



The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
Email:
MallardPassSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

To: All Interested Parties

Our Ref: EN010127

Date: 23 August 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13

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

Notification of Hearings

The Examination Timetable at Annex A of the Examining Authority's (ExA) [Rule 8 letter](#), dated 23 May 2023, included reserved dates for Hearings.

We are writing to advise you that the following Hearings will be held under Sections 91, 92 and 93 of the Planning Act 2008. The Hearing(s) will be Blended Events, with participants attending either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2) Compulsory Acquisition, Temporary Possession and related Matters	Tuesday 26 September 2023	Registration and seating available from: 9.30am Virtual Registration Process from: 9.30am Hearing starts: 10.00am	Orton Hall Hotel & Spa, The Village, Orton Longueville, Peterborough, PE2 7DN 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

<p>Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4) Environmental Matters</p>	<p>Tuesday 26 September 2023</p> <p>and</p> <p>Wednesday 27 September 2023</p>	<p>Registration and seating available from 1.30pm on Tuesday 26 September and 9.30am on Wednesday 27 September</p> <p>Virtual Registration Process from 1.30pm on Tuesday 26 of September and 9.30am on Wednesday 27 of September</p> <p>Hearings starts: 2.00pm on Tuesday 26 September 2023</p> <p>and</p> <p>10.00am on Wednesday 27 September 2023</p>	<p>Orton Hall Hotel & Spa, The Village, Orton Longueville, Peterborough, PE2 7DN</p> <p>and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered</p>
<p>Issue Specific Hearing 5</p> <p>Environmental Matters and the Draft Development Consent Order</p>	<p>Thursday 28 September 2023</p>	<p>Registration and seating available from: 9.30am</p> <p>Virtual Registration Process from: 9.30am</p> <p>Hearing starts: 10.00am</p>	<p>Orton Hall Hotel & Spa, The Village, Orton Longueville, Peterborough, PE2 7DN</p> <p>and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered</p>
<p>NOTE: If any of the above Hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website, providing reasonable notice to Interested Parties of the decision to cancel.</p>			

You must register by **18 September 2023** if you intend to participate in any of the Hearings listed above. Please see **Annex A** for further information on how to register for the hearings.

Hearing Agendas

The Agendas and any detailed arrangements for the Hearings will be published on the [project webpage](#) at least five working days before the Hearings. However, the actual Agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at our discretion. A list of invitees will be included in the Hearing agendas. Meanwhile, if you are unsure whether you or the organisation you represent should attend a hearing, please contact the Case Team by emailing MallardPassSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Subject to submissions received at Deadline 5, it is anticipated that the 'Environmental Matters' considered at ISHs 4 and 5 are likely to include (but not be limited to) consideration of matters relating to water and flood risk, archaeological evaluation and mitigation, land use and soils and landscape and visual effects, including the content of the relevant outline management plans where relevant.

Open Floor Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections

Two Open Floor Hearings were held on 17 May 2023. The Examination Timetable reserved time for further Open Floor Hearing(s) in September, however the Examining Authority (ExA) is satisfied that these are not required.

The ExA conducted a comprehensive Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) on 17 and 18 August 2023. We have also undertaken site visits as Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USI) and will be carrying out further USI later in the Examination. Notes of our unaccompanied site inspections can be found in the Examination Library. The ExA is satisfied that no further ASI is necessary at this stage and therefore the time reserved for an ASI in the week commencing 25 September 2023 will not be required.

Applicant's notification duties

The Applicant is reminded of its duty to notify and publicise hearings under Rule 13(6) and 13(7) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Further important information, including on how to participate in the Hearings, is included in Annexe A to this letter.

For any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Team MallardPassSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

David Cliff

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Annex A

Participation in Hearings

You must register by **18 September 2023** if you intend to participate in the Hearings and provide all the information requested.

Please register using the [Event Participation Form](#). If you have any difficulty completing the form, please contact the Case Team.

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);
- confirmation of the Hearing(s) you wish to participate in;
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- for Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the Book of Reference and the Land Plans; and

Joining instructions for Hearings will be issued by the Case Team via email shortly before the Hearing dates.

Please contact the Case Team if you require any support or assistance to attend any Hearing, either virtually or in person.

If you simply wish to observe any of the Hearings then you can either:

1. 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
2. Watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event 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 **18 September** using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **18 September**.

Procedure at Hearings and Post Hearing submissions

Please refer to the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.5: The Examination: hearings and site inspections](#) for information about the purpose of Issue Specific and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings.

Participation in a Hearing will be subject to the ExA's powers of control. It is for the ExA to determine how the Hearing will be conducted, including the time allowed at the Hearing for the making of a person's representations. The Hearing will be managed in the interests of ensuring fair access to the Hearing for all parties, and to ensure that the submissions of all invited persons are fully heard within the allotted time. For Issue Specific Hearings Interested Parties (IPs) may be invited to make oral representations at the Hearing on the specific issues being examined at the Hearing as set out in the relevant Agenda.

All Hearings are recorded. The recordings and transcripts will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following 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 at a Hearing. It is therefore important to note that anyone speaking at the Hearing will need to introduce themselves, including any organisation or groups that they represent, **each time they speak** to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the Hearing is clear who was speaking.

General Data Protection Regulations

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies. Please refer to our [Privacy Notice](#) for further information. Participants must do their best to avoid making public any information which they would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the Case Team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain. The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and transcripts and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the Development Consent Order (DCO). If you actively participate in the Hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording and transcript will be made available in the public domain.

Post Hearing Submissions

The evidence presented orally at Hearings should be included in post Hearing submissions and submitted at the **Deadline 7 (Tuesday 10 October 2023)**.