



National Infrastructure Planning
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To Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons invited to the
Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010035

Date: 16 April 2019

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8

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

Examination Timetable and procedure

This letter provides you with the Examination Timetable, details of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) Written Questions and other important information about the Examination.

All documentation associated with this project, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the audio recording taken at that meeting, can be found using this link:

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

The Examination Timetable

I have made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A**.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in the Rule 6 letter dated 12 March 2019¹. I am aware that Highways England requested pushing back Deadline 3. However, that would not have allowed me time to consider any submissions before deciding whether to hold an Issue Specific Hearing. Consequently, the timetable remains unchanged.

¹ Your invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All deadlines are at **23:59** on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, I may disregard them.

I request that Interested Parties send, where practicable, electronic copies of their submission as email attachments to A585WindyharbourtoSkiptool@planninginspectorate.gov.uk on or before the applicable deadline. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 12MB for each email. Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable. 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.

If I consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will only be sent to Interested Parties and Other Persons² invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the A585 Windy Harbour to Skiptool Improvement Scheme project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Other Procedural Decisions

Annex B contains important details and clarifications about my other Procedural Decisions made at, or following, the Preliminary Meeting. These include:

- A request for Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)
- A request for Local Impact Reports (LIRs)
- A request for certain sites to be included in the itinerary for the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **Deadline 2** in the Examination Timetable (Annex A).

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in my Initial Assessment of Principal Issues discussed at the Preliminary Meeting and included in my Rule 6 letter³. Nor are they restricted to the content of my Written Questions (see next heading, below).

Any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a Written Representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with

² Other Persons are persons that I chose to invite to the Preliminary Meeting, in addition to the prescribed persons listed in section 88(3) of the Planning Act 2008 – see 'Your status in the Examination and future notifications' below

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010035/TR010035-000430-Rule%206%20combined.pdf>

which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why⁴. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations “*the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions*”⁵.

Further written submissions may be requested by the ExA at various points in the Examination.

Any Written Representations, and any further written submissions requested by the ExA in the course of the Examination which exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

ExA’s Written Questions

I have compiled Written Questions (WQ) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions are published on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed through the following link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010035/TR010035-000360-ExQs.pdf>

Answers to my WQs must be provided by **Deadline 2** in the Examination Timetable (Annex A).

If you require a hard copy of my WQs, please contact the Case Team who will send you a copy.

Hearings

The Examination Timetable at **Annex A** includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and I will notify all Interested Parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the Examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That notification will include an additional deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to attend the notified hearing(s).

Annex C provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings.

Accompanied Site Inspection

Information about the Accompanied Site Inspection, scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 2 July 2019**, is contained in **Annex B**.

⁴ Required under Rule 10(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-act-2008-examination-of-applications-for-development-consent>

Availability of application documents and representations submitted to the Examination

All documentation and audio recordings associated with the examination of this application can be found using this link:

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

Annex D provides details of locations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development at which all Examination documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge.

Advice to Interested Parties about how to access and navigate the Examination Library is also provided at **Annex D**.

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-S57, WHSK-APL or WHSK-AFP 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 (unless you have received a reference number that begins with WHSK-OP following confirmation that you have become an Interested Party under s102(1)(ab), in which case you are in Group A).

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.

Award of costs

You should be aware of the possibility of the award of costs against parties who behave unreasonably.

To assist understanding of what 'unreasonable behaviour' means in the context of an Examination under the PA2008, you may find it helpful to read the government guidance 'Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders' (July 2013)⁶. It is in everyone's interest that information is brought forward as early as possible in the examination process so you are encouraged to do so.

Management of information

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awards-of-costs-examinations-of-applications-for-development-consent-orders>

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, is published at:

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

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, we 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

Gareth Symons
Examining Inspector

Annexes

- A** Examination Timetable
- B** Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- D** Availability of representations and application documents

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

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.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1	Preliminary Meeting	Tuesday 9 April 2019 (morning)
2	Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)	Tuesday 9 April 2019 (afternoon)
3	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable <p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's Written Questions 	Tuesday 16 April 2019
4	<p>Deadline 1 (D1)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on updated application documents • Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs) • Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words • Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case made at OFH1 • Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA • Applicant's draft itinerary for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) • Suggested locations for site inspections, and justification, for consideration by the ExA • Notification of wish to speak at any subsequent Open Floor Hearing (OFH) • Notification of wish to make oral representations at an Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) • Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) • Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically • Comments on any additional information/submissions received • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 26 April 2019

Item	Matters	Due Dates
5	<p>Deadline 2 (D2)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Representations (WRs) • Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words • Local Impact Reports from any local authorities • Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA • Responses to the ExA's Written Questions • Applicant's first revised draft DCO • Responses to comments on RRs • Comments on draft itinerary for ASI and suggested locations for site inspections • Notification of wish to attend an ASI • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D1 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 17 May 2019
6	<p>Deadline 3 (D3)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on WRs • Comments on Local Impact Reports • Comments on SoCG • Comments on responses to the ExA's Written Questions • Comments on Applicant's first revised draft DCO • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D2 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 31 May 2019
7	<p>Time reserved for issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of date, time and meeting place for ASI • Notification of hearings 	Tuesday 4 June 2019
8	Accompanied Site Inspection	Tuesday 2 July 2019
9	Date reserved to hold an Issue Specific Hearing on the draft DCO (ISH1)	Wednesday 3 July 2019

Item	Matters	Due Dates
10	Date reserved for Open Floor Hearing (OFH2) (if required)	Wednesday 3 July 2019 (evening)
11	Date reserved for Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)	Thursday 4 July 2019 (morning)
12	Date reserved to hold an Issue Specific Hearing on any other matter (if required) (ISH2)	Thursday 4 July 2019 (afternoon)
13	Date reserved to continue the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) (if required)	Friday 5 July 2019
14	<p>Deadline 4 (D4)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case • Any revised/ updated SoCG (if any) • Comments on any additional information/ submissions received by D3 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 12 July 2019
15	<p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's Further Written Questions (if required) 	Tuesday 23 July 2019
16	<p>Deadline 5 (D5)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the ExA's further Written Questions (if required) • Applicant's revised draft DCO • Comments on any revised/ updated SoCG • Comments on any additional information/ submissions received by D4 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 9 August 2019
17	<p>Time reserved for issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any notification of Hearings 	Tuesday 13 August 2019
18	<p>Deadline 6 (D6)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p>	Wednesday 21 August 2019

Item	Matters	Due Dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to the ExA's further Written Questions (if required) • Comments on Applicant's revised draft DCO • Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO / or the ExA's draft DCO • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D5 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
19	<p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) • The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required) / or the ExA's draft DCO (if required) 	Tuesday 27 August 2019
20	<p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Issue Specific Hearing (if required) • Further Issue Specific Hearing on the draft DCO (if required) • Further Open Floor Hearing (if required) • Further Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (if required) 	Tuesday 10 September to Thursday 12 September 2019
21	<p>Deadline 7 (D7)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case (if required) • Responses to comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO / or the ExA's draft DCO • Comments on the RIES • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D6 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 20 September 2019
22	<p>Deadline 8 (D8)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to comments on the RIES • Final DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report 	Tuesday 1 October 2019

Item	Matters	Due Dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final updated Book of Reference • Final SoCG • Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Final updated Guide to the Application • Comments on any additional information/ submissions received by D7 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
	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.	Wednesday 9 October 2019

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after each deadline for submissions.

Hearing agendas

We will aim to publish a draft agenda for each hearing on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Report on the Implications for European Sites

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 Report on the Implication for European Sites (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.

Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

I have made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting¹:

1. Examining Authority's Written Questions (WQs)

Some of my Written Questions (WQ) are directed to specific Statutory Parties which have not, at the time of writing, confirmed that they wish to become Interested Parties for the purposes of the examination of the application.

All relevant Statutory Parties will receive this correspondence and I request for each to check my WQs carefully in order that they may identify and respond to any questions posed to them. No party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question I ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

For the avoidance of doubt, Statutory Parties are defined as the parties listed in Schedule 1 to The Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015².

2. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

The Applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCG and it will aid the smooth running of the Examination if all Interested Parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCG liaise and co-operate with the Applicant in respect of their production. Final signed versions of the SoCG listed below are requested to be submitted by **17 May 2019** (Deadline 2, Annex A).

1. **Lancashire County Council**
2. **Fylde Borough Council**
3. **Wyre Council**
4. **Natural England**
5. **Historic England**
6. **Environment Agency and the lead flood authority**
7. **Marine Management Organisation**
8. **United Utilities Group**
9. **Electricity North West Limited**
10. **Cadent Gas Limited**
11. **Openreach (BT Plc)**
12. **GTC**

All of the SoCG listed above should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft DCO. Any Interested Party seeking for an Article or Requirement to be reworded should provide in the SoCG the form of words which are being sought.

The content of SoCG is necessary to help inform me as to the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings in July 2019, and to enable me and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

¹ Section 89(1) of the Planning Act 2008

² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/legislation/>

3. Local Impact Reports (LIRs)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see our Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports³.

Local authorities⁴ are invited to submit LIRs by **17 May 2019** (Deadline 2, Annex A).

4. Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI on **Tuesday, 2 July 2019**, with the afternoon of **Friday 5 July 2019** reserved to continue the ASI if required.

The Applicant is invited to submit to the Examination a draft itinerary for the ASI by **Friday 26 April 2019** (Deadline 1, Annex A). This should include the following viewpoints:

- Barnfield Manor properties (including No 10) and particularly to the rear (North) of Nos 1-4
- Views from the front of the Manor (Viewpoint 18, [Examination Library Ref APP-057]) and the ice house [Examination Library Ref APP-048]
- Singleton Hall, including Singleton Park and Singleton Lodge Hotel
- The group of trees to be removed - Fylde Singleton TPO1
- Properties to the north of the proposed Lodge Lane bridge, particularly North Lodge and Larkfield
- Viewpoints [Examination Library Ref APP-057] 4, 5, 6, 7 (and entrance road to Moorfield Park – new housing estate off Garstang Road east), 11 and 16
- West Wynds (Old Mains Lane) and The Beeches (205 Mains Lane)
- The group of properties at 195 Mains Lane
- 183 Breck Road

The draft itinerary will be published to the National Infrastructure Planning website. Interested Parties are invited to suggest locations for site inspections, and justifications, for consideration by the ExA by **17 May 2019** (Deadline 2, Annex A).

Requests by Interested Parties to attend the ASI should be provided by **Friday 31 May 2019** (Deadline 3, Annex A). As explained in my Rule 6 letter, the Interested Parties attending the ASI will include representatives of the Applicant, Lancashire County Council, Fylde Borough Council and Wyre Council, together with other Interested Parties (or their representatives).

It may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany me for logistical and safety reasons, but it should be possible for arrangements to be made for Interested Parties (or their representatives) to join the inspection at specified locations within the itinerary. Please contact the Case Team if you wish to meet the

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

⁴ Defined in s56A of the Planning Act 2008

inspection at a specific location within the itinerary, or at a new location, as proposed in your comments.

The final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website on or before **25 June 2019**.

Interested Parties should be aware that **ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed Development**. However, I may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings

The Examination Timetable reserves **Tuesday 2 July 2019 to Friday 5 July 2019** for hearings to be held. Any requests to be heard should be provided by **Friday 26 April 2019** (Deadline 1, Annex A).

At least one Issue Specific Hearing, dealing with the draft Development Consent Order, will be held during this period.

Requests to appear at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH). I remind Interested Parties of the Procedural Decision issued with the Rule 6 letter requesting notification from Interested Parties in this regard on or before **26 April 2019** (Deadline 1, Annex A).

If no written requests to take part in an OFH or CAH are received by the above deadline, I am not required to hold such a hearing; although I may choose to do so nonetheless.

I may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that I think need to be explored orally.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

If an Interested Party wishes to attend an OFH or ISH they should indicate which topics in their Relevant Representation or Written Representation they wish to address at the hearing. Similarly, any Affected Person wishing to attend a CAH should identify clearly the plots of land about which they wish to speak.

Notifications from Interested Parties in respect of the above should be sent separately from any other written submission, and appropriately titled to allow us to quickly identify which event the notification relates to.

Procedure at hearings

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010¹. Any oral representations must be based on either the Relevant Representation or Written Representation made by the person by whom, or on whose behalf, the oral representations are made.

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 parties².

¹ Rule 14

² Rule 14(5)

My examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions, and we will decide whether a hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important I consider an issue or topic to be.

Hearing agendas

I will aim to publish a draft agenda for each hearing on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Availability of representations and application documents

All application documents and representations submitted to the Examination are available to view on the project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

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

For ease of navigation, we recommend that you use the Examination Library (EL) which is accessible via a blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records:

- each application document;
- each representation accepted to be read in conjunction with the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is provided with a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the National Infrastructure Planning website is provided. **Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the EL when referring to any Examination documents in representations that you make.**

Documents can also be viewed electronically at the following locations close to the application site, free of charge. If you have difficulty accessing any documentation please contact the Case Team using the details provided at the top of this letter.

Local Authority/ Library	Address	Opening Hours
Wyre Council	Civic Centre Breck Road Poulton-le-Fylde Lancashire FY6 7PU Telephone: 01253 891000 Website: www.wyre.gov.uk	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
Thornton Library	Victoria Road East Thornton Cleveleys FY5 3SZ Telephone: 03001236703 Email: thornton.library@lancashire.gov.uk	Monday - 9.00am to 7.00pm Tuesday - 9.00am to 5.00pm Wednesday - 9.00am to 5.00pm Thursday - 9.00am to 1.00pm

Annex D

		Friday - 9.00am to 5.00 pm Saturday - 9.00am to 1.00pm Sunday - Closed
Printing Costs	Black and White	Colour
A4	10p per sheet	25 per sheet
A3	20p per sheet	25 per sheet
Link to all council library locations:		
https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/find-a-library/thornton-library/		

All printing charges quoted are correct as of 12 March 2019