



# The Planning Inspectorate

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To: All Interested Parties  
And Other Parties

Our Ref: EN010132

Date: 19 December 2023

## Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rules 13 and 17

### Application by West Burton Solar Project Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the West Burton Solar Project

#### Notification of Hearings and Request for Information

The Examination Timetable at [Annex A](#) of the Examining Authority's (ExA) [Rule 8](#) letter, dated 16 November 2023, included reserved dates for Hearings.

We are now 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
Issue Specific Hearing 2 - Draft Development Consent Order (ISH2)	Tuesday 23 January 2024	Registration and seating available from: 9.30am  Virtual Registration Process from: 9.30am  Event start: 10.00am	All hearings in January 2024 will be blended events at:  <b>The Ballroom Hemswell Court Lancaster Green Hemswell Cliff DN21 5TQ</b>
Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)	Wednesday 24 January 2024	Registration and seating available from: 5pm  Virtual Registration Process from: 5pm  Event start: 5.30pm	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.

Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)	Tuesday 6 February 2024	Registration and seating available from: 9.30am  Virtual Registration Process from: 9.30am  Event start: 10.00am	All hearings in February 2024 will be blended events at:  <b>Solheim Suite Thonock Park The Belt Road Gainsborough Lincolnshire DP21 1PZ</b>  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
Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) – Environmental Matters	Wednesday 7 February 2024	Registration and seating available from: 9.30am  Virtual Registration Process from: 9.30am  Event start: 10.00am	
Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4) – Environmental Matters	Thursday 8 February 2024	Registration and seating available from: 9.30am  Virtual Registration Process from: 9.30am  Event start: 10.00am	
Reserve for ISH4 hearing overspill, if required (morning only)	Friday 9 February 2024	Registration and seating available from: 9am  Virtual Registration Process from: 9am  Event start: 9.30am	
<p><b>NOTE:</b> If any of the above Hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the <a href="#">project webpage</a> of the National Infrastructure Planning website, providing reasonable notice to Interested Parties of the decision to cancel.</p>			

### 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.

### Purpose of Hearings

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

## Registration and requests to participate in Hearings

You must register by **Thursday 18 January 2024** if you intend to participate in any of the 23 – 24 January 2024 Hearings, and by **Tuesday 30 January 2024** if you intend to participate in any of the 6-9 February 2024 Hearings. We ask that you please provide all the information as requested below.

Please inform the Case Team via the project email address ([westburtonsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:westburtonsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)), contact number or postal address provided at the top of this letter if you plan to attend any of these Hearings.

Requests to attend the hearings should be received no later than **Thursday 18 January 2024** for the 23 -24 January 2024 hearings, or **Tuesday 30 January 2024** for the 6 – 9 February 2024 hearings. Agendas for the Hearings will be published on the project webpage of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website no later than five working days before the events.

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;
- if attending in-person, confirmation of whether you wish to participate in the hearings or if you will be attending to observe only; this is to assist the Case Team in providing adequate seating at the venue,
- 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;
- for Compulsory Acquisition Hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the Book of Reference and the Land Plans; and
- the Examination Library reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

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

Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Thursday 18 January 2024** (for the **January 2024 Hearings**) or **Tuesday 30 January 2024** (for the **February 2024 Hearings**)

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

If you are attending virtually and 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.

## Hearing Agendas

The Agendas and any detailed arrangements for the Hearings will be published on the [project webpage](#) no later than five working days before the Hearings. However, the actual Agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at our discretion. There may not be an Agenda for an Open Floor Hearing.

## Procedure at Hearings and Post Hearing submissions

The procedure to be followed at Hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

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 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.

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.

The evidence presented orally at Hearings should be included in post Hearing submissions and submitted at the relevant deadline in the [Examination Timetable](#).

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Team [westburtonsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:westburtonsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk).

### **Request for information from the Applicant under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) - Site Overview**

The ExA has noted that flyover/video footage of large sites has been used to good effect in the assessment of other nationally significant infrastructure projects and can be helpful to the Secretary of State. The Applicant is therefore asked to provide such flyover/video footage of the site of the Proposed Development, including where there are overlaps with other adjacent solar NSIPs. This request is subject to the requirements set out in [Advice Note 8.4](#), including completion of the proforma at [Annex 1](#) of that Note. Please can this information be provided by Deadline 4 (28 February 2024).

### **Site Inspections**

The ExA has considered the comments of Interested Parties in relation to suggested location for site inspections and noted that they relate to publicly accessible locations with no requests for accompaniment. On this basis the ExA considers that further site inspections can be undertaken as unaccompanied. The ExA intends to visit the medieval bishop's palace and deer park at Stow Park unaccompanied, where access will be arranged with the landowner.

A note of the unaccompanied site inspection(s) will be taken and published on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure website as soon as possible following its completion.

Yours faithfully

*Andrea Mageean*

### **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.