

Cottam Solar Project

Application for a Development Consent Order for the proposed Cottam Solar Project.

Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN010133

Rule 13(6) Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Notification of hearings under sections 91, 92 and 93 of the Planning Act 2008.

1. Notice is hereby given that, at the dates, times and locations set out below, the following Hearings will be held by the Examining Authority (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, (the "Secretary of State")) for the examination of the application made by Cottam Solar Project Limited (Company No. 12711231) of Unit 25.7 Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London, England, SW6 6AW (the "Applicant") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") under Sections 14, 15 and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Application").

2. The Application was submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 12 January 2023, and accepted for examination on 09 February 2023. The reference number applied to the Application by the Planning Inspectorate is EN010133. The Examining Authority was appointed on 03 March 2023 to examine the Application. A replacement of the Lead Member of the Panel was confirmed on 17 May 2023.

3. The Open Floor Hearing, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing and Issue Specific Hearing will be held at the dates, times and location set out in the table below.

Hearing	Date	Time	Venue and Joining Details
Issue Specific Hearing 2 – Environmental Matters	Tuesday 5 December 2023	Registration and seating available at the venue from: 9:30am Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:30am Hearing starts: 10:00am	Blended event at: West Lindsey District Council Offices, Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA and
Issue Specific Hearing 3 – Environmental Matters	Tuesday 5 December 2023	Registration and seating available at the venue from: 1:30pm Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 1:30pm Hearing starts: 2:00pm	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 at the venue from: 9:30am Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:30am Hearing starts: 10:00am	
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1	Thursday 7 December 2023	Registration and seating available at the venue from: 12:30pm Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 12:30pm Hearing starts: 1:00pm	Blended event at: West Hall, Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln, LN2 2NA and
Open Floor Hearing 2	Thursday 7 December 2023	Registration and seating available at the venue from: 5:00pm Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 5:00pm Hearing starts: 5:30pm	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 5 – Draft Development Consent Order	Friday 8 December 2023	Registration and seating available at the venue from: 9:30am Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 9:30am Hearing starts: 10:00am	

4. Interested Parties and Affected Persons wishing to speak at any of the Hearings listed above should notify the Planning Inspectorate in writing by Procedural Deadline 2 (21 November 2023) via the Cottam Solar Project page on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/cottam-solar-project>

5. If you require assistance with registering your attendance, please contact the Case Team at CottamSolarProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or by calling 0303 444 5000. The Planning Inspectorate reference for the Application (EN010133) should be quoted in any correspondence.

6. The Hearings will also be held as virtual events, and it will be possible to join them via any standard internet browser or alternatively by telephone dial-in. Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.

7. Further information regarding the Hearings, the examination of the Application, the full timetable (and amendments), how and when to register to speak at the Hearings, and how and when to make written submissions will also be available on the Cottam Solar Project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website (link above), or by contacting the Planning Inspectorate (details above).

8. A link to the livestream for each hearing will be made available on the Cottam Solar Project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website (link above) shortly before the hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe the hearing in real time. Please note that Hearings will be recorded, and the recordings will be published on the Cottam Solar Project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website as soon as practicable after each Hearing has taken place.

9. Any further Hearings will be publicised as required by the Planning Inspectorate and by the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, as amended (the "2010 Rules"). In accordance with Rule 13(3) of the 2010 Rules, the Planning Inspectorate will also notify Interested Parties (and where relevant, Affected Persons) of the date, time and place fixed for each hearing.

Summary of Proposed Development:

10. The Application is for development consent to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) and export connection to the National Grid.

11. Cottam Solar Project (the "Proposed Development") will be partly situated in the administrative boundary of West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council and the administrative boundary of Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The Proposed Development comprises a number of land parcels described as Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b which accommodate ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) generating stations (incorporating the solar arrays); grid connection infrastructure and energy storage; cable route corridors; accesses and environmental mitigation and enhancement measures. Cottam 1 is centred on the village of Coates. Cottam 2 sits to the north of Cottam 1 and is located to the east of the village of Corringham. Cottam 3 is located to the north of Cottam 2 and is further divided into Cottam 3a and 3b. Cottam 3a is located to the east of the village of Blyton. Cottam 3b is located to the east of Pilham. Electricity cables will run between each of these sites and then to a grid connection at a substation at Cottam Power Station. A map showing the location of the Proposed Development can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010133/EN010133-000115-C2.1%20Location%20Plan.pdf>

12. Development consent is required to the extent that development is or forms part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") pursuant to sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008, as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity greater than 50 MW. It is for this reason that the Proposed Development falls within the remit of the Secretary of State's decision-making powers.

13. The DCO, if granted, would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily. The DCO would also authorise alterations to the layout of streets, the construction of accesses to the Proposed Development, the temporary stopping up or management of the public rights of way, street works, removal of hedgerows and the application and disapplication of legislation.

Application form and accompanying documents

14. The application form and its accompanying documents (including maps and plans, the Environmental Statement, Non-Technical Summary and the draft Order (the "Application Documents")), can be viewed and downloaded free of charge on the Cottam Solar Project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/cottam-solar-project>

15. An electronic copy of the Application Documents can be supplied free of charge on a USB memory stick. To request a USB, please email info@cottamsolar.co.uk, write to FREEPOST CAWB SOLAR PROJECTS (free of charge; no need for a stamp) or telephone 0808 169 1848 (free of charge).

16. The full suite of Application Documents can be made available in hard copy format on request at a cost of £5,000 per copy. For any bespoke document requests, please contact the Applicant using the contact details at the bottom of the notice, and the cost will be provided. Copies of individual documents are also available on request and a reasonable copying charge may apply.

17. If you require alternative methods for inspection of the Application Documents (for example in large print, audio or braille formats), contact the Applicant by telephone 0808 169 1848 or email info@cottamsolar.co.uk.

18. Documents can also be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in Annex C of the Rule 8 Letter on the Cottam Solar Project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website (link above).

Contact us

19. Further information about the Application may be obtained from the Applicant, through the contact details provided below.