



The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure Planning
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To: All Interested Parties, the Applicant,
Affected Persons and Category 3
Persons

Our Ref: EN010139

Date: 17 September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13 and 16

Application by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Byers Gill Solar project.

Notification of Hearings and Notification of Accompanied Site Inspection

We write to advise you that the following hearings and an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) will be held under Rule 13 and 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. These will be held from **15 October to 17 October 2024**. Important details are set out at Annex A (hearings) and Annex B (ASI) to this letter.

Accompanied Site Inspection

The ExA gives notice of an ASI on the following date:

Event	Date	Time	Meeting Place
Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)	17 October 2024	Meeting time for introduction from the ExA and safety briefing from the Applicant: 09:00 Departure time: 09:15	Bishopton Village Hall, Church View, Bishopton, Durham TS21 1HB

Please note that the Examining Authority's (ExA) inspection of sites is **not** an opportunity to provide any oral representations on the project or discuss evidence. It is an opportunity for the ExA to look at the physical features that can be seen on, or from, the sites. Participants may be invited by the ExA to point out specific features or sites of interest.

The final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the **19 September 2024** and is accessible via the [project webpage](#). This itinerary will be drafted taking into account suggested locations submitted by Interested Parties by Procedural Deadline A, the Applicant's draft itinerary submitted at Deadline 1 [REP1-003], and any further comments or relevant submissions received at Deadline 1 and Deadline 2 in relation to site inspections. It will also take into account the Unaccompanied Site Inspection [EV-001] carried out on 4 and 5 June 2024.

For further information on the ASI and how to attend, **please see Annex A of this letter**.

Notification of Hearings

On the 30 July 2024, the Examining Authority's (ExA) published the [Rule 8 letter](#) which included reserved dates for Hearings, in Annex A.

The ExA gives notice of the following hearings:

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on Environmental Matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle of the Proposed Development Historic Environment 	Tuesday, 15 October 2024	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:00 Virtual Registration Process from: 09:30 Event starts: 10.00	Dolphin Centre Horse Market Darlington DL1 5RP 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 3 (ISH3) on Environmental Matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic and Transport Water Environment and Flood Risk 	Tuesday, 15 October 2024	Registration and seating available at venue from: 13:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 13:30 Event starts: 14:00	Dolphin Centre Horse Market Darlington DL1 5RP 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 (ISH4) on Environmental Matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape and Visual • Development Consent Order (DCO) 	Wednesday, 16 October 2024	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:00 Virtual Registration Process from: 09:30 Event starts: 10.00	Dolphin Centre Horse Market Darlington DL1 5RP 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 (CAH1)	Wednesday, 16 October 2024	Registration and seating available at venue from: 15:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 15:30 Event starts: 16:00	Dolphin Centre Horse Market Darlington DL1 5RP 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
<p>NOTE: If any of the above Hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website, providing reasonable notice to Interested Parties of the decision to cancel.</p>			

Issue Specific Hearings 2, 3 and 4 and Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 will be held as blended events. This means that they will take place **at the Dolphin Centre, Darlington, and also virtually using Microsoft Teams**. Please inform us if you plan to attend these hearings either virtually or in person (even if you do not wish to speak), by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) or emailing the Case Team at byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 09 October 2024.

An agenda for the hearings will be published on our website at least five working days before the events. A list of invitees will be included in the hearing agendas. Meanwhile, if you are unsure as to whether you or the organisation you represent should attend a hearing, please contact the Case Team.

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.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Team

byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Section

Yours faithfully

Andre Pinto

Andre Pinto
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.

Annex A

Attending the ASI

The final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the [project webpage](#) approximately one week in advance.

If you wish to attend the ASI please let the Case Team know by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) or emailing byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by **9 October 2024**, providing telephone contact details (preferably mobile telephone) so that we can contact you should the ASI run late or need to be cancelled with minimal notice.

Please also let us know of any mobility needs that may affect transportation.

Participants are asked to assemble promptly as the ExA will not wait for parties who are not present at the start time.

For logistical and safety reasons, capacity on the transport that will be used for the ASI may be limited. Priority will be afforded to the Planning Inspectorate staff, the Applicant, Local Authorities and relevant Statutory Parties. In the case of a large number of attendees, any Interested Parties who express a wish to attend the ASI for its duration may be contacted by the Case Team to discuss the option of meeting the ExA at relevant locations in the itinerary instead.

Clothing

The inspection is likely to include some walking on uneven or wet ground. The Planning Inspectorate therefore advises attendees to wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather and sturdy footwear. At times during the ASI it will be necessary to wear a high visibility vest or coat. Attendees who have their own high visibility vest or jacket should bring it with them. For anyone who does not have either a high visibility vest or coat, the Applicant will provide a vest for use during the course of the ASI.

Sites on private land

Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it; householders, occupiers and landowners may refuse to allow some persons accompanying the ExA onto their land. Under those circumstances, the ExA will decide whether or not to proceed with that part of the inspection and may ask those refused access to wait outside.

Refreshments and transport

A minibus will provide transport. Please let us know of any mobility needs that may affect transportation. Please note refreshments will not be provided.

Cancellations

Please note that in the unlikely event that the ASI is cancelled we shall endeavour to contact attendees beforehand, but we ask that you regularly check the [project webpage](#).

The Case Team can be contacted on the day of the ASI on **07502574504**.

Further information about Site Inspections can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#).

Annex B

Registration and requests to participate in Hearings

Please register using the [Event Participation Form](#) by 9 October 2024 if you intend to participate in the Hearings and provide all the information requested. If you have any difficulty completing the form please contact the Case Team.

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online live stream of the event and the recording of the event which will get published on the [project webpage](#). A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the event. Please contact the case team to notify them if you prefer not to be filmed at the event. A transcript of the event will also be published on the [project webpage](#) after the event.

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 **9 October 2024** 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 **9 October 2024**.

Annex B

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.

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 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](#).

Purpose of Hearings

Please refer to the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for information about the purpose of Open Floor, Issue Specific and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings.