



# The Planning Inspectorate

National  
Infrastructure  
Planning  
Temple Quay  
House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000  
e-mail: [A585WindyharbourtoSkipool@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A585WindyharbourtoSkipool@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

---

To all Interested Parties, Statutory  
Parties and Other Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010035

Date: 12 March 2019

---

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 88 and the Infrastructure  
Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 6**

**Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent  
for the A585 Windy Harbour to Skipool Improvement Scheme**

**Notice of appointment of the Examining Authority and date, time and place of  
the Preliminary Meeting**

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an Examination of the above application by Highways England. A copy of the appointment letter can be viewed at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010035/TR010035-000346-181213%20Notice%20of%20Appointment%20of%20Single%20ExaminerTR010035.pdf>

I would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted me when preparing my proposals regarding how to examine this application.

**Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting**

This letter is an invitation to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss the Examination procedure. It contains a number of important supporting annexes.

**Date of meeting: Tuesday, 9 April 2019**

**Seating available from: 09:30**

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>



**Meeting begins:** 10:00

**Venue:** Wyre Civic Centre  
Breck Road  
Poulton-Le-Fylde  
Lancashire  
FY6 7PU

**Access and parking:** Full disabled access. There is a large public car park with free parking

**Note:** 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 wherever possible as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the Inspectorate as a government agency. If you have received a postcard but are able to receive communications by email, please confirm this with the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter, as soon as possible.

### **Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting**

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to me about the way in which the application is to be examined. At this stage, the ExA is looking at the procedure, and not the merits of the application. The merits of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts, which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed.

I wish to run a fair, efficient and effective meeting so that all relevant views can be heard. As such, I strongly encourage groups of individuals who have similar views on the procedure to choose one representative to speak for the group.

The agenda for the meeting is in **Annex A**. This has been set following my initial assessment of the Principal Issues arising on the application. That assessment is set out in **Annex B**. As a result of this assessment I wish to hear at the meeting from the Applicant, Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and Local Authorities where they consider changes may be needed to the draft timetable set out in **Annex C**.

Up to date information about the project and the Examination can be obtained from:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a585-windy-harbour-to-skipool-improvement-scheme/?ipcsection=overview>

This is the address for the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website, from which the Planning Inspectorate will make copies of all Examination Documents available to the public. As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with this resource.

If you wish to receive an email notification when relevant documents and correspondence are published you can register on the project website to do so.

### **Attendance at the Preliminary Meeting**

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>



If you wish to attend the Preliminary Meeting please contact the Case Team using the details set out at the top of this letter. Please confirm this **no later than 23:59 on Tuesday 2 April 2019**.

It will help the management of the meeting and benefit everyone if you also:

- Tell us whether you wish to speak at the meeting and on which agenda items, listing points you wish to make; and
- Notify us of any special requirements you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

The Preliminary Meeting provides a useful introduction to the Examination process. I will use it to make Procedural Decisions that will affect everyone participating in the Examination. The meeting provides you with an opportunity to have your say about procedural issues before these decisions are finalised. If you intend to play an active part in the Examination or you have questions about procedure it is useful to attend the meeting. However, please note that **you are not required to attend the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the Examination**.

If you are an Interested Party, you will still be able to make a Written Representation and comment on the Written Representations made by other Interested Parties. You will also be able to participate in any hearings that are arranged. Should you no longer wish to be an Interested Party and do not wish to be involved in the Examination process, you can notify the Case Team of this in writing.

### **After the Preliminary Meeting**

After the Preliminary Meeting you will be sent a letter setting out the timetable for the Examination. An audio recording and a note of the meeting will also be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Interested Parties have the right to request an Open Floor Hearing and those persons affected by any request for Compulsory Acquisition or Temporary Possession of their land or rights may request a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing. Any other Issue Specific Hearings are at the discretion of the ExA and will be arranged if I feel that consideration of oral representations would ensure an issue is adequately considered. My Examination will comprise of Written Representations about the proposal and any oral representations made at the hearings, in addition to consideration of the application documents, policy and legal positions, site inspections and any other matters I consider to be relevant and important.

All relevant and important matters will be taken into account when I make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will take the final decision in this case.

### **Notification of hearing**

I have made a Procedural Decision under section 93 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) to hold the following hearing:

- An Open Floor Hearing (OFH1) on the afternoon of **Tuesday, 9 April 2019 at 14:00**

Important information about this hearing is contained within **Annex F**.

If you wish to speak at this hearing you must notify the Case Team, using the details at the top of this letter, **no later than 23:59 on Tuesday 2 April 2019**.

It will help the management of this hearing and benefit everyone if you:

- Set out the issues about which you wish to make oral representations (if you wish to speak); and
- Notify us of any special needs you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

### **Procedural decisions made by the ExA under ss89(3) of the Planning Act 2008**

In addition to the Open Floor Hearing notified above I have made some further preliminary Procedural Decisions. These procedural decisions are all set out in full at **Annex E**.

### **Your status in the Examination**

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in this FAQ document: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Status-faq.pdf>

If your reference number begins with 2001, WHSK-XXX, WHSK-API or WHSK-AP you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with WHSK-SP you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with WHSK-OP you are in Group C.

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

Please ensure that you **include your reference number** in any correspondence.

### **Award of Costs**

I also draw your attention to the possibility of the Award of Costs against Interested Parties who behave unreasonably. You should be aware of the relevant cost guidance 'Awards of costs; Examinations of applications for development consent orders' which applies to National Infrastructure projects. This guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awards-of-costs-examinations-of-applications-for-development-consent-orders>

## Management of Information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted by the ExA) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate, is published at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a585-windy-harbour-to-skipool-improvement-scheme/?ipcsection=docs>

All Examination documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D**.

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

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

Yours faithfully

*Gareth Symons*

## Examining Authority

### Annexes

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- C** Draft Examination Timetable
- D** Availability of Examination documents
- E** Procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority
- F** Notification of Open Floor Hearing

This communication does not constitute legal advice.  
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

## Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday 9 April 2019</b>
<b>Registration open from:</b>	<b>09:30</b>
<b>Meeting Start Time:</b>	<b>10:00</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Wyre Civic Centre Breck Road, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire FY6 7PU</b>

<b>09:30am</b>	Registration opens
<b>Item 1 (10:00am)</b>	Welcome and introductions
<b>Item 2</b>	The Examining Authority's (ExA's) remarks about the examination process
<b>Item 3</b>	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – see <b>Annex B</b>
<b>Item 4</b>	Draft timetable for the Examination – see <b>Annex C</b>
<b>Item 5</b>	Deadlines for submission of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on Relevant Representations</li> <li>• Written Representations</li> <li>• Local Impact Reports</li> <li>• Responses to the ExA's Written Questions</li> <li>• Statements of Common Ground</li> <li>• Notifications relating to hearings</li> </ul>
<b>Item 6</b>	Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of ASI to application site and surrounding area</li> <li>• Date of Issue Specific Hearing on draft Development Consent Order</li> <li>• Dates reserved for Open Floor Hearing(s)</li> <li>• Time period reserved for Issue Specific Hearings</li> <li>• Time period reserved for Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</li> </ul>
<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Any other matters</b>
	<b>Close of the Preliminary Meeting</b>

**Please note:** Please register and be available from the start and throughout the meeting. The agenda is subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. The ExA will conclude the meeting as soon as all relevant contributions have been made. If there are any additional matters to be dealt with or submissions take a considerable amount of time the ExA may change the order of the agenda items and may introduce breaks in the proceedings.

## Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the initial assessment of the principal issues arising from consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) of the application documents and Relevant Representations received. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters; regard will be had to all important and relevant matters in reaching a recommendation after the Examination is concluded. The order of the Principal Issues listed should not be taken to imply an order of importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not set out as separate Principal Issues. In addition, it should be noted that a number of these Principal Issues set out below have an interrelationship and overlap and these will be reflected in the Examination.

### 1. Compulsory Acquisition (CA)

- The need for the land proposed to be compulsorily acquired and/or temporarily possessed.
- Effects on those affected by compulsory acquisition and/or temporary possession, including statutory undertakers/infrastructure.
- The case for CA.
- Adequacy and security of funding for compensation.

### 2. Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)

- The structure of the dDCO.
- The appropriateness of proposed provisions.
- Relationships with other consents.
- Whether the dDCO is satisfactory in all other respects.

### 3. Biodiversity

- European and National designated sites.
- European and National protected species.
- Change in hedgerow and deciduous woodland habitats.
- Other biodiversity effects.
- Mitigation.

### 4. Cultural Heritage

- Effects on designated and non-designated heritage assets.
- The proposed strategy for dealing with archaeological remains, including archaeologically significant peat deposits.
- Cumulative and in-combination effects on and with other major projects and proposals.

### 5. Landscape and Visual

- Effect on landscape and townscape character.
- Short and long-term visual impacts.
- Grange footbridge.
- Effects on the Green Belt.
- Cumulative and in-combination effects on and with other major projects and proposals.

**6. Transportation and Traffic**

- Alternative routes/solutions.
- The case for and benefits of the scheme.
- Effects on the existing road network during construction and after.
- Cumulative effects.
- Scheme context – A585 corridor from the M55 to Fleetwood, strategic vision and objectives for national networks.

**7. Water Environment**

- Surface and groundwater effects.
- Drainage.
- Marine Environment.
- Flood Risk.

**8. Socio-Economic Effects**

- Community consultation.
- Economic/regeneration effects.
- Effect on BMV agricultural land.
- Effects on living conditions of surrounding residents – during construction and after.
- Effects on local businesses.
- Effects on potential delivery of land for housing.

**9. Emissions**

- Noise.
- Vibration.
- Air quality.
- Light.
- Cumulative and in-combination effects on and with other major projects and proposals.



## Draft Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

My examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1	<b>Preliminary Meeting</b>	<b>Tuesday 9 April 2019 (morning)</b>
2	<b>Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)</b> Date reserved to hold an OFH (see <b>Annex F</b> for full details)	<b>Tuesday 9 April 2019 (afternoon)</b>
3	<b>Issue by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examination Timetable</li></ul> <b>Publication of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ExA's Written Questions</li></ul>	As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
4	<b>Deadline 1 (D1)</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comments on updated application documents</li><li>• Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs)</li><li>• Summaries of all RR's exceeding 1500 words</li><li>• Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case made at OFH1</li><li>• Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA</li><li>• Applicant's draft itinerary for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)</li><li>• Suggested locations for site inspections, and justification, for consideration by the ExA</li><li>• Notification of wish to speak at any subsequent Open Floor Hearing (OFH)</li><li>• Notification of wish to make oral representations at an Issue Specific Hearing (ISH)</li><li>• Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH)</li><li>• Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically</li></ul>	<b>Friday 26 April 2019</b>

Item	Matters	Due Dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	
5	<p><b>Deadline 2 (D2)</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written Representations (WRs)</li> <li>• Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>• Local Impact Reports from any local authorities</li> <li>• Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA – see <b>Annex E</b></li> <li>• Responses to the ExA's Written Questions</li> <li>• Applicant's first revised draft DCO</li> <li>• Responses to comments on RRs</li> <li>• Comments on draft itinerary for ASI and suggested locations for site inspections</li> <li>• Notification of wish to attend an ASI</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D1</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 17 May 2019</b>
6	<p><b>Deadline 3 (D3)</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on WRs</li> <li>• Comments on Local Impact Reports</li> <li>• Comments on SoCGs</li> <li>• Comments on responses to the ExA's Written Questions</li> <li>• Comments on Applicant's first revised draft DCO</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D2</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 31 May 2019</b>
7	<p><b>Time reserved for issue by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification of date, time and meeting place for ASI</li> <li>• Notification of hearings</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 4 June 2019</b>

Item	Matters	Due Dates
8	<b>Accompanied Site Inspection</b>	<b>Tuesday 2 July 2019</b>
9	Date reserved to hold an <b>Issue Specific Hearing on the draft DCO</b> (ISH1)	<b>Wednesday 3 July 2019</b>
10	Date reserved for <b>Open Floor Hearing</b> (OFH2) (if required)	<b>Wednesday 3 July 2019 (evening)</b>
11	Date reserved for <b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</b> (CAH1)	<b>Thursday 4 July 2019 (morning)</b>
12	Date reserved to hold an <b>Issue Specific Hearing</b> on any other matter (if required) (ISH2)	<b>Thursday 4 July 2019 (afternoon)</b>
13	Date reserved to continue the <b>Accompanied Site Inspection</b> (ASI) (if required)	<b>Friday 5 July 2019</b>
14	<p><b>Deadline 4 (D4)</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case</li> <li>• Any revised/updated SoCG (if any)</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D3</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 12 July 2019</b>
15	<p><b>Publication of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ExA's Further Written Questions (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 23 July 2019</b>
16	<p><b>Deadline 5 (D5)</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to the ExA's further Written Questions (if required)</li> <li>• Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>• Comments on any revised/updated SoCGs</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D4</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 9 August 2019</b>

Item	Matters	Due Dates
17	<p><b>Time reserved for issue by the ExA of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any notification of Hearings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 13 August 2019</b></p>
18	<p><b>Deadline 6 (D6)</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on responses to the ExA's further Written Questions (if required)</li> <li>• Comments on Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>• Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO / or The ExA's draft DCO</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D5</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<p><b>Wednesday 21 August 2019</b></p>
19	<p><b>Publication of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)</li> <li>• The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required) / or The ExA's draft DCO (if required)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 27 August 2019</b></p>
20	<p><b>Hearings</b></p> <p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Issue Specific Hearing (if required)</li> <li>• Further Issue Specific Hearing on the draft DCO (if required)</li> <li>• Further Open Floor Hearing (if required)</li> <li>• Further Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (if required)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tuesday 10 September to Thursday 12 September 2019</b></p>
21	<p><b>Deadline 7 (D7)</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case (if required)</li> <li>• Responses to comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO / or The ExA's draft DCO</li> <li>• Comments on the RIES</li> </ul>	<p><b>Friday 20 September 2019</b></p>

Item	Matters	Due Dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D6</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	
22	<p><b>Deadline 8 (D8)</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response to comments on the RIES</li> <li>• Final DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report</li> <li>• Final updated Book of Reference</li> <li>• Final SoCGs</li> <li>• Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>• Final updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D7</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 1 October 2019</b>
	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.	<b>Wednesday 9 October 2019</b>

### Publication Dates

All information received will be published on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions. An Examination Library will be kept up to date throughout the Examination and can be accessed via the 'Documents' tab on the project webpage. Each document will be given a unique reference. These references will be used by the ExA during the Examination:

### Hearing Agendas

Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition hearings the ExA will aim to publish a detailed draft agenda on the project 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.

For Open Floor Hearings agendas will not be published unless, in consideration of the number of participants notified to the Planning Inspectorate, the ExA decides that establishing a running order will facilitate the process on the day.

## **Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)**

Where the Applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the DCO 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 relevant Secretary of State.

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

## Availability of Examination documents

All application documents including Relevant Representations and application documents are available on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a585-windy-harbour-to-skipool-improvement-scheme/?!pcsection=docs>

Documents can be viewed electronically at the following locations. Please note that you may need to bring a form of ID to use the computer at these locations.

### Electronic Deposit Locations:

Local Authority/Library	Address	Opening Hours
<b>Wyre Council</b>	Civic Centre Breck Road Poulton-le-Fylde Lancashire FY6 7PU Telephone: 01253 891000 Website: <a href="http://www.wyre.gov.uk">www.wyre.gov.uk</a>	Monday - 8.30am to 5.00pm Tuesday - 8.30am to 5.00pm Wednesday - 8.30am to 5.00pm Thursday - 8.30am to 5.00pm Friday - 8.30am to 5.00pm Saturday - Closed Sunday - Closed
<b>Thornton Library</b>	Victoria Road East Thornton Cleveleys FY5 3SZ  Telephone: 03001236703 Email: <a href="mailto:thornton.library@lancashire.gov.uk">thornton.library@lancashire.gov.uk</a>	Monday - 9.00am to 7.00pm Tuesday - 9.00am to 5.00pm Wednesday - 9.00am to 5.00pm Thursday - 9.00am to 1.00pm Friday - 9.00am to 5.00 pm Saturday - 9.00am to 1.00pm Sunday - Closed
<b>Printing Costs</b>	<b>Black and White</b>	<b>Colour</b>
<b>A4</b>	10p per sheet	25 per sheet
<b>A3</b>	20p per sheet	25 per sheet
<b>Link to all council library locations:</b>		
<a href="https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/find-a-library/thornton-library/">https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/find-a-library/thornton-library/</a>		

## Procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

The ExA has made the following procedural decisions under Section 89(3) of the PA2008:

### 1. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

In relation to some of the Principal Issues identified in **Annex B**, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the Applicant and certain Interested Parties. The draft timetable for the Examination therefore provides a deadline for submission of SoCGs. This is **Friday 17 May 2019 (D2)**.

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. The reasons for the differences and interpretation of the implications of a difference can then be expanded in the evidence. Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the Applicant and the other relevant Interested Party or Parties, and submitted by the Applicant.

The SoCGs are requested to be prepared by:

- A. **SoCG by the Applicant with Lancashire County Council** to include:
  - Development Consent Order (DCO)
  - Transport and traffic including relationship with other highway improvements in the area and existing highway infrastructure
  - Environmental and amenity impacts during construction and after, including drainage
  
- B. **SoCG by the Applicant with Fylde Borough Council** to include:
  - Development Consent Order (DCO)
  - Landscape and visual impacts
  - Cultural heritage
  - Effects on the living conditions of residents
  - Transport and traffic including relationship with other highway improvements in the area, existing highway infrastructure and planned growth
  - Planning policy position
  
- C. **SoCG by the Applicant with Wyre Council** to include:
  - Development Consent Order (DCO)
  - Landscape and visual impacts
  - Cultural heritage
  - Effects on the living conditions of residents
  - Transport and traffic including: Relationship with other highway improvements in the area, existing highway infrastructure and planned growth
  - Planning policy position



- D. **SoCG by the Applicant with Natural England** to include:
- Development Consent Order (DCO)
  - Habitats, Ecology and Nature Conservation, including issues related to: Protected sites; Protected species; European sites and features relevant to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA); The need for and means of securing mitigation
- E. **SoCG by the Applicant with Historic England** to include:
- Effects on designated heritage assets and archaeology, including where relevant appropriate investigation and mitigation methods
- F. **SoCG by the Applicant with the Environment Agency and the lead flood authority** to include:
- Development Consent Order (DCO)
  - Environmental issues related to the water environment (drainage and flooding)
- G. **SoCG by the Applicant with the Marine Management Organisation** to include:
- Development Consent Order (DCO), in particular the Deemed Marine Licence
- H. **SoCG by the Applicant with United Utilities Group** to include:
- Mitigation of the effects of the scheme on water infrastructure/networks/apparatus
- I. **SoCG by the Applicant with Electricity North West Limited** to include:
- Mitigation of the effects of the scheme on utility infrastructure
- J. **SoCG by the Applicant with Cadent Gas Limited** to include:
- Mitigation of the effects of the scheme on utility infrastructure
- K. **SoCG by the Applicant with Openreach (BT Plc)** to include:
- Mitigation of the effects of the scheme on utility infrastructure
- L. **SoCG by the Applicant with GTC** to include:
- Mitigation of the effects of the scheme on utility infrastructure

The SoCGs should cover the following topics where relevant:

- Methodology for Environmental Impact Assessment including assessment of cumulative effects
- Data collection methods
- Baseline data
- Data/ statistical analysis, approach to modelling and presentation of results (including forecast methodologies)
- Full expression of expert judgements and assumptions
- Identification and sensitivity of relevant features and quantification of potential impact

- Likely effects (direct and indirect) on special interest features of sites designated or notified for any nature conservation purpose
- Feasible and deliverable mitigation and method for securing such mitigation within the Development Consent Order

## 2. Post-submission application documents

Following the acceptance of the application the Applicant submitted correspondence, on 10 December 2019, to the Planning Inspectorate in response to s51 advice [[PD-004](#)] issued on 26 November 2019.

The 'Response to advice' letter provided by the Applicant outlines the revised documents submitted in response to the matters raised in the advice. I made a Procedural Decision on 18 December 2019 to accept the documents which have now been published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a585-windy-harbour-to-skipool-improvement-scheme/?ipcsection=docs>

The revised/amended documents submitted by the Applicant are as follows:

- Response to advice letter [[AS-013](#)]
- Land Plans [[AS-007](#), [AS-008](#)]
- Crown Land Plans [[AS-001](#), [AS-002](#)]
- Draft Development Consent Order [[AS-011](#), [AS-012](#)]
- Statement of Reasons [[AS-014](#), [AS-015](#)]
- Book of Reference [[AS-009](#), [AS-010](#)]
- Habitats Regulations Assessment [[AS-005](#), [AS-006](#)]
- Non-Technical Summary of Environmental Statement [[AS-003](#), [AS-004](#)]

Interested Parties are asked to submit any comments they may have on any of the revised/amended documents above by **26 April 2019 (D1)**.

## 4. Additional submissions

Four additional representations [[AS-016](#), [AS-017](#), [AS-018](#) and [AS-022](#)] were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate following the close of the period for registration of Interested Parties on 24 January 2019. I made Procedural Decisions on 15 February 2019 and 11 March 2019 to accept these additional submissions which have now been published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Parties are asked to submit any comment they may have on the additional submissions by **26 April 2019 (D1)**.

The Applicant sent a letter [[AS-021](#)] to the Planning Inspectorate on 4 February 2019 to advise that some of the notifications sent about the period for the registration of Interested Parties were returned undelivered and that some Parties had not been served notice. The Applicant sent or re-sent further notifications to those Parties extending the deadline of the period for registration to 27 February 2019 and 4 March 2019. The Applicant also sent an updated Book of Reference [[AS-019](#), [AS-020](#)]. No

further Relevant Representations were received following the extensions to the deadline.

## **5. Guide to the Application**

The ExA requests that, at each deadline, the Applicant provides an updated Guide to the Application document which provides a list of the most up-to-date documents before the Examination. A final version must be submitted before the close of the Examination.

## Notification of hearing

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue	Access and parking
Tuesday 9 April 2019	Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)	02:00pm (Doors open 01:30pm)	Wyre Civic Centre Breck Road Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire FY6 7PU	Full disabled access. There is a large public car park with free parking.

Information about hearings is included in the Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note 8.5: The examination: hearings and site inspections', available on the National Infrastructure Planning website here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

If you wish to attend this hearing please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter **no later than 23:59 on Tuesday 2 April 2019** stating:

- whether you wish to speak at the hearing and the issues about which you wish to make oral representations; and
- notifying us of any special needs you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

Seating will be available at the venue 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. The hearing will finish as soon as the Examining Authority (ExA) deems that all those present have had their say and all matters have been covered. Depending on the numbers wishing to speak at the hearing, it may be necessary for the ExA to limit the time allocated to each speaker.

### Hearing agendas

Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition hearings the ExA will aim to publish a detailed draft agenda on the project 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.

For Open Floor Hearings agendas will not be published unless, in consideration of the number of participants notified to the Planning Inspectorate, the ExA decides that establishing a running order will facilitate the process on the day.