

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

**Updated Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 3 on Environmental Matters (ISH3):**

Notification of the date, time, and venue for Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) was provided in the Examining Authority's [Notification of Hearings and Request for Information](#) on 19 December 2023.

At the opening of ISH3 on Wednesday 7 February 2024, the ExA announced that certain items scheduled in the agenda for ISH4 published on 29 January 2024 would need to be postponed/amended due to the unexpected availability of one of the Panel.

These matters may be dealt with via future hearing(s) (either blended or virtual only), written submissions, or a Rule 17 request for information, and the ExA will confirm as soon as possible their decision on the format in which this will take.

If another hearing is scheduled, formal notice will be issued within the required statutory timescales, and another agenda will be published no later than five working days before the first scheduled hearing date.

The agenda for the ISH3 on Environmental Matters Wednesday 7 February 2024 has been updated as follows:

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
<b>Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3)</b>	<p><b>Wednesday 7 February 2024</b></p> <p><b>Hearing Starts at 10:00am</b></p> <p>Registration and seating available at venue from 09:30am and virtual Registration Process from 09:30am</p>	<p>Solheim Suite Thonock Park The Belt Road Gainsborough Lincolnshire DP21 1PZ</p> <p>and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p>

1.	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>The Examining Authority (ExA) will welcome participants and lead introductions. The live stream and recording will start.</p>
2.	<p><b>Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing</b></p>
3.	<p><b>General and Cross-Topic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Implications of the revisions to National Policy Statements for the assessment of the Project.</li> <li>b. Implications of technological improvements for electricity generated, scheme design and environmental impacts.</li> <li>c. Consideration of the nature and purpose of the community benefits package.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Need, Electricity Generated and Climate Change; Safety and Major Incidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Failure rate of Photo Voltaic (PV) panels, and the impact on replacement, and consideration in climate change analysis.</li> <li>b. Consideration of PV Panels and associated infrastructure at macro scale - Ground mounted and rooftop PV, provenance, size.</li> <li>c. BESS Management and Safety, noting revisions to Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan (OBSSMP) <a href="#">REP3-032</a></li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Landscape and Visual – this will be kept to a brief update today with matters below to be postponed and dealt with at a later date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Review of design coherence and the assessment of landscape and visual effects.</li> <li>b. Identification and control of design parameters, including post-consent.</li> <li>c. Management/control of tree and hedgerow removal, and management of mitigation/enhancement measures post-consent.</li> <li>d. Assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Soils &amp; Agriculture, Biodiversity &amp; Ecology, Water Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Soil resource impact of change from 40 to 60-year project life.</li> </ul>

	<p>b. Implications of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2023 update reference to agricultural land.</p> <p>c. Agricultural Land Classification Survey, food production and agricultural uses of land during operation.</p> <p>d. Biodiversity Net Gain</p> <p>e. Consideration of the impact of the project on</p> <p>(i) drainage and flooding</p> <p>(ii) rivers, ditches and aquatic life</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Review of Actions</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Close</b>

### **Purpose of ISH3**

This Issue Specific 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.

### **Attendees**

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this Hearing:

- West Burton Solar Project (the Applicant)
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- West Lindsey District Council
- Environment Agency
- Natural England

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.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the Hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional Agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

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 page](#) 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.

### **Timing**

The ExA will keep to the timings as much as possible. Anyone who is not able to provide all their oral submissions by the close of the hearing should follow it up in writing.

### **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 10.00 those attending virtually should join promptly at 09.30 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. 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.