



# The Planning Inspectorate

Planning Act 2008 – Section 93

EN010133

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

## Agenda for Open Floor Hearing (OFH)

We notified Interested Parties (IPs) on Tuesday 31 October 2023 of the decision to hold a second OFH, the details of which are set out below:

Hearing	Date	Start Time	Location
OFH 2	Thursday 7 December 2023	Registration and seating available at venue from: 5.00pm  Virtual registration process from 5.00pm  <b>Hearing Starts at 5.30pm</b>	Blended event at: West Hall, EPIC Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln LN2 2NA

## Purpose of the Hearings

The main purpose of the Open Floor Hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to make oral representations about the application and to seek to discharge the ExA's duty under Section 93(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

## Agendas

In order to ensure that those attending the hearings can make the best use of the time, we have prepared the agendas below. Please note that these are indicative and are subject to change. We may wish to raise other matters arising from submissions and pursue lines of enquiry during the discussion which are not on the agenda.

## Invited Participants

The Applicant, all IPs, Statutory Parties and Affected Persons are invited to attend. However, as the event is being held as a blended event it would assist with the running of the hearing if you could let the Inspectorate's Case Team who can be contacted at [cottamsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:cottamsolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) know by **Monday 4 December 2023** which of the hearings you wish to attend so that the relevant instructions can be sent for you to join the event.

Please note that the hearing will also be livestreamed for those who may wish to view but not participate directly. Details of how to access the livestream will be made available on the [project page](#) or you may follow this [link to the livestream](#).

### **Participation, conduct and management of hearing**

Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the hearings will be conducted to ensure that legal representation is not required.

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that it is the Examining Authority that will probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations at hearings. As such, questioning at the hearing will be led by us.

Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including further written questions.

The virtual element of the event will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. The hearing will finish as soon as we deem that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day. Alternatively, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to further written questions.

*Rory Cridland*

**Lead Member of the Examining Authority**

## AGENDA

### OPEN FLOOR HEARING 2

<b>Item</b>	<b>Matters</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>  The Examining Authority (ExA) will welcome participants and lead introductions. The public livestream and recording will start.
<b>2.</b>	<b>THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARING AND HOW IT WILL BE CONDUCTED</b>  The ExA will introduce the hearing, noting that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the purpose of the hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to make oral representations about the application and to seek to discharge the ExA's duty under Section 93(2) of the Planning Act 2008;</li><li>- the hearing is subject to the powers of control of the ExA, as set out in the Planning Act 2008 and supporting legislation;</li><li>- the ExA will invite parties to speak and will ask questions at relevant points on the agenda and when it otherwise considers necessary; and</li><li>- all comments, questions and answers are to be directed to the ExA and not directly to any other party.</li></ul>
<b>3.</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF THOSE WHO NOTIFIED THE EXA OF A WISH TO BE HEARD AT THE OFH</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>ORAL SUBMISSIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Each Interested Party who has indicated a wish to speak will be invited forward in turn. Depending on the number of requests, each party may be given a limited amount of time (10 minutes).</li></ul>
<b>5.</b>	<b>RESPONSES BY THE APPLICANT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Applicant will be invited to respond to matters raised and to questions arising from the ExA either orally after all IPs and Non-IPs have spoken, or in writing by <b>Deadline 3 on Tuesday 19 December 2023</b>.</li></ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>CLOSE OF HEARING</b>