

**NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

**SECTION 91 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008**

**RULE 13(6) OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE)  
RULES 2010**

**NOTICE OF HEARINGS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED NORTH FALLS OFFSHORE  
WIND FARM**

**PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE: EN010119**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that, at the date, time and place set out below, Issue Specific Hearings will be held by the Examining Authority (appointed by the Secretary of State) for the examination of the application made by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (company number 12435947) of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, SN5 6PB ('the Applicant') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'). The Application was made by the Applicant on 26 July 2024 and accepted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for examination on 22 August 2024.

**Issue Specific Hearings (ISH1 and ISH2)**

The Examining Authority issued the [Rule 8 Letter](#) dated 4 February 2025 that contains the timetable for the examination of the Application. Within the letter, the Examining Authority also gave notice of the Issue Specific Hearings detailed in the table below.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>2 and 3 April 2025</b>  <b>4 April may be used if necessary</b>	<b>Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)</b>  Onshore environmental effects to cover topics including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landscape and visual impact and design</li><li>• Historic heritage</li><li>• Traffic and transportation</li><li>• Noise and any other health impacts</li><li>• Agriculture, ground conditions and soils</li><li>• Flood risk, groundwater and surface water</li><li>• Socio-economic effects</li><li>• Cumulative effects</li><li>• Co-ordination and alternatives</li></ul>	<b>ISH1 starts: 10:00am</b>  Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:30am Virtual (online) registration: 09:30am	Blended event at Wivenhoe House Hotel, Wivenhoe Park, Park Road, Colchester, CO4 3FA; and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams.

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue
<p><b>8 and 9 April 2025</b></p> <p><b>10 April may be used if necessary</b></p>	<p><b>Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)</b></p> <p>To cover topics including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft DCO</li> <li>• Onshore and offshore ecology</li> <li>• Commercial fisheries</li> <li>• Navigation and shipping</li> <li>• Offshore landscape, visual and seascape</li> <li>• Cumulative effects offshore</li> </ul>	<p><b>ISH2 starts: 10:00am</b></p> <p>Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:30am</p> <p>Virtual (online) registration: 09:30am</p>	<p>Blended event at Wivenhoe House Hotel, Wivenhoe Park, Park Road, Colchester, CO4 3FA; and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams.</p>

If you wish to attend and/or participate in the above Hearings, you must register by completing the Planning Inspectorate’s [Event Participation Form](#) on the Planning Inspectorate’s project webpage by **14 March 2025**. The physical venue referred to above will also be open to the public. Please contact the Planning Inspectorate using the contact details at the bottom of this notice if you require any support or assistance to attend the Hearings, either virtually or in person.

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

1. attend the physical event to observe the proceedings;
2. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the project webpage shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
3. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

**Virtual Registration** — All virtual participants will be required to take part in a registration process before each Hearing. This will be held with the Planning Inspectorate before the start of the Hearing. This gives time for the Planning Inspectorate to admit everyone to the Hearing.

**Cancellation Of Hearing** — If a Hearing is no longer required, reasonable notice will be provided of the Planning Inspectorate’s decision to cancel it by the posting of a banner on the Planning Inspectorate’s project webpage for the Scheme.

Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by 14 March 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 project webpage. 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 project webpage after the event.

For more information on the Hearings, the examination of the Application and full timetable (and any amendments to it), including how and when to register to speak at the Hearing and how and when to make written submissions, please contact the Planning Inspectorate using the details at the bottom of this notice, or visit its website where procedural decisions and notice of hearings, including the Examining Authority's Rule 8 letter are available to download: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010119>

Any request to participate in a hearing should 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);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in person;
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise; and
- the Examination Library reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Please contact the case team using the Planning Inspectorate contact details at the bottom of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the hearings, either virtually or in person.

### **Summary of the Application**

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm (the 'Project' or 'North Falls') will comprise an offshore generating station with a capacity exceeding 100 megawatts (MW). The Project is therefore classified as a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(3) of the Act and requires development consent in accordance with section 31 of the Act. It is for this reason that the Application falls within the remit of the Secretary of State's decision-making powers.

North Falls is an offshore wind farm located in the outer Thames Estuary. The DCO Application is for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of an offshore wind farm proposed approximately 40km off the East Anglia coast in the southern North Sea. The Project comprises: a single offshore array area covering an area of 95 square kilometres with up to 57 wind turbine generators, the installation of underground cables and associated infrastructure; construction of up to two offshore substation platforms, or, up to one offshore substation platform and up to one offshore converter platform; the construction of up to two cable circuits and associated ducting with the onshore landfall taking place at between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea; the construction of an electrical substation between Little Bromley and Ardleigh to connect to National Grid's proposed East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) substation; and all associated development and ancillary works. The Application provides for three options for the transmission of the electricity generated by the wind farm as follows:

- Option 1: Onshore electrical connection at a National Grid connection point within the Tendring peninsula of Essex, with a project alone onshore cable route and onshore substation infrastructure;
- Option 2: Onshore electrical connection at a National Grid connection point within the Tendring peninsula of Essex, sharing an onshore cable route and onshore cable duct installation (but with separate onshore export cables) and co-locating separate Project onshore substation infrastructure with Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm; or
- Option 3: Offshore electrical connection, supplied by a third-party.

The onshore infrastructure works required under Options 1 and 2 above would be within the administrative area of Essex County Council and Tendring District Council.

The DCO, if granted, would enable the acquisition of land, new rights over land and the imposition of restrictions that are required to construct, operate and maintain the Project. In addition, it contains powers for the possession and use of land on a temporary basis to facilitate the construction and maintenance of the Project. The DCO would also authorise alterations to the layout of streets, the construction of accesses to the Project, the temporary stopping up of public rights of way, street works, removal of hedgerows and the application and modification of legislation.

Maps showing the onshore and offshore locations of the Project that form part of the Application are titled Location Plan (Onshore) [APP-196] and the Location Plan (Offshore) [APP-197] both of which can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate’s website under the documents tab:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010119/documents>

**Copy of the application form and accompanying documents**

The application form, and all accompanying documents (including the Environmental Statement, Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement, a Guide to the Application and draft DCO), can be viewed electronically and downloaded free of charge on the Planning Inspectorate’s website under the documents tab (at the link above).

The Application documents will be available online on the Planning Inspectorate’s website for the duration of the pre-examination and examination stage and will also be accessible online in the locations set out below. The locations listed below have public internet access, through which the Application documents can be accessed on the Planning Inspectorate’s website free of charge. Please check directly with the facilities to confirm their opening hours, as well as any bookings or registrations that might be required to access the documents digitally through the computers available at the respective locations.

Location	Address	Opening Times
West Clacton Library	Jaywick Lane, Clacton-on-Sea CO16 8BE	Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm.
Felixstowe Library	Crescent Road, Felixstowe IP11 7BY	Monday and Sunday 10am to 4pm;

		Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 5:30pm; Wednesday, 9am to 7:30pm; Saturday, 9am to 5pm.
Clacton Library	Station Road (opposite the Town Hall), Clacton-on-Sea CO15 1SF	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9am to 5:30pm; Wednesday, 9am to 7pm Saturday, 9am to 5pm.
Frinton Library	59 Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea CO13 9DA	Tuesday and Friday, 9am to 5:30pm; Thursday 9am to 7pm; Saturday, 9am to 5pm.
Greenstead Library	Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 5:30pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm.
Manningtree Library	High Street, Manningtree CO11 1AD	Tuesday 9am to 5:30pm; Wednesday 9am to 1pm; Thursday 1pm to 7pm; Friday 9am to 1pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm.
Wivenhoe Library	104/6 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB	Tuesday, 2pm to 7pm; Thursday, 9am to 5:30pm; Saturday, 9am to 5pm.
Harwich Arts and Heritage Centre	Annexed onto the Mayflower School Main Road, Dovercourt, Harwich CO12 4AJ	Monday 9am to Friday 5pm; Saturday 9am to 1pm.

The full suite of Application documents can be made available in printed format on request to the Applicant at a cost of up to £10,000. Requests for alternative formats (for example, large print or braille formats) or specific individual documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### Accompanied Site Inspection

The Accompanied Site Inspection is to be held on Tuesday 1 April 2025. Please refer to the project webpage on the Planning Inspectorate's website for the latest version of the Applicant's Suggested Itinerary for the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI): <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010119>

The date, starting time, and pick-up / drop-off location are outlined below.

Date	Start Time	Location
1 April 2025	Start: 09:30am	Wivenhoe House Hotel, Wivenhoe Park, Park Road, Colchester CO4 3FA.

Further information about the Application, the Hearing, how to take part in the examination and any other matters covered in this notice may be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate or the Applicant using the following contact details:

Planning Inspectorate	Applicant
<p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:NorthFalls@planninginspectorate.gov.uk">NorthFalls@planninginspectorate.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 0303 444 5000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm).</p> <p><b>Post:</b> National Infrastructure Planning, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6P</p> <p>Please quote the Application reference number EN010119 in any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate about this DCO.</p>	<p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:contact@northfallsoffshore.com">contact@northfallsoffshore.com</a></p> <p><b>Phone:</b> 0800 254 5340</p> <p>Any details you provide to the Applicant via telephone, email or post will be subject to its privacy policy and will be treated confidentially and processed and handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. The information may be disclosed to or shared with the Applicant's connected companies, agents, contractors and advisors who provide services to the Applicant in connection with the Application.</p>

**North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited**