

Application by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2): Environmental matters

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) Environmental matters	<p>Wednesday 12 July 2023 (all day) Hearing Starts: 10.00am and Thursday 13 July 2023 (morning only) Hearing Starts: 10.00am On both days: Registration and seating available at venue from 9.30am and virtual Registration Process from 9.30am</p>	<p>KingsGate Conference Centre 2 Staplee Way, Parnwell, Peterborough PE1 4YT and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.</p>

Attendees

The Examining Authority (ExA) would be assisted by attendance of representatives of the following parties:

- Applicant
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Rutland County Council
- South Kesteven District Council
- Mallard Pass Action Group
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- CPRE Rutland

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All Interested Parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the Agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the Hearing.

If you have not already confirmed your attendance, please do so as soon as possible by contacting the Case Team on 0303 444 555 or MallardPassSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Hearing

2. Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing

3. Statements of Common Ground

- a) Summary of the latest position regarding the preparation of Statements of Common Ground

The ExA will ask specific questions of the applicant and IPs in relation to the following matters:

4. Landscape and visual effects

- b) Methodology
- c) Study area
- d) Definition of 'significant effects'
- e) Representative and illustrative viewpoints and photomontages
- f) Proposed mitigation/enhancement measures (including growth rates and management/monitoring of new planting)
- g) Assessment of landscape and visual effects during construction
- h) Assessment of landscape and visual effects during operation
- i) Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
- j) Other landscaping and visual matters

5. Ecology and biodiversity

- a) Biodiversity Net Gain (including the level to be provided and secured)
- b) Shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment (Baston Fen SAC and in-combination effects)
- c) Ecological mitigation

6. Land use and soils

- a) The effect on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land
- b) Soil management
- c) Scope for sheep grazing and implications

7. Water and flood risk

- a) Surface water run-off, soil compaction and flood risk
- b) Flood prevention measures during construction

8. Noise

- a) Construction noise
- b) Operational noise, including from substation and invertors
- c) Mitigation and management measures

9. Highways and access

- a) Access to Primary Construction Compound (including time restrictions for HGV deliveries)
- b) Access to Secondary Construction Compounds (including the review of the Local Road Network and proposed access point G at the junction with The Drift and B1176)
- c) Highways effects during the construction phase (including cable routing implications)
- d) Highways effects during the operational phase

10. Socio-economic

- a) Permissive paths (including their effectiveness as mitigation, use and management).

11. Cultural heritage (Thursday am)

- a) Applicant's archaeological evaluation
- b) Proposed archaeological mitigation
- c) Assessment of effects upon significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets

12. In-combination and cumulative effects

- a) Methodology
- b) Effects on users of Public Rights of Way during the construction and operational phases
- c) Health and well-being
- d) Other projects and developments

13. Accompanied ExA site inspection arrangements

- a) Comments on Applicant's draft itinerary for site inspection [[REP2-039](#)]
- b) Site visit arrangements

14. Any other matters

15. Actions arising

16. Closing

Purpose of ISH2

This Hearing is being held to address matters and questions identified by the ExA including through its reading of application documents, Local Impact Reports, representations from Interested Parties, responses to written questions and site inspections to date.

It considers that the matters raised would benefit from consideration of oral representations in order to ensure adequate examination of these issues.

The agenda provided above is indicative and may be subject to change on the day. Documents within the Examination Library should be taken as read and need not be repeated in oral submissions, although signposting to key documents and representations may assist.

Attendance

Anyone wishing to attend the Hearing in person, who has not already advised the Case Team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the Hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the Hearing can therefore view and listen to the Hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Registration Process

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a Joining Instruction email shortly before the Hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the Hearing to start on time at **10.00am** those attending virtually should join promptly at **9.30am** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the Registration Process in good time.

Procedure at ISH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at Hearings. Questioning at the Hearing will be led by the ExA. The ExA will ask specific questions related to the matters identified in the agenda. Matters raised in written submissions should be taken as read and do not need to be repeated but may be referred to where required.

Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.