



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application:	Tillbridge Solar Project
Reference:	EN010142
Time and date:	10.00am 15 October 2024
Venue:	Thonock Park, The Belt Road, Lincolnshire & Microsoft Teams

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

Nicholas Ely and Luke Simpson welcomed those present and introduced themselves as the Examining Authority (ExA) to examine the Tillbridge Solar Project application.

The ExA explained that they would be examining the application made by Tillbridge Solar 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.

The ExA 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 that the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Notice](#) establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in data protection laws.

4. Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further info can be found in the [Advice Note 8.4](#).

The ExA invited submissions about the way in which they proposed to examine the application.

The ExA reminded Fillingham Parish Meeting that the National Policy Statement (NPS) is the responsibility of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and that any queries or concerns related to policy should be addressed directly with DESNZ as it is not within the scope of the Examination.

7000 Acres and some Interested Parties (IPs) raised concerns around the clarity and transparency of the registration process for attending hearings and difficulties filling out the Event Participation Form. The ExA explained that the [Rule 6 letter](#) encourages any participants who require assistance registering to contact the Case Team, using the contact details provided on the letter. While use of the Event Participation Form is integral to the ability of the Planning Inspectorate to organise events throughout the Examination, requests can also be made to attend in writing to the Case Team project mailbox.

5. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA reviewed Annex C of the [Rule 6 letter](#) and discussed the principal issues that have been identified and may be covered in future Issue Specific Hearings (ISH).

The ExA acknowledged all written representations received at this stage and advised that they have taken these into account to when compiling a list of the principle issues to examine.

7000 Acres asked that principle issues are examined cumulatively and also requested that Climate Change and Human Health in particular are thoroughly examined.

Lincolnshire County Council also highlighted the complexity of cumulative effects due to the number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) either ongoing or planned in the area.

The ExA acknowledged these comments.

6. Examination Timetable

The ExA welcomed suggestions from the parties in attendance to amend the draft Examination contained in Annex D of [Rule 6 letter](#).

Local Authorities raised concerns about being able to submit their Local Impact Reports (LIR) in time for Deadline 1. The ExA agreed to implement Deadline 1A (6 November 2024) to provide a one-week extension for the receipt of LIRs.

General concerns were raised regarding the timing and scheduling of the Open Floor Hearing (OFH). It was suggested by 7000 Acres and other IPs that a future OFH held in the evening may be beneficial to attendance. The ExA confirmed that a future date (W/C 13 January 2025) has been reserved for another OFH and that comments surrounding a suitable day and timing will be considered.

The ExA confirmed that they would be undertaking various site visits and that if written representations suggest a location it would be considered.

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

7. Notification of Initial Hearings

The ExA notified of the Issue Specific Hearing and Open Floor Hearing as set out at Annex E of the [Rule 6 letter](#), which took place on 15 October 2024 and 16 October 2024 respectively.

8. Procedural Decisions

The ExA discussed the Procedural Decisions included at Annex F of the [Rule 6 letter](#).

The Applicant stated that there was no need for a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with National Gas due to there being no apparatus impacted. However, a SoCG will be required with Cadent Gas.

The ExA suggested that it would be beneficial for the Applicant to enter into a SoCG with 7000 Acres. The Applicant agreed to form a SoCG with 7000 Acres.

The ExA confirmed that no specific locations have been identified as requiring access over private land for site inspections to date.

9. Any Other Matters

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