



Preliminary meeting note

Application: East Park Energy
Reference: EN010141
Time and date: 17 March 2026
Venue: King's House

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

1. Welcome and Introduction

Graham Sword (GS), welcomed those present and introduced himself as the single Examining Authority inspector (ExA), to examine the East Park Energy application.

GS explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero on 05 December 2025.

Graham Sword explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by BSSL Cambsbed 1 Limited ("the applicant") before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an order granting development consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

Graham Sword explained 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.

2. Video recordings

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

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained The Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's ['Privacy Note'](#).

4. Examination process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further info can be found:

- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event'](#)
- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, an event'](#)

5. 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 17 February 2026 and asked for any observations on them.

The applicant asked whether the agendas published in the Rule 6 letter had been superseded by a newer version. The Inspector confirmed that the agendas being used were the final version and had been supplemented with new details since the original version had been published.

The British Horse Society and Bedford Borough council had suggested rights of way be assessed in their own agenda item. The applicant explained they had no opinion on it being heard as its own agenda item.

Richard Fuller MP asked whether the cumulative impact could be heard as a part of the agenda item on traffic. The Inspector confirmed that it would be assessed across all topic areas.

The nominated representative of Stop East Park Energy confirmed they had submitted 24 written questions before the previous deadline and asked if Inspector would be answering them during the hearings. The Inspector confirmed they would be a consideration of the Rule 8 letter.

6. Examination Timetable

The ExA welcomed suggestions from the parties in attendance to amend the draft examination timetable contained in [annex C](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter and also welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be considered as part of the drafting of the rule 8 Letter.

7. 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:

- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event'](#)
- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, an event'](#)

8. 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.

Agenda Item 5 - Draft examination timetable – annex D to Rule 6 Letter

The ExA asked if the applicant will provide written responses to parties, and will it continue to do so throughout the examination? In response, the applicant asked whether GS wanted them to respond to every relevant representation. The Inspector responded by confirming he is happy for them to respond to relevant representations in a thematic fashion.

The ExA emphasised there is no need to repeat information that had already been submitted in a previous deadline.

The ExA stated that any hearings that aren't required will be cancelled and notice of the cancellation will be given at least a week before they are scheduled to take place.

The ExA confirmed the examination period will not end before the 5-month deadline but may be extended by a month.

Agenda Item 6 - Oral representations from Interested Parties on the draft Examination timetable.

The ExA asked the applicant if they have any intention of submitting any change requests. The applicant confirmed in response that they are not preparing a formal change request and are not preparing to submit one.

The ExA asked the applicant if they have any comments to make on the hearing timetable. The applicant confirmed they are happy with the timetable but are concerned that issue may be caused if deadlines 1 or 2 need to be moved back.

The host authorities suggested that hearings should take place on highways, Public Rights of Way, Mitigation and that a second OFH should be held.

A member of one of the local authorities asked how the timetable would accommodate issues if new evidence was submitted during the examination. The Inspector confirmed that new information will be considered as part of the process.

An Interested Party asked if any residents or parties would be given the opportunity to raise their concerns, particularly those who didn't believe they were affected by the project, but where new information has arisen to show that they were indeed affected by the proposals. The ExA confirmed concerns raised by Interested Parties would be accepted, but concerns by those who are not Interested Parties would be accepted at his discretion as Interested Parties are given priority.

Any other Business

GS asked those in the room and those attending virtually if they had any further matters to raise. No further questions were asked and the preliminary meeting closed..