

West Burton Solar Project

West Lindsey District Council – [UNIQUE REFERENCE NO. 20038501]

Procedural Deadline B

Rule 6 Letter (11/10/2023) – Annex C: revised draft Examination Timetable

West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) – Submissions

	Matter	Comments
1	Timetable	<p>WLDC notes the revised draft Examination Timetable within Appendix C of the Rule 6 letter (dates 11/10/2023). WLDC does, however, wish to raise several significant matters relating to the draft timetable.</p> <p>Submission deadline for Local Impact Reports and Written Representations.</p> <p>WLDC notes that the draft deadline for the Local Impact Report (LIR) is at Deadline 1 on Friday 24th November 2023 and for Written Representations (WR) on Deadline 1A on Thursday 7th December 2023.</p> <p>WLDC intend to submit both an LIR pursuant to section 60 of the Planning Act 2008 and a WR. Due to local authority processes and committee calendars, the only committee date available to ratify both reports is Tuesday 5th December 2023. Both WLDCs LIR and WR are scheduled to be considered at that committee.</p> <p>As a consequence, WLDC are unable to submit an LIR in accordance with Deadline 1 and, due to post-committee processes, will also be unable to submit an approved LIR in accordance with Deadline 1A.</p> <p>WLDC therefore request that the deadline for the submission of both the LIR and WR be rescheduled for Deadline 2 on Friday 15th December 2023.</p> <p>WLDC accepts that such an amendment to the programme will result in these documents being submitted slightly later than scheduled in the draft timetable; however, the timescale from the commencement of the examination is akin to many DCO projects (including the Cottam Solar Project, which timetabled a period of 6 weeks following the commencement of the examination for the submission of LIRs and WRs). Should the ExA accept WLDCs suggestion, a period of over 20 weeks remains in the examination timetable.</p>

Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)

WLDC notes that the ISH1 is scheduled for the day following the Preliminary Meeting (9th November 2023) and the matters to be discussed comprise the scope of the proposed development, need, site selection and alternatives and environmental matters.

The above matters are ones that are very likely to be of concern to WLDC; however, due to the hearing being held prior to the issue of WLDC's LIR and WR (both in relation to the revised draft timetable and WLDC's committee date) , officers will be significantly restricted in expressing views and contributing meaningfully to ISH1. The approval of the LIR and WR will represent the formal views of WLDC and these need to be formally ratified by the Council's committee in accordance with our scheme of delegation. In the absence of that formal approval, the ability of officers to contribute will be limited.

WLDC therefore wishes to confirm that it intends to participate in ISH1, but that the extent to which it will be able to express views at this stage will be limited, and will need to defer to post-hearing submissions to be made.

General comments

WLDC wish to note that, despite an adjournment to the Examination of the West Burton Solar Project application due to issues with the alignment and overlap with that of other NSIP projects, the revised draft Examination Timetable still retains many clashes in terms of deadlines and hearings. Examples of such unalignment include:

- Deadline 1 is scheduled in the same week as Deadline 5 for the Gate Burton Energy Park; and Deadline 2 for the Cottam Solar Project;
- Deadline 1A is scheduled during the week of hearings being held in association with the Cottam Solar Project
- Deadline 2 is scheduled the immediate day following Deadline 6 for the Gate Burton Energy Park examination
- Deadline 3 is scheduled the day immediately before Deadline 7 for the Gate Burton Energy Park examination

		<p>The close proximity of these deadlines will compromise the preparation of material to be provide by WLDC and it is not understood why these deadlines could not have been scheduled in a manner that provided more time for all parties involved in the examination.</p>
2	<p>Request to register for resumed Preliminary Meeting and Hearings</p>	<p>We wish to formally register the persons below for attendance at the Preliminary Meeting and the Issue Specific Hearing to be held on 8th and 9th November 2023 respectively.</p> <p>In-person: Ms Martha Rees Mr Russell Clarkson Mr Alex Blake</p> <p>Virtually: Mr Finn Heberlet</p>

Key	
Gate Burton	
Cottam	
West Burton	



November					December					January				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	30	31 ExQ1 Proc Deadline A	1	2	3					1 DL1a & ExQ1	2 BANK HOLIDAY	3 DL3 - ExQ1 Response	4 DL7	5
6	7	8 PRELIM & OFH	9 ISH1	10	4 COTTAM HEARINGS	5 COTTAM HEARINGS W.B PROS COM COMMITTEE	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 CA REGS RR (DL1)	11 CA REGS RR (DL3)	12	13	14 OFL / ISH / CAH	15 DL2	15	16 ExQ2	17	18	19
20 DL5 - ExQ2 Response	21 DL2	22	23	24 DL1	18	19 DL3	20	21 DL6	22	22 WEST BURTON HEARINGS	23	24	25	26
27 CA REGS RR (DL2)	28	29	30		25 BANK HOLIDAY	26 BANK HOLIDAY	27	28	29	29	30 DL4 - ExQ2 Response	31		

February					March					April					May					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
			1	2						1 BANK HOLIDAY	2	3	4	5				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	4	5 DL8	6	7	8	8	9	10 DL6	11	12	4	5	8 DL7	9	10	
12	13	14 DL4	15	16	11	12	13 DL5 - ExQ2 Response	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	15	16	17	
19	20	21 2ExQ	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	22	23	24	
26	27 DL5	28	29		25	26	27	28	29 BANK HOLIDAY	29	30				25	26	29	30	31	