

West Burton Solar Project

The Applicant's Response to Procedural Deadline A

Prepared by: Lanpro Services
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The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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Louise Harraway
Case Manager
The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

24th August 2023

Dear Louise,

Planning Act 2008 - Application for a Development Consent Order for West Burton Solar Project.

Application Ref: EN010132

This letter sets out West Burton Solar Project's ('the Applicant's') response to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) Rule 6 letter dated 10 August 2023 in respect of Procedural Deadline A.

Requests to be Heard Orally

The Applicant would like the opportunity to speak at the Preliminary Meeting and Open Floor Hearing 1 when and as appropriate. The attendees from the Applicant's team to the events are as follows:

Preliminary Meeting and Open Floor Hearing 1

- Eve Browning, Island Green Power (observer);
- Dave Elvin, Island Green Power (speaker);
- Claire Brodrick, Pinsent Masons LLP (speaker);
- Gareth Phillips, Pinsent Masons LLP (speaker);
- Ruth Taylor, Pinsent Masons LLP (observer);
- Ian Douglass, Lanpro (speaker);

- Jane Crichton Lanpro (observer); and
- Tara Sethi, Lanpro (observer, attending virtually).

Examination Timetable

The Applicant notes the draft Examination Timetable as set out in Annex E of the ExA's Rule 6 letter dated 10 August 2023. The Applicant would like to make the following comments on the draft Examination Timetable:

- 1) The Applicant undertakes regular meetings with the Host Authorities and West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council have both expressed their intention to make a request to the ExA if their Local Impact Reports (LIR) can be submitted at Deadline 2 (Thursday 30 November 2023) rather than Deadline 1 (Thursday 26 October 2023). If this accepted by the ExA, then the Applicant requests that their response to the LIR's is submitted to the Examining Authority by Deadline 3 (Thursday 4 January 2024) rather than Deadline 2.
- 2) The Applicant has sought to secure the Lincolnshire Showground for Item number 9 of the draft Examination Timetable (being time reserved for hearings and an Accompanied Site Inspection week commencing 11 December 2023). The Lincolnshire Showground has no availability that week. Whilst the Applicant continues to search for alternative and suitable venues during that week, the Applicant would like the Examining Authority to consider if all of the hearings can be conducted virtually. Alternatively, the Lincolnshire Showground has availability from Tuesday 9 January until Friday 12 January 2024. If the Examining Authority would like to proceed with these dates then the submissions due for Deadline 3 (written summaries of oral submissions and actions from hearings) could be moved to Deadline 4 (18 January 2024). Moving the hearings to the second week of January would also give interested parties who are participating in both the Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project more time to prepare for the hearings and respond to actions (noting that the Cottam Solar Project timetable has hearings in the week commencing 4 December 2023 and Deadline 3 is on 19 December 2023).
- 3) The Applicant understands that the Lincolnshire Showground does have availability in the week commencing 18 December 2023. However, the Applicant is mindful that this would overlap with Deadline 3 for the Cottam Solar Project DCO and many interested parties will be working on the documents required for that Deadline and may not have sufficient resources to do both. In addition, it is very close to Christmas, and it may be difficult for interested and affected parties to attend. As there is only one set of hearings proposed for this Examination, the Applicant considers that it would be more appropriate to hold the hearings in January 2024 (as set out above).



Yours sincerely,



Eve Browning

West Burton Solar Project Ltd.



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