

From: [Carol Gilbert](#)
To: [Cottam Solar Project](#)
Cc: [Stacey Parish Clerk](#)
Subject: Cottam Hearings 5th and 6th September - Sturton by Stow Parish Council
Date: 13 August 2023 12:13:01

Dear Inspector

It is with dismay that Sturton by Stow Parish Council write to you following the decision to hold the examination hearings on 5th and 6th September for Cottam Solar application by Island Green Power.

There have been several calls for both of the Island Green applications to be heard together (Cottam and West Burton), but this has been disregarded and stated that each application is to be heard separately, even though there is actually only one applicant; Island Green Power.

We now find ourselves in the unique and unwanted position of trying to negotiate through four separate large scale solar applications. Three of which are now at varying stages of Examination and the fourth, Tillbridge Solar (whose directors are also Low Carbon and therefore connected) whom will be trialling your new NSIP Reform Early Adopter Programme planning infrastructure process.

Unfortunately, two of these **separate processes** are happening consecutively.

Cottam Solar examination hearings take place on 5th and 6th September. On 7th September the examination of West Burton commences.

The sheer number of documents for each application is overwhelming; coupled with the fact that we are facing four such applications, to expect individuals (many of whom work and would have to take leave) to be able to attend physically or virtually on all days and switch from one application to another is unreasonable. Indeed, the Inspectorate has appointed different Inspectors for each application due to their complex nature.

Each subsequent stage of examination has a small period in which to comment. This means we are commenting on different projects at differing stages in separate but connected locations at the same time. This is not a reasonable situation.

We would suggest that there is at least a minimum of three months between each individual application in order to stop application fatigue and confusion between projects.

Yours sincerely

Carol Gilbert
Chairman
Sturton by Stow Parish Council