

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

Updated Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 4 on Environmental Matters (ISH4):

Notification of the date, time, and venue for Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4) was provided in the Examining Authority's (ExA's) [Notification of Hearings and Request for Information](#) on 19 December 2023.

At ISH3 on Wednesday 7 February 2024, the ExA announced that certain items scheduled in the agenda for Issue Specific 4 published on 29 January 2024 would need to be postponed 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 ISH4 on Environmental Matters Thursday 8 February 2024 has been updated as follows:

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4)	<p>Thursday 8 February 2024 Hearing Starts at 10:00am Registration and seating available at venue from 09:30am and virtual Registration Process from 09:30am</p> <p>Friday 9 February 2024 (only to be held if ISH4 Thursday 8 February 2024 over-runs): Hearing Starts at 09:30am Registration and seating available at venue from 09:00am and virtual Registration Process from 09:00am</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>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>The Examining Authority (ExA) will welcome participants and lead introductions. The live stream and recording will start.</p>
2.	<p>Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing</p>
3.	<p>Cultural Heritage – this will be kept to a brief update with the matters below to be postponed and dealt with at a later date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Study Area Selection b. Whether there has been a reasonable baseline assessment of the archaeological resource and the nature of development impacts upon it. c. Approaches to mitigation and the management of identified non-designated archaeological remains. d. The assessment of effects of the scheme on the Stow Park medieval bishops’ palace and deer park, the identified harm and consideration of mitigation measures. e. Cumulative impacts, on the wider landscape of heritage assets setting with specific reference to effects on Roman Villa at Scampton
4.	<p>Transport. Noise and Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consideration of alternative routes including any routes within other schemes, combined construction traffic management plan (CTMP), and parking standards for employment. b. Noise and Air Quality survey methodological considerations.
5.	<p>Socio-Economic and Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consideration of the health impacts of the proposal, including the interrelationship with other projects, and how these have been assessed. b. Health equality and variable impact on different communities. c. The impact of the proposal on the Local Industrial Strategy and other economic objectives
6.	<p>Cumulative Impacts –this will be kept to a brief update with the matters below to be postponed and dealt with at a later date</p>

	<p>a. Overview of the approach to the consideration of cumulative effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applicant to provide an overview including methodology, the likely significant effects identified, any updates and the approach to ongoing collaboration. ii. Consideration of whether other plans or projects need to be included in the cumulative assessment. iii. Consideration of whether an appropriate level of detail has been considered at construction, operational and decommissioning stages, particularly in terms of how construction activity and mitigation measure would be coordinated. <p>b. Topic based discussion (if not already covered earlier in ISH3 and ISH4 discussions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Climate Change ii. Construction traffic management iii. Cultural Heritage iv. Landscape v. Biodiversity and Ecology vi. Soils and Agriculture vii. Socio-economic viii. Waste <p>c. Any other points not already covered on cumulative assessment and impacts.</p>
7.	Other Matters
8.	Review of Actions
9.	Close

Purpose of ISH 4

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
- Historic 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.