



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application:	Stonestreet Green Solar
Reference:	EN010135
Time and date:	10:00 Tuesday 19 November 2024
Venue:	Ashford International Hotel

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Graham Sword welcomed those present and introduced himself as the single Examining Authority, to examine the Project name application.

GS explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Energy on 10 July 2024.

GS explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by EPL 001 Limited ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

GS explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Audio recording

The video recording of this Preliminary Meeting is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#)

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Note](#).

4. Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further info can be found:

[Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-what-to-expect-at-a-nationally-significant-infrastructure-project-event)

[Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-registering-to-speak-at-or-attend-a-nationally-significant-infrastructure-project-event)

Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council had queried whether there was the possibility of the hearings being moved to the Town Village Hall, with the belief it would be more accessible and accommodating for the public. The ExA advised that this was not a possibility, however the venue would be considered for any possible future hearings.

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in Annex B of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 22 October 2024 and asked for any observations on them.

The topic of Heritage was raised at the PM

The Aldington and Mersham Support Group noted that they have submitted suggestions and hope that these are considered by the ExA.

Linda Harman (Ward Member for Saxon Shore Ward) raised the issue of the impact on rural character and would like this topic considered.

The ExA responded to advise that it could be included within the assessment of Landscape and Visual Impact.

6. Examination Timetable

The ExA welcomed suggestions from the parties in to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in Annex C of Rule 6 letter and also welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the Rule 8 Letter.

The Examination Timetable will follow in the Rule 8 Letter.

7. Hearings and Site Inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue Specific Hearings
- Compulsory Acquisition Hearings
- Open Floor Hearings
- Accompanied Site Inspections
- Unaccompanied Site Inspections

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. These were duly noted and considered by the ExA.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found:

[Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-what-to-expect-at-a-nationally-significant-infrastructure-project-event)

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8. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations.

Procedural decisions can be found in Annex G of the Rule 6 Letter.

9. Any Other Matters

The ExA welcomed any other matters that any parties may wish to raise. There were no comments on this matter.