



## Preliminary meeting note

**Application:** Beacon Fen Energy Park  
**Reference:** EN010151  
**Time and date:** 10:00am 23 September 2025  
**Venue:** Microsoft Teams

*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

Andre Pinto welcomed those present and introduced himself as the single Examining Authority (ExA) to examine the Beacon Fen Energy Park application.

The ExA explained that he would be examining the application made by Beacon Fen Energy Park 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.

The ExA 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. Audio recording

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 B](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 12 August 2025 and asked for any observations on them.

In response to a query about communication with the ExA, the ExA explained that this would be via submission of written representations at specific deadlines set out in the examination timetable and/or hearings.

## **6. Examination Timetable**

The ExA noted requests, already received in writing to amend the draft examination timetable contained in [annex D](#) 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 reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

Regarding deadline 5 (29th December), Boston Borough Council requested the ExA to extend it to week commencing the 5 January 2026 due to staffing availability over Christmas period, with the applicant also raising concerns regarding the same deadline. The ExA confirmed that deadline 5 was set after extensive internal discussion and consideration of resources needed to process the deadline. The ExA therefore confirmed that, unfortunately, in and around the Christmas period, the 29 December 2025 was the only viable date. The ExA suggested that early submissions are still welcome before the deadline and this could potentially address some of the concerns raised. The applicant understood the constraints and suggested issuing draft examination questions after the hearings to allow more time for responses. While the deadline remains fixed, the possibility of releasing draft questions post-hearing will be considered by the ExA.

## **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'](#)

The ExA confirmed that no requests to speak at the Open Floor Hearing scheduled for 23 September 2025 had been received and it had therefore been cancelled. The ExA advised that it is intended to hold the hearings scheduled for week commencing 10 November as blended events. Lincolnshire County Council requested the inclusion of cumulative effects, land use, soil, and flood risk at the next issue specific hearing. North Kesteven District Council also highlighted interest in soils, heritage, and ecology, with further clarity expected in its Local Impact Report.

The ExA queried the public accessibility of some suggested sites and requested confirmation on whether accompanied site inspections (ASI) were necessary or if access required site inspections (ARSI) would suffice. The ExA requested that the applicant, North Kesteven District Council, and Boston Borough Council agree on the proposed site inspection locations, determine whether each location requires an ASI, ARSI, or can be viewed from publicly accessible land, and submit conclusions by deadline 1.

## **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 G](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

No comments have been made by any of the parties in attendance