

National Infrastructure Planning

Temple Quay House

2 The Square Bristol, BS1 6PN Customer Services: 0303 444 5000

email: MorganandMorecambeOWFTA@

planninginspectorate.gov.uk

All interested parties, statutory parties and any other person invited to the preliminary meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020028

Date: 8 May 2025

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 8, 9, 13 and 16

Application by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms Transmission Assets

Examination timetable, procedure, notification of hearing and accompanied site inspection

This letter (the Rule 8 Letter) provides important information about the examination of this application. The letter includes:

- The examination timetable
- An invitation to submit written representations
- Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)
- Notification of hearing
- Notification of an accompanied site inspection
- Information about hearings and accompanied site inspections
- Information about the availability of examination documents
- Guidance on the use of the 'Have your say' tab on the project webpage

All documentation associated with this examination, including a note of the preliminary meeting and the recordings of that meeting, can be viewed under the <u>documents tab</u> on the <u>project webpage</u> of the Find a National Infrastructure Project website.

The examination timetable

We have made a procedural decision about the way the application will be examined. The final examination timetable is attached at **annex A** to this letter.



The examination timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our <u>Rule 6</u> <u>letter</u>. In finalising the examination timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the preliminary meeting. A list of the main changes we made to the draft examination timetable is set out at **annex B** to this letter.

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, we may disregard them.

We request that all interested parties make their submissions using the 'Have your say' page on the project webpage on or before the applicable deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the 'Have your say' page.

If we consider it necessary to vary the examination timetable during the examination, notification will be sent to interested parties, statutory parties and other persons invited to the preliminary meeting. The changes will be published on the <u>project webpage</u>.

Written representations

As previously set out in our Rule 6 letter, all interested parties are invited to submit written representations and any further comments on the relevant representations already submitted. Other persons may also wish to submit written representations. These should be submitted by **deadline 1, Tuesday 20 May 2025** in the examination timetable.

Written representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our <u>initial assessment of principal issues</u>.

Any person, other than the applicants, who submit a written representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Written representations should also include any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the examination (see paragraph 009 of the government's guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects for further information about written representations).

We have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the examination (see **annex A**).

Any written representations and any further written submissions requested during the examination, that 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.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/ evidence hosted on third party websites. See the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice for members of the public: Advice for submitting representations or comments</u> for important information about making written submissions.



Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority

Annex B to this letter contains important details and clarifications about procedural decisions we made at, or following, the preliminary meeting. These include changes to the draft examination timetable, matters relating to statements of common ground and transboundary consultation.

Format of examination hearings

The format of hearings will be as blended (part in-person and part virtual) or fully virtual events. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when we provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

Notification of a further open floor hearing

As explained in our Rule 6 letter and at the preliminary meeting, the examination will principally be a written process, supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice for members of the public: The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say for more information.</u>

The Planning Inspectorate's advice for members of the public also provides important information about hearing procedures:

- What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event
- Registering to speak at, or attend, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event

We have made a procedural decision to hold the following hearing:

Open floor hearing 2 on Tuesday 24 June 2025 from 6.30pm.

Information about the hearing is contained within **annex C** to this letter.

Notification of accompanied site inspection

The examination timetable includes dates for holding an accompanied site inspection, starting on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

Important information about the accompanied site inspection and attendance at the inspection is contained within **annex C** to this letter.

We will consider each suggested site location (to be provided by deadline 1), including those provided in the applicants' draft itinerary (to be provided by deadline 2), to determine if it could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view it on an accompanied basis. We will also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of an unaccompanied site inspection on an access required basis.

Our final itinerary will be published at least five days in advance of the site inspection.



Managing examination correspondence

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 as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the <u>project webpage</u>.

A '<u>Have your say</u>' page is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the examination. Further information about the 'Have your say' page is provided at **annex E** to this letter.

There is also a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'E-mail updates'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the examination.

Your status in the examination

You have received this letter because you are a person or organisation who is involved in the NSIP process. See the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice for members of the public:</u> <u>National Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process for further details.</u>

If, having read the advice, you are still unsure about how you are involved in the process please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders.

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the project webpage.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our <u>Privacy Notice</u>.



We look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

David Cliff

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

- A Examination timetable
- **B** Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C Notice of hearing and accompanied site inspection and requests to participate
- **D** Examination documents
- E Information about the 'Have your say' page

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.

The 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	Date
1.	Procedural Deadline A	Friday 11 April
	Deadline for receipt by the Examining Authority of:	2025
	Written submissions on the examination procedure, including the draft examination timetable	
	Comments on relevant representations and any additional submissions accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority	
	Summaries of all relevant representations exceeding 1500 words	
	Requests to be heard orally at the preliminary meeting, including which agenda items you wish to speak on, and why your points need to be made orally rather than in writing	
	Requests by interested parties to participate in the open floor hearing on 29 April 2025 (see Appendix E to this letter)	
	 Requests by interested parties to participate in the issue specific hearing on 30 April and 1 May 2025 (see Appendix E to this letter) 	
	 Requests by affected persons to participate in the compulsory acquisition hearing on 2 May 2025 (see Appendix E to this letter) 	
2.	Preliminary meeting	Tuesday 29 April 2025 at 10am
3.	Open floor hearing 1	Tuesday 29 April 2025 at 2.30pm
4.	Issue specific hearing 1 on site selection and alternatives, the scope of the proposed development and applicants' assessments	Wednesday 30 April 2025 at 9.30am and Thursday 1 May 2025 at

		9.30am (if required)
5.	Compulsory acquisition hearing 1 on the applicants' strategic case for compulsory acquisition and temporary possession	Friday 2 May 2025 at 9.30am (to finish no later than 1pm)
6.	Issue by the Examining Authority of: • Examination timetable	As soon as practicable following the preliminary meeting
7.	 Deadline 1 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Written representations, including summaries if exceeding 1500 words Local impact reports from any local authorities Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases Initial statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement and statement of commonality Applicants' Land Rights Tracker Applicants' updated Book of Reference and Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference (if required) in clean and tracked versions Applicants' report on interrelationships with other infrastructure projects Further information from the applicants in response to the Rule 9 letter of 14 February 2025 [PD-005] and Appendix F (section 10) of the Rule 6 letter of 28 March 2025 [PD-006]. Notification of wish to attend a further compulsory acquisition hearing Suggested locations for site inspections (accompanied or unaccompanied), including justification 	Tuesday 20 May 2025
	 Notification of wish to attend an accompanied site inspection Notification of statutory parties of their wish to be considered an interested party by the Examining Authority 	

Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically Responses to relevant representations (if not provided by procedural deadline A) Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 Comments on any further information/submissions accepted by the Examining Authority B. Deadline 2 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Comments on written representations Comments on the local impact reports The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions Tuesday 17 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 fir required) Publication 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement and statement of commonality			
provided by procedural deadline A) Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 Comments on any further information/submissions accepted by the Examining Authority of: Comments on written representations Comments on the local impact reports Thursday 5 June 2025 Thursday 5 June 2025 Thursday 5 June 2025 The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order The applicants' draft itinerary for accompanied site inspection Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/submissions received by deadline 1 Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions Tuesday 17 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement		·	
Authority under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 • Comments on any further information/submissions accepted by the Examining Authority 8. Deadline 2 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: • Comments on written representations • Comments on the local impact reports • The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order • The applicants' draft itinerary for accompanied site inspection • Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules • Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 9. Publication by the ExA of: • Examining Authority's written questions 10. Open floor hearing 2 Tuesday 24 June 2025 11. Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 6.30pm Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) 12. Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: • Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions • Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement		•	
accepted by the Éxamining Authority 8. Deadline 2 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: • Comments on written representations • Comments on the local impact reports • The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order • The applicants' draft itinerary for accompanied site inspection • Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules • Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 9. Publication by the ExA of: • Examining Authority's written questions 10. Open floor hearing 2 Tuesday 24 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm 11. Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) 12. Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: • Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions • Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement		Authority under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure	
For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Comments on written representations Comments on the local impact reports The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order The applicants' draft itinerary for accompanied site inspection Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions Tuesday 17 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) Peadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement			
Comments on written representations Comments on the local impact reports The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order The applicants' draft itinerary for accompanied site inspection Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions Tuesday 17 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm Copen floor hearing 2 Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) Peadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement	8.	Deadline 2	_
Comments on the local impact reports The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order The applicants' draft itinerary for accompanied site inspection Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions Tuesday 17 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm Copen floor hearing 2 Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) Publication by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement		For receipt by the Examining Authority of:	June 2025
The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order The applicants' draft itinerary for accompanied site inspection Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions Tuesday 17 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm Copen floor hearing 2 Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) Accompanied site inspection Peadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement		 Comments on written representations 	
Order The applicants' draft itinerary for accompanied site inspection Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions Tuesday 17 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm 11. Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) 12. Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement		 Comments on the local impact reports 	
inspection Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions Tuesday 17 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm 11. Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) 12. Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement			
Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 1 Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions Tuesday 17 June 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) Poeadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement			
Publication by the ExA of: Examining Authority's written questions 10. Open floor hearing 2 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm 11. Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) 12. Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
 Examining Authority's written questions 10. Open floor hearing 2 Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm 11. Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) 12. Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement 		•	
Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 6.30pm Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) Monday 7 July 2025	9.	Publication by the ExA of:	
June 2025 at 6.30pm 11. Accompanied site inspection Wednesday 25 June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) 12. Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement		Examining Authority's written questions	June 2025
June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if required) 12. Deadline 3 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement	10.	Open floor hearing 2	June 2025 at
For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement	11.	Accompanied site inspection	June 2025 at 9.00am and Thursday 26 June 2025 (if
 Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement 	12.	Deadline 3	
 questions Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement 		For receipt by the Examining Authority of:	2025
summaries of the principal areas of disagreement		,	
		summaries of the principal areas of disagreement	

Applicants' undeted Land Dights Tracker		
Applicants' updated Land Rights Tracker		
 Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules 		
 Comments on any information/submissions received by deadline 2 		
Dates reserved (if required) for:	Week	
 Any further issue specific hearing Any further compulsory acquisition hearing Any further open floor hearing 	commencing 28 July 2025	
Deadline 4	Friday 8 August 2025	
For receipt by the Examining Authority of:		
 Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases 		
 The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order 		
 Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement 		
The applicants' updated compulsory acquisition tracker		
 Applicants report on interrelationships with other infrastructure projects 		
 Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's written questions 		
 Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules 		
 Comments on any further information/submissions received by deadline 3 		
Publication by the Examining Authority of:	Monday 8	
 Further written questions (if required) 	September 2025	
 Examining Authority's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft Development Consent Order (if required) 		
Deadline 5	Monday 22	
For receipt by the Examining Authority of:	September 2025	
 Response to the Examining Authority's further written questions (if required) 		
	Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any information/submissions received by deadline 2 Dates reserved (if required) for: Any further issue specific hearing Any further compulsory acquisition hearing Any further open floor hearing Deadline 4 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order Updated statements of common ground, including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement The applicants' updated compulsory acquisition tracker Applicants report on interrelationships with other infrastructure projects Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's written questions Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules Comments on any further information/submissions received by deadline 3 Publication by the Examining Authority of: Further written questions (if required) Examining Authority's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft Development Consent Order (if required) Deadline 5 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Response to the Examining Authority's further written	

	 Comments on the Examining Authority's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft Development Consent Order 	
	The applicants' revised draft Development Consent Order	
	The applicants' updated compulsory acquisition tracker	
	Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules	
	Comments on any further information/submissions received by deadline 4	
17.	Publication by the Examining Authority of:	Wednesday 1
	Report on the Implications for European Sites and any associated questions (if required)	October 2025
18.	Dates reserved (if required) for:	Week
	 Any further issue specific hearing Any further compulsory acquisition hearing Any further open floor hearing Further accompanied site inspection 	6 October 2025
19.	Deadline 6	Wednesday 22
19.	Deadline 6 For receipt by the Examining Authority of:	Wednesday 22 October 2025
19.		_
19.	For receipt by the Examining Authority of: • Post hearing submissions including written	_
19.	 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases Comments on the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites and any 	_
19.	 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases Comments on the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites and any associated questions (if required) Final Development Consent Order to be submitted by the applicants in the SI template and final schedule of 	_
19.	 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases Comments on the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites and any associated questions (if required) Final Development Consent Order to be submitted by the applicants in the SI template and final schedule of changes 	_
19.	 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases Comments on the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites and any associated questions (if required) Final Development Consent Order to be submitted by the applicants in the SI template and final schedule of changes Final Explanatory Memorandum Final statements of common ground including 	_
19.	 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases Comments on the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites and any associated questions (if required) Final Development Consent Order to be submitted by the applicants in the SI template and final schedule of changes Final Explanatory Memorandum Final statements of common ground including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement 	_
19.	 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases Comments on the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites and any associated questions (if required) Final Development Consent Order to be submitted by the applicants in the SI template and final schedule of changes Final Explanatory Memorandum Final statements of common ground including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement Applicants' final Application Guide 	_
19.	 For receipt by the Examining Authority of: Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases Comments on the Examining Authority's Report on the Implications for European Sites and any associated questions (if required) Final Development Consent Order to be submitted by the applicants in the SI template and final schedule of changes Final Explanatory Memorandum Final statements of common ground including summaries of the principal areas of disagreement Applicants' final Application Guide Final Land Rights Tracker Final Book of Reference and schedule of changes to 	_

	Applicants' final report on interrelationships with other infrastructure projects	
	Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's further written questions (if required)	
	Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules	
	Comments on any further information/ submissions received by deadline 5	
	Deadline 7	Wednesday 29
	Deadline 7 For receipt by the Examining Authority of:	Wednesday 29 October 2025
20.		
20.	For receipt by the Examining Authority of:	

Submission times for deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the <u>project webpage</u> as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the 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 Secretary of State. The ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and/or Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

In addition to the procedural decisions made in our <u>Rule 6 letter</u> of 28 March 2025, we have made a number of procedural decisions following the preliminary meeting:

1. Examination timetable

Having considered all of the matters raised before and at the preliminary meeting, the ExA has made the following amendments to the draft examination timetable. These changes are reflected in **annex A** of this letter.

- Deadline 2 has been moved from Tuesday 3 June 2025 to Thursday 5 June 2025 to provide additional time for submissions at this deadline.
- **Deadline 3** has been moved from **Friday 4 July 2025** to **Monday 7 July 2025** to provide additional time for submissions at this deadline.
- **Deadline 4** is supplemented with confirmation of an invitation for comments on the responses to the ExA's first written questions.
- **Deadline 6** is supplemented with confirmation of an invitation for comments on the responses to the ExA's further written questions.

2. Statements of common ground (SoCG)

The applicants are taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it will aid the smooth running of the examination if all interested parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the applicant in respect of their production. We set out in **Annex F** of our Rule 6 letter the SoCGs we request are submitted during the examination of this application. Final signed versions of the SoCGs are requested to be submitted by the applicants at **deadline 6**, **22 October 2025**.

For statutory undertakers, where there is documented evidence that matters, including protective provisions, are agreed and no other matters of disagreement remain, then a statement from parties to this effect would suffice. In the absence of such a statement, and even if agreement is expected to be reached, then a SoCG should be progressed. This should focus primarily on the matters where differences remain between the respective parties, rather than an unnecessarily long SoCG.

The ExA also notes the discussion around the possibility of a SoCG with Newton with Clifton and Freckleton Parish Councils. Whilst this was not on the list of requested SoCG in Annex F of our Rule 6 letter, the submission of one would be helpful to the examination.

3. Local impact reports (LIR)

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 the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for local authorities.

As set out in our Rule 6 letter, local authorities, defined in section 56A of the Planning Act 2008, are invited to submit LIRs by **deadline 1, Tuesday 20 May 2025**.

4. Changes to land interests

When the applicants become aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land, the applicants are requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an interested party under section 102A of the PA2008 by emailing the case team at morganandmorecambeowfta@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. The examination timetable includes various deadlines for the submission of an updated book of reference and schedule of changes to the book of reference, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

5. Update to examination library

The ExA confirms that the applicants' Climate change risk assessment (Volume 4, Annex 1.2 of the Environmental Statement) has been uploaded to the examination library [APP-140], replacing the incorrectly labelled document that was previously accessible under this reference.

6. Transboundary consultation

Submissions about transboundary consultation were made by Ms. Uí Bhroin at the preliminary meeting acting on a personal capacity as well as on behalf of An Taisce and An Claíomh Glas and by Mr Byrne representing An Claíomh Glas.

The concerns raised are noted by the ExA. The ExA has confirmed that all three parties can be 'other persons' in the examination (noting the provisions of \$102 of the Planning Act 2008 on the ability for persons to become interested parties). It is also possible for further parties wishing to participate to become other persons as appropriate. The ExA encourages all three parties to make submissions, as they consider appropriate, throughout the examination and requests that the applicants respond to any such submissions accepted by the ExA as they would for submissions from interested parties. The ExA may also ask any written questions as we consider appropriate in relation to the matters raised and will seek to positively use its discretion to ensure that the parties can fairly participate in any hearings. Additionally, all examination documents can be viewed on the examination website and updates on the examination can be seen by anyone who registers via email. The parties referred to above will therefore be able to actively participate in the examination by making representations, viewing and commenting on other submissions, and participate in hearings.

Furthermore, if the ExA receives submissions from other organisations or members of the public of the Republic of Ireland, who consider they may be affected by the proposed development, the ExA can exercise its discretion to accept representations and allow those parties to speak at hearings to ensure that such parties can fairly participate.

It should also be noted that following the close of the examination, representations relating to transboundary matters from members of the public of the Republic of Ireland can also be made directly to the Secretary of State up to the point that the final decision is made.

Notice of hearing and accompanied site inspection and requests to participate

Notice of hearing and requests to participate

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following hearing:

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue and Joining details
Tuesday 24 June 2025	Open floor hearing	Registration and seating available at venue from: 5.30pm Virtual registration process from: 5.30pm Hearing starts: 6.30pm	Village Hotel East Park Drive Blackpool FY3 8LL and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre- registered

NOTE: If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification that a particular date is no longer required will be published as soon as practicable on the <u>project webpage</u>, providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel them.

You must register by completing the <u>event participation form</u> by Tuesday 10 June 2025 if you intend to participate in the hearing and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe the hearing then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

- **1.** watch a livestream of the event a link to the livestream will be made available on the <u>project webpage</u> shortly before the event is scheduled to begin
- **2.** watch the recording of the event which will be published o the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical hearing at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Tuesday 10 June 2025** using the <u>event participation form</u>. Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Tuesday 10 June 2025**.

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online livestream of the event and the recording of the event

which will get published on the <u>project webpage</u>. A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the event. Please contact the case team to notify them if you prefer not to be filmed at the event. A transcript of the event will also be published on the <u>project webpage</u> after the event.

Any request to participate in the hearing **must include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate)
- Email address (if available) and contact telephone number
- Name and unique reference number of any person/ organisation that you are representing (if applicable)
- Confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person

Requests to participate should be made using the <u>event participation form</u> on or before **Tuesday 10 June 2025**.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the hearing, either virtually or in person.

Hearing agenda

The open floor hearing provides a further opportunity for interested parties (IPs) to make oral submissions about the application to the ExA. Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing by the particular participant. To ensure fairness and equity, oral submissions will be restricted to a **maximum of 3 minutes per individual IP and 5 minutes per IP representing a number of interests** (generally one person per household or organisation will be permitted to speak and only those that did not speak at open floor hearing 1 which took place on Tuesday 29 April 2025). The ExA may ask speakers questions about their submissions and the ExA will give the applicants an opportunity to respond to any matters raised by speakers. The ExA also has the discretion to allow those who are not interested parties to participate.

An agenda with a list of those who have notified the ExA of a wish to be heard at the open floor hearing on Tuesday 24 June 2025 will be published at least five working days in advance of the hearing date.

Procedure at hearings

The examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice for members of the public: The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say for more information.</u>

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 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 parties.

Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the <u>project webpage</u> shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the <u>project</u> <u>webpage</u> as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the examination to find out what has been discussed.

Notice of accompanied site inspection and requests to attend

We confirm that we will hold an accompanied site inspection (ASI) under rule 16 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 on the following dates:

Date	Meeting place and parking	Time	Notes
Wednesday 25 June 2025	North Beach car park, Clifton Drive, Lytham St Anne's, FY8 2PP	Start 09.00am	Meet at 09.00am for compulsory safety briefing
Thursday 26 June 2025	North Beach car park, Clifton Drive, Lytham St Anne's, FY8 2PP	09.00am	Continuation of accompanied site inspection (if required)

NOTE: If any part of the above site inspection is no longer required then notification that a particular date is no longer required will be published as soon as practicable on the <u>project webpage</u>.

Please note that for logistical and safety reasons it may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany us for the whole ASI, however 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.

The examination timetable includes at **deadline 1** (**20 May 2025**) an opportunity for interested parties to make submissions suggesting sites and locations that the ExA should visit. Section 8 of Appendix F of the ExA's Rule 6 letter [PD-006] sets out further details of the information required with such submissions. A draft itinerary for the ASI will be submitted by the applicants at **deadline 2** (**Thursday 5 June 2025**). The ExA will subsequently publish its final site visit itinerary at least five days before the starting date of the ASI.

Requests by interested parties to attend the ASI should be made using the **event participation form** on or before **Tuesday 10 June 2025**.

The interested parties attending the ASI may include representatives of the applicants and local authorities, together with other interested parties (or their representatives) and other persons. Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it.

Interested parties should be aware that the ASI is not an opportunity to make any oral representations to us about the proposed development. However, we may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the ASI.

Examination documents

The application documents and relevant representations can be inspected on the <u>project</u> <u>webpage</u>.

How to stay up to date

All further documents submitted in the course of the examination will also be published under the <u>documents tab</u> of the project webpage.

You can also sign up to get email updates.

If you have any questions about the process, examination events or how to access the documents, you can email morganandmorecambeowfta@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or contact us on 0303 444 5000.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the <u>Examination Library</u> (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the documents tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document
- each representation and submission made to the examination
- each procedural decision made by the Examining Authority

Each document is given a unique reference number which will be fixed for the duration of the examination. Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any examination documents in any future submissions that you make.

Information about the 'Have your say' page

The 'Have your say' page is available on the project webpage.

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top of your letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate). If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do have not your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered interested party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the <u>project webpage</u> as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our <u>Privacy Notice</u>.

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/ evidence hosted on a third party website, for example technical reports, media articles and so on. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: Advice for submitting representations or comments for important information about making written submissions. 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.

You should select the relevant deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate submission item as described in the examination timetable at **annex A** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the submission items then please select the submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the 'Have your say' page please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.