

# Cottam Solar Project

## C8.1.3 The Applicant's Response to Procedural Deadline A

Prepared by Lanpro Services  
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The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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Mr Simon Raywood  
Case Manager  
The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Directorate  
Temple Quay House  
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Bristol  
BS1 6PN

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

Dear Mr Raywood,

**Planning Act 2008 - Application for a Development Consent Order for Cottam Solar Project.**

**Application Ref: EN010133**

This letter sets out Cottam Solar Project Limited's ('the Applicant's') response to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) Rule 6 letter dated 10 July 2023 in respect of Procedural Deadline A.

*Requests to be Heard Orally*

The Applicant would like the opportunity to speak at the Preliminary Meeting, Open Floor Hearing 1, and Issue Specific Hearing 1 when and as appropriate. The attendees from the Applicant's team to the events are as follows:

**Preliminary Meeting, Open Floor Hearing 1 and Issue Specific Hearing 1**

- Eve Browning, Island Green Power (observer);
- Dave Elvin, Island Green Power (speaker);
- Claire Brodrick, Pinsent Masons LLP (speaker);
- Gareth Phillips, Pinsent Masons LLP (speaker);
- Ruth Taylor, Pinsent Masons LLP (observer)
- Ian Douglass, Lanpro (speaker); and
- Beccy Rejzek, Lanpro (observer).

### Examination Timetable

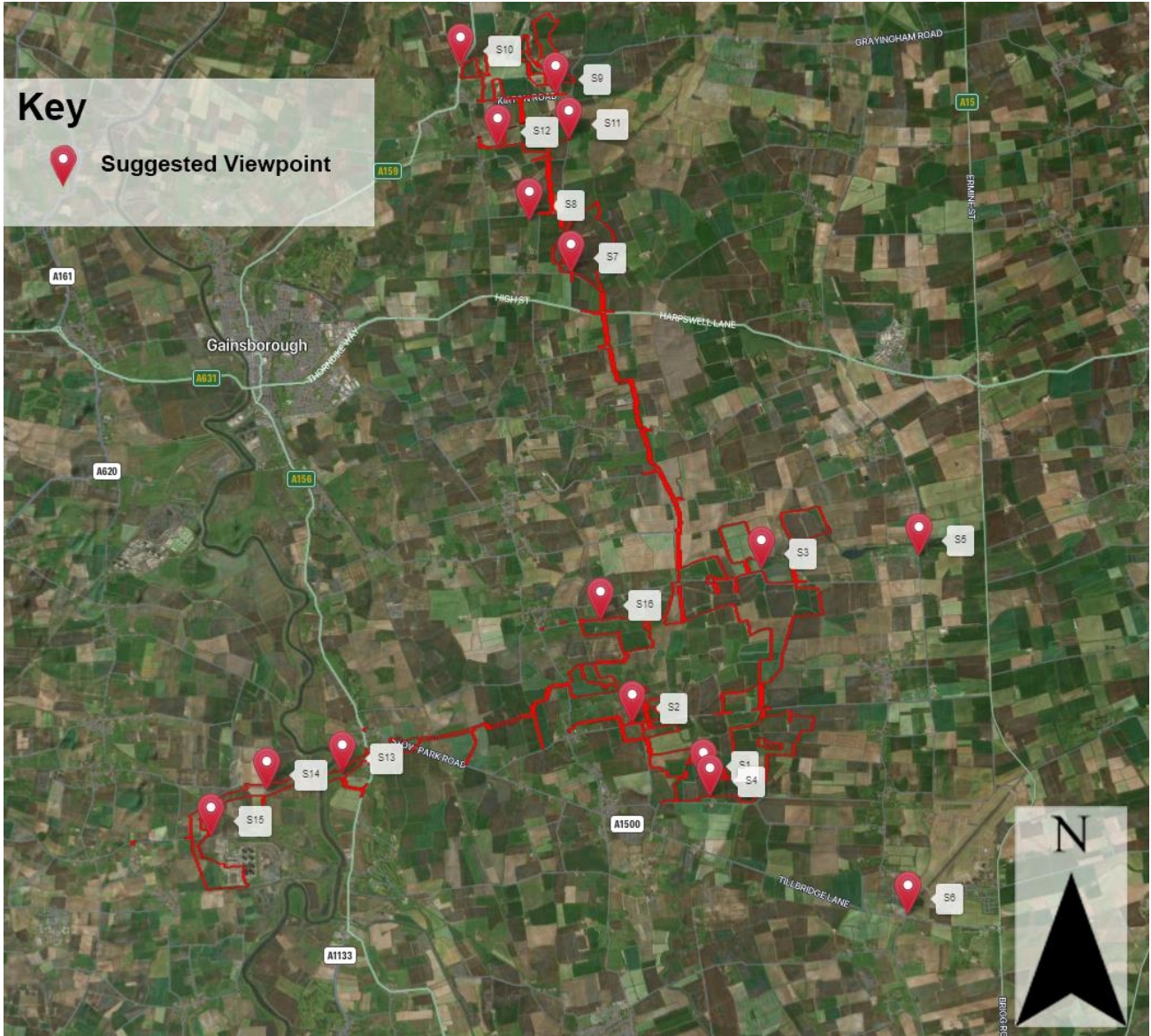
The Applicant notes the draft Examination Timetable **[PD-006]** as set out in Annex E of the ExA's Rule 6 letter dated 10 July 2023. The Applicant would like to make the following comment on the draft Examination Timetable:

The Applicant has sought to secure the Lincolnshire Showground for Item number 9 of the draft Examination Timetable **[PD-006]** (being time reserved for hearings and an Accompanied Site Inspection week commencing 4 December 2023). The Lincolnshire Showground has limited availability week commencing 4 December 2023 with only the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December being possible to reserve. The Applicant has explored other venues in close proximity to the Scheme, such as Riseholme College. Contact has been made with the College, but confirmation has been received that the venue is unavailable. It is understood that venues within Lincoln are not preferable for those wishing to take part in hearings and as such, the Applicant proposes that some hearings within week commencing 4 December be held virtually in order that the examination timetable can be adhered to, without compromising the ability of interested parties to attend the hearings

### Suggested Viewpoints for Site Inspections

The Applicant notes your request for suggested locations for site inspections to assist the ExA. The Applicant is happy to support the ExA through an accompanied site visit. Table 1 below presents a list of Viewpoints which the Applicant considers important for the ExA to visit in understanding the Scheme.

Figure 1: Map of Suggested Viewpoints as per Table 1 (below)



**Table 1: Suggested Viewpoints for the ExA.**

Viewpoint Reference	Reason for Suggestion	Issues to be Observed	Requires Access to Private Land
Suggestion 1  Easting: 491082 Northing: 381056	<p>Site visit to observe view from Cottam 1 (South), looking south towards Thorpe in the Fallows Scheduled Monument (1016978), with consideration to a former post medieval field boundary (no longer extant) as recorded on 1886 25-inch Ordnance Survey map.</p> <p>Setting issues associated with the scheduled remains of Thorpe in the Fallows shrunken medieval village are currently under discussion with Historic England. Discussions include the relationship between the no longer extant field boundary (recorded on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map) and the medieval village.</p>	Cultural Heritage	Although this is best viewed by accessing private land, which the Applicant can help facilitate, the relationship can also be seen, albeit at a distance, from a freely accessible farm track running to the north of Thorpe Lane (NGR: 491519, 381099).
Suggestion 2  Easting: 489575 Northing: 382236	<p>Site visit to observe proposed access route to Cottam 1 (West) from Ingham Road. The use of 'Green Lane' off Ingham Road was a key location-specific issue raised by the community in response to statutory consultation. The Scheme proposals were updated in response to this feedback to include an alternative proposed access for construction vehicles, with the 'Green Lane' proposed for limited operational use only.</p>	Traffic and Transport	No
Suggestion 3  Easting: 492213 Northing: 385500	<p>LCC-C-H: Cottam 1 North.</p> <p>Representative of receptors travelling between Fillingham and Willingham by Stow on the local road network. The foreground depicts typical landscape characteristics of the low lying Till Vale with Willingham Road in the immediate context of large scale and expansive agricultural fields. Although there is a limited network of hedgerows their vegetation adds layering to the landscape, along with views towards strong woodlands such Larch Plantation</p>	Landscape and Visual	No

Viewpoint Reference	Reason for Suggestion	Issues to be Observed	Requires Access to Private Land
	to the southwest. The remainder of the horizon is made up of farmsteads at Turpin Farm, Side Farm and North Farm. Significant Effects predicted from this location.		
Suggestion 4  Easting: 491225 Northing: 380731	VP06: Cottam 1 South. Representative of viewpoints experienced by residents within Thorpe le Fallows including users of Thorpe Lane and residents of Clandon House and Westop Cottages. The foreground depicts typical landscape characteristics to the setting of this settlement, mainly comprising flat agricultural fields defined by post and wire fencing in places. This location also shows how in the middle distance, the riparian vegetation bordering the River Till is just evident amongst other hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Woodlands at Thorpe Wood and Brattleby Thorns are also just visible and there are some minor vertical elements, including telegraph poles and occasional farm buildings. Significant Effects predicted from this location. As referred to in Suggestion 1, setting issues related to Thorpe in the Fallows Scheduled Monument (1016978) are currently under discussion with Historic England.	Landscape and Visual  Cultural Heritage	No
Suggestion 5  Easting: 495503 Northing: 385842	VP30: Cottam 1 North. Representative of walkers, motorists, and residents along the eastern edge of the settlement of Fillingham. This is a typical location on the Limestone Scarp to the east where there are open and expansive views across the Till Vale comprising the arable fields and the contrasting woodland blocks being a key feature of the view. In the far distance, there are also glimpses of the Trent power industry that add interest and a sense of industrial context. Although no significant adverse effects are predicted, this location is chosen to show the overriding impression of the landscape of a vast scale, with far-reaching views that are pleasant and invigorating.  <b>C6.3.13.5 ES Appendix 13.5 Heritage Statement [APP-125 to APP-128]</b> identified that the distance between the Grade II Listed Fillingham Castle Registered Park and Garden and the Scheme, as well as the layering effect of the intervening vegetation, means oblique views	Landscape and Visual  Cultural Heritage	No

Viewpoint Reference	Reason for Suggestion	Issues to be Observed	Requires Access to Private Land
	across the solar array would not be prominently visible from the Grade II Listed Fillingham Castle Registered Park and Garden		
Suggestion 6  Easting: 495419 Northing: 378363	VP01: Cottam 1 South. Representative of a dedicated location where the public can park their car and appreciate panoramic views over the Till Vale looking from the Limestone Scarp to the east. This is a typical location where there are distant views towards the west and where the horizon is made up of large skies with few vertical features other than the power industry of the River Trent Floodplain. Although no significant adverse effects are predicted, this location shows how in the far distance the flat, low-lying landscape would remain as a key feature in the context of the power industry of the River Trent floodplain and that this would not change with the introduction of the panels.	Landscape and Visual	No
Suggestion 7  Easting: 488129 Northing: 391576	VP49: Cottam 2 Site. Representative of receptors to the south of Corringham Grange Farm and the local lane network to the east of the settlement of Corringham. This typically shows the context to the setting of the settlement where the foreground is depicted by the presence of East Lane. This location shows how visibility extends across the (low-cut) hedgerows towards a wider agricultural landscape. The residential properties at Corringham Grange Farm and The Cottage are also key features of the view and which curtail visibility out towards the mid and long-distance landscape. Significant Effects predicted from this location.	Landscape and Visual	No
Suggestion 8  Easting: 487229 Northing: 392659	VP53: Cottam 2 Site. Representative of receptors between the settlements of Aisby and Corringham on the local footpath network. This typically shows the wider context of the landscape to the northwest of Cottam 2 where the view depicts an almost flat landform that is large scale, open and exposed. This location shows that although there is a limited hedgerow network, due to the distance and intervening topography and vegetation cover, there are no views of the Cottam 1, Cottam 2 and 3a & 3b Sites in-combination. Although this viewpoint was scoped out of the	Landscape and Visual	No

Viewpoint Reference	Reason for Suggestion	Issues to be Observed	Requires Access to Private Land
	assessment and there are no significant effects predicted, this location is helpful to show the open landscape and distant views towards the Limestone Scarp in the east.		
Suggestion 9  Easting: 487737 Northing: 395275	VP60: Cottam 3a Site. Representative of receptors to the east of the settlement of Blyton, using the local road network. This typically shows how the former airfield character has an overriding influence. The foreground is also depicted by Kirton Road and the entrance to the Blyton Park Racing Centre (BPRC) where there are grass verges to each side of the highway with (low-cut) hedgerows and extended visibility across the agricultural landscape and the former airfield site. There are vertical elements in the view, including telegraph poles, railway infrastructure and the infrastructure associated with BPRC. Significant adverse effects are predicted from this location.	Landscape and Visual	No
Suggestion 10  Easting: 485745 Northing: 395842	VP63: Cottam 3a Site. Representative of receptors at the northern edge of the settlement of Blyton, using the strategic and local road network. This typically shows how the built settlement of Blyton is a feature of the view, along with Laughton Woods AGLV which provides the wooded context. The foreground is depicted by the junction of Blyton Road and Laughton Road (A159) and by the wide grass verges and strong hedgerows that are a feature in this location. Significant Effects predicted.	Landscape and Visual	No
Suggestion 11  Easting: 488035 Northing: 394353	VP58: Cottam 3b Site. Representative of receptors to the east of the settlement of Pilham using the local lane and PRoW network. This is typical of the character of the landscape to the east of Pilham at the junction of public footpath (Pilh/20/1) with Bonsdale Lane within a large flat, arable landscape. The middle and distant view yields extended visibility with Laughton Wood framing the horizon. The remainder of the horizon is framed with farm buildings, hedgerows, shelterbelts and tree cover are also key features. Significant Effects predicted at this location.	Landscape and Visual	No



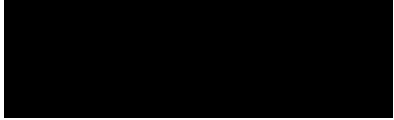
Viewpoint Reference	Reason for Suggestion	Issues to be Observed	Requires Access to Private Land
Suggestion 12  Easting: 486552 Northing: 394160	VP56: Cottam 3b Site. Representative of receptors to the north-east of the settlement of Pilham, using the PRoW network and residents at Home Farm and Glebe Farm. This location shows how there are tall hedgerows and some mature trees to each side of the PRoW giving limited visibility out towards the wider agricultural landscape and how this feature contributes to the setting of the settlement. Significant Effects predicted at this location.	Landscape and Visual	No
Suggestion 13  Parking - Easting: 483480 Northing: 381316  Viewpoint - Easting: 483543 Northing: 381070	Site visit to observe the setting of the Shared Cable Route Corridor with the River Trent and an aspect of Work Package 9B, being "works to facilitate permanent access to Work Nos. 1 – 7 and 10 – 11.	Construction Phase Works	No
Suggestion 14  Easting: 481970 Northing: 380715	Site visit to observe the setting of the Shared Cable Route Corridor and an aspect of Work Package 6B (v), being "temporary construction laydown areas".	Construction Phase Works	No
Suggestion 15  Easting: 480815 Northing: 379734	Site visit to observe the setting of the Shared Cable Route Corridor	Construction Phase Works	No
Suggestion 16  Set down - Easting: 488411	Site visit to observe the location of the energy storage facility, water storage facility for the purposes of firefighting, substation and fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure.	Battery Storage Energy System	Yes.  The Applicant will seek to facilitate

Viewpoint Reference	Reason for Suggestion	Issues to be Observed	Requires Access to Private Land
Northing: 384356  Viewpoint - Easting: 488868 Northing: 384356			access at the Inspectorate's request.



Yours sincerely,

The Applicant's Response to Procedural Deadline A  
August 2023



Eve Browning

Cottam Solar Project Ltd.



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