Tuesday 26 March 2024 (Annex A)**, and the ExA estimates that it will take between one and three hours to complete.

During the PM participants may have to make allowances and be patient if there are delays associated with the technology used. In recognition of the fatigue associated with on-screen communication, the ExA will provide breaks during the PM as appropriate.

A digital recording of the PM will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the PM. The recording allows any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed at the PM. The making and publication of these recordings are a means by which the ExA meets the legal requirement to hold the PM (and any other hearings) in public. In this regard, **anyone speaking at the PM will need to introduce themselves each time they speak**, to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the event is clear who was speaking. A written note of the PM will be produced and published as soon as practicable following the close of the PM.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the **UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)** applies. Participants must do their best to avoid providing any information which should otherwise be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the Case Team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and retain them for a period of five years from the SoS's decision on the DCO. If you actively participate in the PM, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the

recording will be made available in the public domain. Please see our [Privacy Notice](#) for more information about how we handle your data.

Following the ExA's introductions, each participant who has been registered to speak will be asked to introduce themselves, including any organisations or groups that they represent. The ExA will then conduct the meeting in accordance with the agenda. If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you can switch off your camera at any point.

The Examination Process

The Examination of NSIPs is primarily a written process and Hearings take on an inquisitorial approach. This means that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence primarily using written questions. While some Hearings are held to provide supplementary evidence, questions to the Applicant or to witnesses will come from the ExA. Questioning or cross-examination of witnesses by other parties will not generally be allowed.

In terms of opportunities to provide evidence in writing, the draft Examination Timetable makes provision for the following written processes:

- Host and Neighbouring, lower and upper tier Local authorities can submit Local Impact Reports (LIR) if they wish. Whilst these are voluntary, the PA2008 provides that if they are provided, they must be considered by the SoS in reaching a decision. Consequently, LIRs are a very important method for local authorities to communicate issues of concern to the ExA, the SoS and their residents.
- IPs can make Written Representations (WRs) and comment on WRs made by other parties.
- IPs can respond to the ExA's written questions (WQ) and comment on responses to these written questions provided by others.
- IPs may be asked to contribute to the making of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) if it appears that there are matters on which they and the Applicant agree, and if it would be useful for this to be clarified. SoCGs most usefully extend to catalogue matters that are not agreed or are outstanding.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a series of numbered Deadlines for receipt of written submissions. Timely submissions received by the relevant Deadline and that address its purpose will be accepted. **Documents received after the relevant Deadline are only accepted at the discretion of the ExA and may not be accepted to ensure fairness to all parties.** Circumstances where documents are submitted late without good reason, causing inconvenience or delay to other parties can amount to unreasonable behaviour.

These written processes will be the principal means used by the ExA to gather information, evidence and views about the application. However, the Examination will only be effective if all parties resolve to give timely, full, frank, clear and evidenced written submissions, provide answers to every question that is relevant to their interests, and to engage fully with any other related processes such as the Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections the ExA decides to hold.

There is no merit in withholding or delaying information, or in failing to co-operate, and should it occur, any unreasonable behaviour that caused another party to incur wasted expenditure could lead to an award of costs against the offending party.

The ExA has discretion to make amendments to the Examination Timetable for the wider benefit of the Examination. If possible, events will be arranged for times when all relevant parties are available, but the ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination by the end of the six-month period beginning with the day after the close of the PM. This requirement is set by legislation, and while the ExA will try to rearrange event dates to accommodate all relevant parties, in practice there will be limited scope to alter dates set out in the draft Examination Timetable.

The statutory time limit for the Examination means that where there are matters that still need to be discussed and agreed between the Applicant and IPs, it will be very helpful to the ExA if these could be progressed as early as possible.

Hearings

The draft Examination Timetable includes provision for Hearings, at which the ExA takes oral evidence from the various parties.

Any registered IP may request an **Open Floor Hearing** (OFH) to make oral representations about the application if they believe this to be preferable to relying on their written representation, though both carry equal weight. Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing, but they should not simply repeat matters previously covered in the written submission. Rather, they should focus on specific detail and explanation to help inform the ExA. There should be no new or unexpected material in oral representations. A written summary note with any supporting evidence or references will be requested of each speaker following the hearing.

As with all Examination events, OFHs are subject to the powers of control of the ExA, as set out in the PA2008 and supporting legislation. Participants must register in advance by the Deadline shown in the Examination Timetable and in accordance with the instructions. It is common practice for the ExA to set a time limit for each speaker and speakers with common points are asked to come together to nominate a spokesperson or representative speakers to cover specific topics, so as to avoid repetition. Speakers representing public authorities, community and membership organisations or multiple IPs are normally provided with an additional time allowance, recognising their representative role.

The Applicant's draft DCO provides for the CA of land and rights, and the Temporary Possession (TP) of land. Affected Persons (i.e. those whose land or rights over land are affected) have a right to request and be heard at a **Compulsory Acquisition Hearing** (CAH). If one or more APs request to be heard then a CAH must be held. Provisional dates for CAHs are included in the draft Examination Timetable along with Deadlines by which requests to be heard must be submitted.

The ExA has the discretion to hold **Issue Specific Hearings** (ISHs) if it would aid in the Examination and there is a specific reason this would be more helpful than reliance on written evidence only. The lack of an ISH on one or more topics does not suggest that that topic is less important than others which are subject to a hearing. Rather, it is an indication that the ExA is satisfied that the issues can be fully considered through written submissions and responses to its written questions and that each party has had a fair opportunity to put its case.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a number of dates reserved for ISHs and IPs may make suggestions for topics to be discussed at an ISH in their written or oral representations to the PM.

It may be necessary for the ExA to hold more than one ISH on the draft DCO. This is normal practice, and they are held on a without prejudice basis. Parties can suggest modifications and amendments to the draft DCO provided by the Applicant with the application, without prejudicing their overall position on the application.

Holding such Hearings does not imply that the ExA has reached any judgements on the merits of the application. Whatever the ultimate recommendation is, the ExA must make sure that the draft DCO is fit for purpose if the SoS decides to grant consent, as any consent will be subject to Requirements (ie conditions) set out in the DCO.

At Hearings it will not normally be necessary for parties to make long and detailed submissions that require (for example) PowerPoint presentations. Any supporting detail/information can be provided in writing following the event by the relevant Deadline.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a Deadline (**Deadline 1 – Friday 26 April 2024**) for participants to notify the ExA that they wish to speak at an OFH or a CAH.

Site inspections

As part of the Examination process the ExA may undertake site inspections that can be either unaccompanied or accompanied. The purpose of these is for the ExA to see features of the proposals within the context of the evidence put forward. Notes of Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) are published on the [project webpage](#).

Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access. The purpose of ASIs is familiarisation only and no discussion of the merits of the Proposed Development will be entertained during an ASI.

The ExA may decide to hold USIs to relevant nominated locations, supported by the submission of additional written, photographic, video or even drone material if this would be preferable to not visiting sites or holding ASIs in circumstances which could make them difficult and unduly time-consuming to conduct (for example if public health restrictions are in place). The ExA may also consider if it would be appropriate

to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of a USI on an access required basis (ARSI).

The draft Examination Timetable includes a Deadline for IPs to make submissions suggesting sites and locations that the ExA should visit (**Procedural Deadline A – Friday 8 March 2024**). These will be used to inform further USIs/ ARSIs as well as possible ASIs. Any nominations for any locations for an ASI must include the reason for the nomination and whether those sites can be seen from public land or whether they need to be seen from private land.

As referenced in section 8 of our Rule 6 letter, the ExA undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) on 6 February 2024. This is referred to as USI1 hereafter. A brief record of USI1 to inform the Applicant, Interested Parties and other parties of the actions taken by the ExA has been published on the project webpage with the [Examination Library](#) reference [[EV1-001](#)].

ANNEX C: Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues prepared as required under section 88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). It has been prepared by the Examining Authority (ExA) following its reading of:

- the application documents;
- the Relevant Representations received in respect of the application; and
- its consideration of any other important and relevant matters.

This initial assessment has guided the ExA in forming a provisional view as to how the application is to be examined. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of the issues that will be subject to Examination and inevitably some issues will overlap or interrelate. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero after the Examination has concluded.

The order of the issues listed does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance and is largely listed in alphabetical order.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the PA2008 are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not listed as main issues. It should also be noted that whilst the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as main issues, the ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these in mind.

Principal Issue	Brief Amplification. To include, but not necessarily limited to:
Air Quality and Emissions	1.1 Effects of construction emissions on areas of poor air quality. 1.2 Effects of construction emissions on human health. 1.3 Effects of operational emissions on human health.
Compulsory Acquisition (CA)	2.1 The need for, and the amount of land proposed to be subject to CA and/or Temporary Possession (TP). 2.2 Whether reasonable alternatives have been explored sufficiently. 2.3 The requirement for the powers sought and whether a compelling case in the public interest has been established. 2.4 Effects on those impacted by CA/ TP. 2.5 Land, rights and powers sought. 2.6 The position of and effects on Statutory Undertakers, protected provisions and whether the tests of s127 and s138 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) would be satisfied. 2.7 Crown rights to the land and any regulatory provisions associated.

	<p>2.8 The adequacy and security of funding for compensation.</p> <p>2.9 Limitations on rights of way and access.</p> <p>2.10 Any human rights considerations.</p> <p>2.11 Accuracy of the Book of Reference, including the approach taken to identification of Category 1/2 parties.</p> <p>2.12 Statement of Reasons and justification for powers sought.</p> <p>2.13 Whether the proposals meet the requirements of PA2008 in all other respects</p>
Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)	<p>3.1 The appropriateness and adequacy of the Applicant's dDCO, including proposed mitigation and extent to which such mitigation should be controlled and secured through any Development Consent Order (DCO).</p> <p>3.2 Protective Provisions and indemnities.</p> <p>3.3 Any requirement for Planning Obligations to be secured (ie any Commuted a sum/ off-site compensation scenarios, etc).</p>
Flood Risk, Hydrology and Water Resources	<p>4.1 Consideration of the accuracy and quality of the presented Flood Risk Assessments.</p> <p>4.2 Contamination risks during construction, operation and decommissioning and whether there is sufficient information presented to ensure that the risk to the water environment as a result of the Proposed Development is effectively mitigated.</p>
Geology and Land Use	<p>5.1 Impacts on high-quality agricultural land and other land.</p> <p>5.2 Impacts on agricultural businesses and enterprises.</p> <p>5.3 Risks from discovery of contaminated soils/ ground water, including from adjoining sites and former uses, and securing appropriate mitigation.</p>
Habitats Regulation Assessment	<p>6.1 The approach to, scope of, and conclusions within the cumulative and in-combination assessments presented in the Habitat Regulations Assessment.</p>
Major Accidents and Disasters	<p>7.1 The potential for Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) leakage/ seepage into land, water or air and the mechanisms available to deal with those risks.</p> <p>7.2 Resilience of the development.</p> <p>7.3 Potential risks to human health or the natural environment.</p>
Traffic and Transport	<p>8.1 The effect of the Proposed Development on traffic flows, delays, volumes and circulation in both the local and wider context, including local residents and businesses.</p>

	8.2 The effect of the Proposed Development on highway and pedestrian safety.
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ANNEX D: Draft Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty by the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) Section (s) 98, to complete the Examination of this Application by the end of the six months period, beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting. In the following draft timetable, the ExA has set out the deadlines for the receipt of representations and other information, and dates reserved for Hearings, during the six months Examination period.

Please note:

1. The Examination of the Application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions and oral representations made at Hearings.
2. The time for submission of requested documents is **23:59 on the relevant deadline date**, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.
3. All information received will be published on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website ([project webpage](#)) as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions.

Hearing agendas

Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings the ExA will publish a draft agenda on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website at least five working days in advance of the Hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. Open Floor Hearings may not be supplemented with an agenda until the day of the Hearing.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the Secretary of State. The ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	<p>Procedural Deadline A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of any wish to speak at the Preliminary Meeting including the agenda item • Notification by Interested Parties of any wish to speak at Issue Specific Hearing 1 • Notification by Interested Parties of any wish to attend Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 • Nominations for any locations for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI), including the information requested in Annex B, under 'Site Inspections' • Written submissions on the Examination Procedure, including any submissions about the use of virtual methods or of required reasonable adjustments • Request to change from postal to email notifications for parties who receive notifications by post 	Friday 8 March 2024
2.	Preliminary Meeting	Tuesday 26 March 2024 10:00am
3.	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1	Wednesday 27 March 2024 09.30am
4.	Issue Specific Hearing 1 into the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) and Strategic Matters	Wednesday 27 March 2024 14:00pm
5.	<p>Issue by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Examination Timetable • The Examining Authority's Written Questions 1 (ExQ1) 	As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
6.	Deadline 1 (D1)	Friday 26 April 2024

	<p>For receipt by the Examining Authority (ExA) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written summaries of oral submissions given at the Hearings during the week commencing 25 March 2024. • Responses to Relevant Representations (RR) • Written Representations (WR), including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words • Responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) • Any post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA • Applicant's Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Schedule (see Annex F) • Comments on the suggested locations to be included in any ASI. • The Applicant's draft itinerary for an ASI. • Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) as requested by the ExA (see Annex F) • Applicant's Statement of Commonality of SOCG • Local Impact Reports from relevant Local Authorities (see Annex F) • Notification by any Statutory Parties who have not submitted a RR of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP) • Notification by Interested Parties of any wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing • Notification by Affected Persons of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing • Comments on the Applicant's response to the s51 advice issued at Acceptance • Any other information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules <p>Updates from the Applicant:</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide to the Application • Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (in clean and tracked versions) • Explanatory Memorandum (in clean and tracked versions) • Schedule of changes to dDCO • Updated Book of Reference (BoR) and Schedule of Changes to the BoR (in clean and tracked versions) (if required). 	
7.	<p>Deadline 2 (D2)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to RRs • Comments on WRs • Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) • Comments on the Local Impact Reports • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D1 • Comments from Affected Persons on Applicant's CA Schedule • Any other information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	Friday 17 May 2024
8.	<p>Deadline 3 (D3)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any submissions received at D2 • Responses to comments on LIRs • A statement of progress on SoCG that remain outstanding and submission of SoCG completed since D2 (if required) • Updated SoCG • An updated Statement of Commonality of SoCG (if required) • Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in both clean and tracked versions 	Tuesday 11 June 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanatory Memorandum in both clean and tracked versions • Updated CA Schedule • Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules <p>Updates from the Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide to the Application • Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (in clean and tracked versions) • Explanatory Memorandum (in clean and tracked versions) • Schedule of changes to dDCO • Updated Book of Reference (BoR) and Schedule of Changes to the BoR (in clean and tracked versions) (if required). 	
9.	<p>Blended Hearings (week reserved for Hearings and ASI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Floor Hearing(s) (if required) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (if required) • ASI (if required) 	w/c Monday 24 June 2024
10.	<p>Virtual Hearings (week reserved for Hearings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Specific Hearing(s) (if required) 	w/c Monday 15 July 2024
11.	<p>Deadline 4 (D4)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the weeks commencing 24 June and 15 July 2024. • Any post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D3 	Monday 29 July 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	
12.	<p>Publication by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required) Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required) The Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (if required) 	Monday 12 August 2024
13.	<p>Deadline 5 (D5)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to Examining Authority's ExQ2 (if required) Responses to the RIES (if required) Responses to the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) Comments on any other information and submissions received at D4 Updated SoCG An updated Statement of Commonality of SoCG (if required) Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in both clean and tracked versions Explanatory Memorandum in both clean and tracked versions Updated CA Schedule Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules <p>Updates from the Applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide to the Application dDCO (in clean and tracked versions) 	Monday 2 September 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanatory Memorandum (in clean and tracked versions) • Schedule of changes to dDCO • Updated BoR and Schedule of Changes to the BoR (in clean and tracked versions) (if required). 	
14.	<p>Deadline 6 (D6)</p> <p>For receipt by the Examining Authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to Examining Authority's ExQ2 (if required) • Comments on the responses to the RIES (if required). • Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) • Comments on any other information and submissions received at D5 • Closing Statements from IPs and APs • Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules <p>Final Updates from the Applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Statements of Common Ground • Final Statement of Commonality of SoCG • Final Guide to the Application • Final draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in the Statutory Instrument (SI) template with the SI template validation report in word and PDF (both in clean and tracked versions) • Final Explanatory Memorandum • Final Schedule of changes to dDCO • Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Final updated Book of Reference 	Thursday 19 September 2024
15	Deadline 7 (D7)	Thursday 26 September 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules	
16.	<p>Close of Examination by the Examining Authority</p> <p>The Examining Authority is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months.</p> <p>Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.</p>	Thursday 26 September 2024

ANNEX E: Notification of Initial Hearings

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following initial hearings:

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue and Joining details
Wednesday 27 March 2024	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:00am Virtual Registration Process from: 9:00am Hearing starts: 9:30am	Stallingborough Grange Hotel, Riby Road, Grimsby, DN41 8BU and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre- registered
Wednesday 27 March 2024	Issue Specific Hearing 1 into the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) and Strategic Matters	Registration and seating available at venue from: 1:30pm Virtual Registration Process from: 1:30pm Hearing starts: 2:00pm	Stallingborough Grange Hotel, Riby Road, Grimsby, DN41 8BU and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre- registered
NOTE: If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification that a particular date is no longer required will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage , providing reasonable notice to Interested Parties of the decision to cancel them.			

You must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by Friday 8 March 2024 (Procedural Deadline A) if you intend to participate in any of the hearings and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe any of the hearings then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical hearing at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Friday 8 March 2024 (Procedural Deadline A)** using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Friday 8 March 2024**.

Any request to participate in a hearing **must include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise;
- for Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the [Book of Reference](#) and the [Land Plans](#); and
- the [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Requests to participate should be made using the [Event Participation Form](#) on or before **Friday 8 March 2024 (Procedural Deadline A)**.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend any of the hearings, either virtually or in person.

Hearing agendas

For information, the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing scheduled for 27 March 2024 will be to discuss the strategic, overarching principles of compulsory acquisition and not specifically to hear Affected Persons' personal cases. Time for Affected Persons to engage verbally with the Examining Authority is reserved in the week commencing 24 June 2024, as shown in the draft timetable.

The Issue Specific Hearing scheduled for 27 March 2024 will be to establish the scope of the draft Development Consent Order and to clarify matters to ensure an agreed position on the Examination to follow.

High-level agendas for these hearings have been published alongside this notification on the [project webpage](#) to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate.

Procedure at hearings

The Examination will principally be a written process (see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. Please refer to the [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#) as these provide important information about hearing procedures.

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed.

ANNEX F: Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

The Examining Authority (ExA) has made Procedural Decisions to hold initial Hearings set out in **Annex E**. The other Procedural Decisions made by the ExA are explained in greater detail here.

1. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

The aim of a SoCG is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at an early stage in the Examination process. It should provide a focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute or need not be the subject of further evidence. It can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information. Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the Applicant and the other relevant IPs or parties set out in the table below and submitted by the Applicant.

In relation to some of the Principal Issues identified in **Annex C** to this letter, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the Applicant and certain IPs. SoCGs should be submitted by **Friday 26 April 2024**, which is Deadline 1 in the draft Examination timetable set out at **Annex D**.

Where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed between the parties by Deadline 1, or if any local authority position needs to be signed off at a higher level, draft versions of that SoCG are requested to be submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 1. The position of the relevant IPs should then be confirmed in the course of the Examination. The draft Examination Timetable makes provision for updated SoCGs to be submitted at various Deadlines with final versions by Deadline 6.

SoCGs should cover the following topics, and others as relevant:

- Methodology for environmental assessments;
- Data collection methods;
- Baseline data;
- Data/statistical analysis, approach to modelling and presentation of results;
- Expert judgements, assumptions and worst-case scenario;
- Assessment of alternatives;
- Design development;
- Identification and sensitivity of relevant features and receptors;
- Construction and operational effects;
- Embedded and additional mitigation;
- Cumulative effects and mitigation; and
- Relevant wording in the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO).

The suggested content of the SoCG listed above is indicative and does not preclude the inclusion of other matters considered to be important and relevant. All SoCGs should cover the Articles and Requirements in the dDCO. Any IP

seeking that an Article or Requirement is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought, in the SoCG.

The ExA requests SoCGs with the following named parties and any others. The SoCGs should cover the following additional topics, and other topics as agreed between the Applicant and the parties.

Parties	Additional topics to include but not be limited to:
Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Risk • Water Framework Directive • Water Quality (including bathing waters) • Waste Management • Management Plans and Mitigation
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters relating to protected species, protected habitats, European sites and features relevant to HRA • Effects on Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) • Monitoring, mitigation and enhancement • Water Quality • Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
Historic England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated heritage assets (DHA) • Non-designated heritage assets • Archaeology
Statutory Undertakers (Network Rail Infrastructure Limited, Cadent Gas Limited, Calor Gas Limited, Anglian Water Services Ltd, National Grid Electricity Transmission, National Grid Gas Plc, Northern Powergrid, British Pipeline Agency, Centrica (and others if relevant))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects on existing services, apparatus and infrastructure • Protective Provisions contained within the draft DCO • The provisions set out in s127 of the Planning Act 2008, and if the provisions in s138 are invoked
Louth Navigation Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of effects on the Louth Canal • Mitigation measures
Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects on watercourses under the Board's management and concern • Water quality
Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need, or otherwise, for protective provisions • Compensation and mitigation
UK Health Security Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of hazards and major accidents • Assessment of effects on public health • Mitigation and regulatory regimes

National Highways Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective Provisions • Use of, and interference with, the strategic road network
All local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across all topics covered in the Environmental Statement (ES)

2. Updates to project information

If the Applicant or any other party submits an updated version of a previously submitted document, they shall provide within it, a list of the changes and the reasons for those changes, making reference to relevant Examination documents where appropriate. Following this practice will enable IPs and the ExA to identify where amendments have been made and make comparisons with earlier versions of the same document.

The ExA requests that, whenever changes are made to the drafting in the dDCO, the Applicant provides the following three versions of the dDCO, in addition to the tabulated schedule of changes setting out what the changes are and the reasons underpinning them:

- i. Clean version of the dDCO;
- ii. Tracked changes from the previous version of the dDCO;
- iii. Composite track changes with all changes colour coded for each subsequent version of the dDCO.

On a related matter, the Applicant must submit a Guide to the Application at every Examination deadline.

The ExA requested in a letter dated 1 December 2023 [\[PD-005\]](#) that information regarding negotiations in respect of Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession was presented in a manner that is clearer and readily available for inspection. This information was forthcoming, as set out in section 8 below. The ExA requests that future updates on any negotiations are set out in the same format and presentation.

3. Additional Submissions

Since acceptance of the application, the ExA has exercised its discretion to accept the following Additional Submissions into the Examination:

- A submission from the Applicant, a revised Environmental Statement Volume IV – Appendix 8-3: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation [\[AS-001\]](#). This supersedes [\[APP-091\]](#).
- Submissions from the Applicant [\[AS-002\]](#) to [\[AS-026\]](#) in response to the s55 checklist [\[PD-002\]](#) and the s51 advice [\[PD-003\]](#).
- Submissions from the Applicant [\[AS-027\]](#) to [\[AS-034\]](#) in response to the ExA's procedural decision letter of 1 December 2023 [\[PD-005\]](#).
- A submission from the Coal Authority [\[AS-035\]](#).
- A submission from David Spilman [\[AS-036\]](#), alerting the ExA to an unpublished Relevant Representation (RR). This was caused by an

administrative error due to some confusion regarding duplicate submissions. The original RR has also now been published [[RR-121](#)].

[[AS-001](#)] was published on the project webpage on 1 December 2023. [AS-036] was published on 14 February 2024. The remaining Additional Submissions were published on the project webpage on 23 January 2024. They can all be found in the [Examination Library](#), with the above references.

4. Requests to become an Interested Party under s102A of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008)

On 14 February 2024 the ExA has accepted a request to become an Interested Party under s102A of PA 2008 from Imai Solar Limited as detailed in [[PD-006](#)].

ANNEX G: Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website \(project webpage\)](#). All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the [Documents tab](#) of the [project webpage](#).

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#) (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the Documents tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document;
- each representation made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. **Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.**

Electronic deposit locations

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in the table below. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification and register as a member in order to use a computer at these locations.

Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
Immingham Library Pelham Road, Immingham, DN40 1QF	Monday: 9am to 5pm Tuesday: 9am to 5pm Wednesday: 9am to 5pm Thursday: 9am to 5pm Friday: 9am to 5pm Saturday: 9am to 1pm Sunday: Closed	A4 20p per side for black and white A4 50p per side colour A3 £1 per page black and white A3 £1.50 per page colour
Keelby Community Library Victoria Road, Keelby, Grimsby, DN41 8EH	Monday: 10am to 12pm Tuesday: Closed Wednesday: 3pm to 5pm Thursday: Closed Friday: Closed	A4 10p per side black and white A4 25p per side colour

Annex G

Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
	Saturday: 10am to 12pm Sunday: Closed	
Waltham Library High Street, Waltham, Grimsby, DN37 0LL	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 8.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm Wednesday: 8.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm Thursday: 8.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm Friday: 8.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm Saturday: 9am to 1pm Sunday: Closed	A4 20p per side for black and white A4 50p per side colour A3 £1 per page black and white A3 £1.50 per page colour
Louth Library Northgate, Louth, LN11 0LY	Monday: 9am to 5pm Tuesday: 9am to 6pm Wednesday: 9am to 5pm Thursday: 9am to 2pm Friday: 9am to 5pm Saturday: 9am to 4pm Sunday: Closed	A4 10p per side black and white A4 25p per side colour A3 20p per side black and white A3 50p per side colour
Mablethorpe Library Stanley Avenue, Mablethorpe LN12 1DP	Monday: 9am to 5pm Tuesday: 9am to 5pm Wednesday: 9am to 5pm Thursday: 9am to 6pm Friday: 9am to 5pm Saturday: 9am to 1pm Sunday: Closed	A4 10p per side black and white A4 25p per side colour A3 20p per side black and white A3 50p per side colour

ANNEX H: Information about the 'Have Your Say' page

The '[Have Your Say](#)' page is available on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website \(project webpage\)](#).

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either 2004, 'VNZP-0', 'VNZP-AFP', 'VNZP-S57' 'VNZP-APP' 'VNZP-SP' or 'VNZP-OP'. 'VNZP-0', 'VNZP-AFP', 'VNZP-S57' 'VNZP-APP' 'VNZP-SP'. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered Interested Party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third party website eg technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) for further information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate Submission item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Annex D** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items then please select the Submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the '[Have Your Say](#)' page please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.