



Suffolk County Council (20050784)

Preliminary Meeting Post-Hearing
Written Submission

North Falls (EN010119)

Deadline 1

18 February 2025

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Glossary of Acronyms

<i>ExA</i>	<i>Examining Authority</i>
<i>LIR</i>	<i>Local Impact Report</i>
<i>PM</i>	<i>Preliminary Meeting</i>
<i>PPA</i>	<i>Planning Performance Agreement</i>
<i>SCHAONB</i>	<i>Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</i>

“SCC” refers to Suffolk County Council.

Purpose of this Submission

The purpose of this submission is to provide a written summary of representations made by Suffolk County Council (SCC) at the Preliminary Meeting (“PM”) held on 28 January 2025. Examination Library references are used throughout to assist readers.

Item	Suffolk County Council’s Summary of Oral Case and responses to questions	References
1	Welcome and introductions	
	<p>Suffolk County Council were represented by the following team in person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isaac Nunn, Senior Planning Officer (NSIPs) - Graham Gunby, National Infrastructure Planning Manager 	
2	The Examining Authority’s remarks about the Examination process	
	<p>SCC has no representations to make on Agenda Item 2.</p>	

3 Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – Annex C to Rule 6 letter
<p>SCC agrees with the inclusion of landscape, visual and seascape effects as Issue 12 in the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues, but wished to clarify that this Issue includes interactions between the project and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (“SCHAONB”). SCC considers the application of the recently revised duty of the section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act should be considered a principal issue, as SCC considers it has been underexplored in offshore wind examinations to date. The only decision to assist the Examining Authority (“ExA”) since the duty came into force was the Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension, but that examination happened before the duty came into force, and as far as SCC can see, there were not any submissions before the ExA. The duty is becoming an important issue in the Five Estuaries Examination, but obviously this ExA cannot take into account evidence and argument submitted to that panel. SCC therefore wished to raise, at this stage, that it considers this to be a significant issue that needs to be borne in mind.</p>
4 Draft Examination Timetable – Annex D to Rule 6 letter
<p>SCC noted that it is dependent on a Planning Performance Agreement (“PPA”) to fund its efforts. This issue was explored more fully at agenda item 7.</p> <p>SCC committed to meet Deadline 1 for submission of its Local Impact Report (“LIR”).</p>
5 Procedural decisions – Annex F to Rule 6 letter and [PD-005]
<p>SCC has no representations to make on Agenda Item 5.</p>

6	Handling of potential commonality issues for the proposed North Falls Offshore Wind Farm and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm	
	SCC has no representations to make on Agenda Item 6.	
7	Any other matters	
	Further to the comments SCC provided at Agenda Item 4, SCC raised concerns regarding the lack of a PPA. Although SCC acknowledged that this is a matter between itself and the Applicant, SCC wished to alert the ExA to the situation, as there are potential pressures that the situation places on its ability to engage effectively, potentially prejudicing the effectiveness of the Examination. SCC acknowledges that, in light of the concerns SCC raised in the PM, the Applicant is reconsidering its position regarding this matter, and SCC agreed to have discussions with the Applicant on this matter outside the hearing.	
Close of PM		