



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application:	H2 Teesside
Reference:	EN070009
Time and date:	28 August 2024 10:00am
Venue:	Microsoft Teams

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

[H2Teesside - Project information \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/h2teesside)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Christopher Butler (CB) welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) and named Matthew Sims and Sharon Bennett-Matthews as panel members to examine the H2Teesside application.

CB explained:

- The appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 22 May 2024.
- The ExA would be examining the application made by H2 Teesside Limited (the Applicant) before making a recommendation to the SoS who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, should be made.
- The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

The video recording of this PM is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#)

2. 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](#)

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 of 31 July 2024 and asked for any observations on them.

The Applicant stated the ExA should consider judicial benefits relating to additional evidence for the additional benefits of the project, which are supplementary to the National Policy Statement. Anglo American stated that they would like to take a similar approach to the Development Consent Order on the Net Zero Teesside project.

4. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations. Procedural decisions can be found in [Annex F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

The Applicant sought the views of the ExA on whether the Land Rights Tracker is the most effective way of recording information as opposed to the Schedule of Negotiations, as well as suggesting the formation of a Policy Tracker document. Anglo American stated that it will be seeking to enter into a Statement of Common Ground between themselves and the Applicant.

5. Examination Timetable

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

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA, who confirmed consideration would be given to those requests prior to issuing its Rule 8 Letter.

6. Hearings and Site Inspections

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. These were duly noted and considered by the ExA. Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in our [Advice Note 8.5](#)

7. Any Other Business

The ExA noted that any late deadline submissions will only be accepted at their discretion. The ExA also reminded the attendees that the applicant is due to submit a change request at some point during the Autumn.

8. Close

The PM closed at 11:35am and the ExA confirmed the examination would begin after the close of the PM as well as confirming the remaining events for the week.