



# The Planning Inspectorate

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To: All Interested Parties

Our Ref: EN010133

Date: Tuesday 31 October 2023

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

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

#### Notification of Hearings

The Examination Timetable at [Annex A](#) of the Examining Authority's (ExA) [Rule 8 letter](#), dated 19 September 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 Hearings will be Blended Events, with participants attending either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 2 – Environmental Matters	Tuesday 5 December 2023	Registration and seating available from: 09:30  Virtual Registration Process from: 09:30  Event start: 10.00am	All hearings will be blended events at:  West Lindsey District Council Offices, Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA  and  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams  Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
			to those who have pre-registered
Issue Specific Hearing 3 – Environmental Matters	Tuesday 5 December 2023	Registration and seating available from: 1.30pm  Virtual Registration Process from: 1.30pm  Event Start 2.00pm	All hearings will be blended events at:  West Lindsey District Council Offices, Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA  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 4 – Environmental Matters	Wednesday 6 December 2023	Registration and seating available from: 9.30am  Virtual Registration Process from: 9.30am  Event Start 10.00 am	All hearings will be blended events at:  West Lindsey District Council Offices, Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA  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 1	Thursday 7 December 2023	Registration and seating available from: 12.30pm	All hearings will be blended events at:

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
		<p>Virtual Registration Process from: 12.30pm</p> <p>Event Start 1.00pm</p>	<p>West Hall, Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln, LN2 2NA</p> <p>and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered</p>
Open Floor Hearing 2	Thursday 7 December 2023	<p>Registration and seating available from: 5.00pm</p> <p>Virtual Registration Process from: 5.00pm</p> <p>Event Start 5.30pm</p>	<p>All hearings will be blended events at:</p> <p>West Hall, Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln, LN2 2NA and</p> <p>and</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered</p>
ISH5 – Draft Development Consent Order	Friday 8 December 2023	<p>Registration and seating available from: 9.30am</p> <p>Virtual Registration Process from: 9.30am</p> <p>Event Start 10.00am</p>	<p>All hearings will be blended events at:</p> <p>West Hall, Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln, LN2 2NA</p> <p>and</p>

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
			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
<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 Tuesday 21 November 2023 if you intend to participate in the Hearings and provide all the information requested.

Please register using the [Event Participation Form](#). If you have any difficulty completing the form please contact the Case Team.

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

If you 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.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to observe only by **Tuesday 21 November 2023** using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Tuesday 21 November 2023**.

## Hearing Agendas

The Agendas and any detailed arrangements for the Hearings will be published on the [project webpage](#) at least 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 [cottamsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:cottamsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

*Rory Cridland*

**Rory Cridland**  
**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.