

OTHER



**NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY MEETING, ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARINGS AND OPEN-FLOOR HEARINGS – SECTIONS 91, 93 and 94 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 AND RULE 13(6) INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010**

**Byers Gill Solar Development Consent Order - Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN010139**

*This notice supersedes the notice published on 26 June 2024 in relation to Byers Gill Solar which was printed in an earlier draft format in error.*

**1 NOTICE OF HEARINGS**

- 1.1 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 RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited (registered company number: 14539260) of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, England, SN5 6PB (the "Applicant") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Application").
- 1.2 The Application is for development consent for the proposed Byers Gill Solar (the "Proposed Development") which is a renewable energy scheme situated within the administrative areas of Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council.
- 1.3 The Application (Reference No. EN010139) was submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 9 February 2024 and was accepted on 8 March 2024. The Examining Authority was appointed on 9 April 2024 to examine the Application and the Examination will begin at the Preliminary Meeting on Tuesday 23 July 2024.

Hearing	Date	Time	Venue
Preliminary Meeting	Tuesday 23 July 2024	<b>Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:00</b> <b>Virtual Registration Process from: 9:30</b> <b>Meeting starts: 10:00</b>	Mercurie Darlington Kings Hotel, 9 - 12 Priestgate, Darlington DL1 1NW  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams.
Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)	Tuesday 23 July 2024	<b>Registration and seating available at venue from: 13:00</b> <b>Virtual Registration Process from: 13:30</b> <b>Hearing starts: 14:00</b>	
Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	Wednesday 24 July 2024	<b>Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:00</b> <b>Virtual Registration Process from: 9:30</b> <b>Hearing starts: 10:00</b>	
Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)	Wednesday 24 July 2024	<b>Registration and seating available at venue from: 17:00</b> <b>Virtual Registration Process from: 17:30</b> <b>Hearing starts: 18:00</b>	

- 1.4 Details regarding attending and speaking at the hearings are set out in the Examining Authority's Rule 13(3) notification available via the Byers Gill Solar page of the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139>
- 1.5 Interested Parties wishing to speak at the Hearings listed above should notify the Planning Inspectorate in writing via the website link above.
- 1.6 If you require assistance to register your attendance, please contact the Planning Inspectorate by calling 0303 444 5000 or by email [byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) and quote the Application's reference number: EN010139.
- 1.7 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. Live streams will also be provided for each Hearing and the link for this will be available on the day at: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139>
- 1.8 Please note that Hearings will be recorded, and the recordings will be published on the Byers Gill Solar page of the Planning Inspectorate's website as soon as practicable after each Hearing has taken place.
- 1.9 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 project page of the Planning Inspectorate's website (link above), or by contacting the Planning Inspectorate (details above).

**2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

- 2.1 The Proposed Development is a renewable energy scheme comprising of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, on-site Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), associated infrastructure as well as underground cable connections between panel areas and to connect to the existing National Grid Substation at Norton. The Proposed Development will have the capacity to generate over 50 Megawatts (MW) of electricity and would provide new energy infrastructure, in line with national policy targets for decarbonisation.
- 2.2 A range of supporting infrastructure is required for the Proposed Development, including transformers and inverters; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measures such as fencing, CCTV and lighting.
- 2.3 The Proposed Development is situated between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in North East England and falls within the administrative areas of Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council. The Proposed Development would cover an area of approximately 490 hectares. To view a plan showing the location and route of the Proposed Development as submitted in the Application, please refer to the Location Plan: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010139/EN010139-000183-2.1%20Location%20Plan.pdf>
- 2.4 The Proposed Development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to sub-sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Planning Act 2008 as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). As an NSIP, the Proposed Development requires consent through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process.
- 2.5 The DCO, if granted, would enable the acquisition new rights over land and contain powers for the possession and use of land on a temporary basis (to facilitate the construction of the Proposed Development). The DCO would also authorise the construction of temporary and permanent accesses to the Proposed Development, the temporary stopping up or diversion of public rights of way, street works and highway works, and the application and disapplication of certain legislation.

**3 APPLICATION FORM AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS**

- 3.1 The Application form and its accompanying documents (including accompanying plans, maps, the Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary, and the draft Order) (together, the "Application Documents") can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on the Byers Gill Solar page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website under the Documents tab: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139/documents>
- 3.2 The Application Documents can also be viewed and downloaded free of charge on the Applicant's project website: <https://byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/documents/>
- 3.3 All documents can also be inspected electronically free of charge at Norton Library, 87 High St, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees TS20 1AE. The opening times are 9:30am to 5pm (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday), 9:30am to 7pm (Wednesday and Friday) and 9:30am to 1pm (Saturday). We recommend checking with the venue for their latest opening times before visiting. To note, you will require a full library membership (free of charge) to use The Computer Suite at Norton Library.
- 3.4 An electronic copy of the Application Documents can also be provided free of charge on a USB memory stick, upon request. To request a USB, please contact the Applicant using the contact details provided below.
- 3.5 The full suite of Application Documents can be made available in hard copy format on request to the Applicant at a cost of £2,194.00 per copy. Copies of individual documents are also available on request and a reasonable copying charge may apply
- 3.6 If you require alternative methods for inspection of the Application Documents (for example in large print, audio, or braille formats), contact the Applicant using the details below.

**4 APPLICANT CONTACT DETAILS**

- 4.1 If you have any questions about the Application Documents you can email [enquiries@byersgillsolar.com](mailto:enquiries@byersgillsolar.com), write to FREEPOST Byers Gill Solar, or contact the Applicant by telephone on 0800 197 0118.
- 4.2 The Planning Inspectorate can also be contacted by telephone on 0303 444 5000 or email [byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk). Latest details can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website.

**TRAFFIC & Roads**

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**The County Council of Durham  
Public Rights of Way Footpath Number 75,  
Ladley Wood Footbridge, Wolsingham  
(Temporary Public Footpath &  
Footbridge Closure)  
Order 2024**

The Council on 8/3/24 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, Section 14(1) to prohibit all pedestrian traffic from proceeding on a 780-metre length of Footpath Number 75 that crosses Ladley Bridge between its junctions with Footpath Numbers 77 & 78 and Footpath Number 73, northwest of Wolsingham to enable footbridge repair works to be undertaken. The alternative route is available to pedestrian traffic from the southwestern side of the closure from Footpath Number 77 southwards, easterly at Newlands Hall on Footpath Number 90, and south on Footpath Number 91 and 99 to A689; and from the northeastern side of the closure easterly on Footpath Number 75, south easterly on Footpath Number 79 & 83 to the Unclassified Road 24.5 Leazes Lane. The order came into force on 18 March 2024, and maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence on 1/7/2024 and are anticipated to be completed in 5 days. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

Dated: 28/6/2024



**Helen Bradley  
Director of Legal &  
Democratic Services  
County Hall, Durham**

**The County Council of Durham  
(Footpath Number 198 Witton le Wear Parish)  
(Temporary Footpath Closure)  
Order 2024**

The Council on 21/6/2024 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all pedestrian traffic from proceeding on a 2.09 km length of Footpath Number 198 Witton le Wear Parish that extends westerly and northerly from Footpath Number 133 near Witton Bridge, Witton le Wear. The closure is necessary to safeguard the public following riverbank erosion. There is no alternative route available to pedestrian traffic. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The closure order will be valid from 2/7/2024 for a period of 6 months or until the path is safe to reopen, whichever is the sooner. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 28/6/2024



**Helen Bradley  
Director of Legal &  
Democratic Services  
County Hall, Durham**

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**Notice Definitions: Planning**

Notices that announce the intent to build or modify a building or land, or to change its use or function. These notices are obliged by law and can be placed by Local Authorities, businesses or private individuals. The purpose of the notices is to alert the public to an intended change and to allow them the opportunity to enquire or object.

There are a significant number of Planning Acts that fit within this Notice Type. Some of the more common acts are, Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Planning (listed Buildings and Conservation Act 1990, Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, Housing and Planning Act 2016 and Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

You can see a full list of Planning legislation at [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk)

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