Planning Inspectorate

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email: <u>BotleyWestSolar</u>

@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and any Other Person invited to the Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010147

Date: 20 May 2025

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 and 9

Application by Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP) on behalf of SolarFive Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Botley West Solar Farm

Examination Timetable and Procedure

This letter (the Rule 8 letter) provides important information about the examination of this application. The letter includes:

- The Examination Timetable
- An invitation to submit Written Representations
- Details of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) first written questions
- A request for Local Impact Reports from Local Authorities
- Other Procedural Decisions made by the ExA
- Information about Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections
- Information about the availability of Examination Documents
- Guidance on the use of the 'Make a submission' tab on the project webpage

All documentation associated with this Examination, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the recording of that meeting, can be viewed under the <u>Documents tab</u> on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website (<u>project webpage</u>).

The Examination Timetable

We have made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A** to this letter.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our Rule 6 letter of 25 March 2025 [PD-006]. In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have taken



on board all of the oral and written submissions presented to/ at the Preliminary Meeting. There are no substantive changes to the Examination Timetable.

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of Deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All Deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the Deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, we may disregard them.

We request that all Interested Parties make their submissions using the <u>'Have your say'</u> page on the project webpage on or before the applicable Deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the <u>'Have your say' page</u>.

If we consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will be sent to Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and Other Persons invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the <u>project webpage</u>.

Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **Deadline 1 (4 June 2025)** in the Examination Timetable.

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues or to the content of our written questions (see next heading below).

Any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a Written Representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the Examination (see paragraph 009 of the government's guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects for further information about Written Representations).

We have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the Examination (see **Annex A**).

Any Written Representations and any further written submissions requested during the Examination, that exceed 1500 words, should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: <u>Advice for submitting representations or comments</u> for important information about making written submissions.



Examining Authority's First Written Questions

We are preparing written questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. The ExQ1 will be further informed by your written representations and the local authorities Local Impact Reports, to be submitted at **Deadline 1**. Shortly after **Deadline 1**, these questions will be published on the project webpage.

Responses to ExQ1 must be provided by **Deadline 2 (1 July 2025)** in the Examination Timetable.

If you require an editable Microsoft Word version of ExQ1, please <u>contact the Case Team</u> using the contact details at the top of this letter.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

Annex B to this letter contains important details and clarifications about other Procedural Decisions we made at, or following, the Preliminary Meeting. These include:

- Issuing of Written Questions;
- Statements of Common Ground;
- Local Impact Reports;
- Changes to Land Interests; and
- Additional Submissions.

Format of Examination Events

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when we provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

Hearings and Site Inspections

The Examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say for more information.

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public also provides important information about hearing procedures:

- What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event
- Registering to speak at, or attend, a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event

On this basis the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and we will notify all Interested Parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the Examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That notification will include a Deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to participate at the notified hearing(s).



We will also undertake site inspections. Where we are able to view the site from public land, we are likely to do this unaccompanied and a note of the site inspection will be published on the project webpage. The Examination Timetable also reserves time for us to undertake an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI). We will consider each suggested site location, including those provided in the Applicant's draft itinerary, to determine if it could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view it on an accompanied basis. We will also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on an access required basis.

Annex C provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings. It also provides important information about the Accompanied Site Inspection and attendance at the inspection.

Managing Examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the <u>project webpage</u>.

A <u>'Have your say' page</u> is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the 'Make a submission' portal is provided at **Annex E** to this letter.

There is also a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'E-mail updates'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the Examination.

Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you are a person or organisation who is involved in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: National Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process for further details.

If, having read the advice, you are still unsure about how you are involved in the process please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.



Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders.

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this Examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the <u>project webpage</u>.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our <u>Privacy Notice</u>.

We look forward to working with all parties in the Examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

D Wallis

David Wallis Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

- **A** Examination Timetable
- **B** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- **C** Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- **D** Examination Documents
- E Information about the 'Have your say' page

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our Privacy Notice before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.



Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to **complete** the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	Procedural Deadline A	Wednesday 16 April 2025
	 Notification of any wish to speak at the Preliminary Meeting including the agenda item 	
	 Notification by Interested Parties of any wish to speak at Issue Specific Hearing 1 	
	 Notification by Interested Parties of any wish to speak at Open Floor Hearing 1 or Open Floor Hearing 2 	
	Written submissions on the Examination Procedure, including any submissions about the use of virtual methods or, if required, reasonable adjustments.	
2.	Procedural Deadline B	Friday 2 May 2025
	Information requested from the Applicant in the Rule 6 letter regarding the parameters of the assessment in the ES.	
3.	Preliminary Meeting	Tuesday 13 May 2025 10:00am
4.	Open Floor Hearing 1	Tuesday 13 May 2025 15.00pm
5.	Open Floor Hearing 2	Wednesday 14 May 2025 10:00am
6.	Issue Specific Hearing 1 into the Development Consent Order and Strategic Matters	Thursday 15 May 2025 10.00am

7.	Issue by the Examining Authority of:The Examination Timetable	As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
8.	Deadline 1 (D1)	Wednesday 4 June 2025
	For receipt by the Examining Authority (ExA) of:	
	 Written summaries of oral submissions given at the Hearings during the week commencing 12 May 2025. 	
	 Any post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA 	
	 Responses to Relevant Representations (RR) 	
	 Written Representations (WR), including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words 	
	 Applicant's Compulsory Acquisition (CA) Schedule and Land Rights Tracker (see Annex F) 	
	 Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) as requested by the ExA (see Annex F) 	
	Applicant's Statement of Commonality	
	 Local Impact Reports from relevant Local Authorities (see Annex F) 	
	 Notification by any Statutory Parties who have not submitted a RR of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP) 	
	Comments on the Applicant's response to the s51 advice issued at Acceptance	
	 Comments on the Applicant's change request application. 	
	 Any other information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	
	Updates from the Applicant:	
	Guide to the Application	
	 Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (in clean and tracked versions) 	
	Explanatory Memorandum (in clean and tracked versions)	

	Schedule of changes to dDCO	
	 Updated Book of Reference (BoR) and Schedule of Changes to the BoR (in clean and tracked versions) (if required). 	
9.	Issue by the Examining Authority of:	Tuesday 10 June 2025
	 Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) 	
10.	Deadline 2 (D2)	Tuesday 1 July 2025
	For receipt by the ExA of:	
	 Responses to Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) 	
	 Comments on responses to RRs 	
	Comments on WRs	
	Comments on the Local Impact Reports	
	 Comments on any other information and submissions received at D1 	
	 Comments from Affected Persons on Applicant's CA Schedule 	
	 Nominations for any locations for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI), including the information requested in Annex B, under 'Site Inspections' 	
	 Any other information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	
11.	Deadline 3 (D3)	Tuesday 22 July 2025
	For receipt by the ExA of:	
	 Comments on any submissions received at D2 	
	Responses to comments on LIRs	
	 Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) 	
	A statement of progress on SoCG that remain outstanding and submission of SoCG completed since D2 (if required)	
	Updated SoCG (clean and tracked change versions)	
	 An updated Statement of Commonality of SoCG (if required) 	

	 Comments on the suggested locations to be included in any ASI. 	
	The Applicant's draft itinerary for an ASI.	
	 Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	
	Updates from the Applicant:	
	 Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in both clean and tracked versions 	
	 Explanatory Memorandum in both clean and tracked versions 	
	 Updated CA Schedule and Land Rights Tracker 	
	Guide to the Application	
	 Schedule of changes to dDCO 	
	 Updated Book of Reference (BoR) and Schedule of Changes to the BoR (in clean and tracked versions) (if required). 	
12.	Publication by the Examining Authority of:	Wednesday 30 July 2025
	 Second Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required) 	
13.	Deadline 4 (D4)	Friday 22 August 2025
	For receipt by the ExA of:	
	 Responses to Examining Authority's Second Written Questions (ExQ2) 	
	 Notification by Affected Persons of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 	
	 Comments on the Applicant's draft ASI itinerary 	
	 Comments on any other information and submissions received at D3 	
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	 Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	
14.	Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the	Friday 12 September 2025
	Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules	Friday 12 September 2025

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	 Comments on any other information and submissions received at D4 	
	Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules	
15.	Publication by the Examining Authority of:	Thursday 18 September
13.	Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required)	2025
	The Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (if required)	
16.	Blended Hearings (week reserved for Hearings and ASI)	w/c Monday 6 October 2025
	Issue Specific Hearing(s) (if required)	
	 Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (if required) 	
	ASI (if required)	
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17.	Deadline 6 (D6)	Monday 20 October 2025
17.	For receipt by the ExA of:	Monday 20 October 2025
17.		Monday 20 October 2025
17.	 For receipt by the ExA of: Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the week 	Monday 20 October 2025
17.	 For receipt by the ExA of: Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the week commencing 6 October 2025. Any post-hearing submissions requested by 	Monday 20 October 2025
17.	 For receipt by the ExA of: Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the week commencing 6 October 2025. Any post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA 	Monday 20 October 2025
17.	 For receipt by the ExA of: Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the week commencing 6 October 2025. Any post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA Responses to the RIES (if required) Comments on the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft 	Monday 20 October 2025
17.	 For receipt by the ExA of: Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the week commencing 6 October 2025. Any post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA Responses to the RIES (if required) Comments on the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) Comments on any other information and 	Monday 20 October 2025
17.	 For receipt by the ExA of: Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the week commencing 6 October 2025. Any post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA Responses to the RIES (if required) Comments on the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) Comments on any other information and submissions received at D5 Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the 	Monday 10 November
	 For receipt by the ExA of: Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the week commencing 6 October 2025. Any post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA Responses to the RIES (if required) Comments on the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) Comments on any other information and submissions received at D5 Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	
	 For receipt by the ExA of: Written summaries of oral submissions made at any Hearings held during the week commencing 6 October 2025. Any post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA Responses to the RIES (if required) Comments on the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) Comments on any other information and submissions received at D5 Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules Deadline 7 (D7) 	Monday 10 November

- Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)
- Comments on any other information and submissions received at D6
- Closing Statements from IPs and APs
- Closing Statements from Statutory Undertakers, including matters relating to protective provisions
- Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the **Examination Procedure Rules**

Final Updates from the Applicant

- Final Signed Statements of Common Ground
- Final Statement of Commonality of SoCG
- Final Guide to the Application
- Final draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in the Statutory Instrument (SI) template with the SI template validation report in both clean and tracked change versions (both in Word and .pdf format)

The applicant is to provide the email notification from

https://publishing.legislation.gov.uk/validation confirming the document has successfully passed validation, and the PDF version of the SI validation report obtained from the link in the notification email. The applicant should also provide a clean (all tracking removed) standalone MS Word version of the draft DCO, with no header or cover page

- Final Explanatory Memorandum
- Final Schedule of changes to dDCO
- Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule and Land Rights Tracker
- Final updated Book of Reference

19. Deadline 8 (D8)

For receipt by the Examining Authority of:

Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules (if required)

Thursday 13 November

20. Close of Examination by the Examining Authority

The Examining Authority is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.

Thursday 13 November 2025

Submission times for Deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any Deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the <u>project webpage</u> as soon as practicable after the Deadlines for submissions.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the Secretary of State. The ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and/or Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

The ExA has made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting under section 89(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), which are recorded here:

1. Examining Authority's Written Questions

First written questions (ExQ1) will be published after **Deadline 1** in the Examination timetable. Responses to ExQ1 will be expected to be received at **Deadline 2**. Whilst most of our written questions are directed at specific parties, no other party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question we ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

All relevant Statutory Parties are requested to check our Written Questions carefully in order that they may identify and respond to any questions posed to them.

For the avoidance of doubt, Statutory Parties are defined as the parties listed in Schedule 1 to The Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015. Statutory Parties, including relevant local authorities, that have not already registered to become an Interested Party should consider notifying the ExA of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party, under Section 89(2A)(b) of the PA2008 as soon as possible.

2. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

The Applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it will aid the smooth running of the Examination if all Interested Parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the Applicant in respect of their production. We set out in **Annex F** of our Rule 6 letter the SoCGs we request are submitted during the Examination of this application. Final signed versions of the SoCGs are requested to be submitted by the **Applicant** to **Deadline 7**.

All of the SoCGs should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft **Development Consent Order**. Any Interested Party seeking that an Article or Requirement is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought.

The content of SoCGs will help to inform us about the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings during the Examination, and to enable us and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

3. Local Impact Reports (LIR)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice for local</u> authorities.

Local Authorities, defined in section 56A of the PA2008, are invited to submit LIRs by **Deadline 1**.

4. Changes to land interests

When the Applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the Applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the PA2008 by contacting the Case Team via the mailbox at BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. The Examination Timetable includes various Deadlines for the submission of an updated Book of Reference and schedule of changes to the Book of Reference, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

5. Additional Submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted by Procedural Deadlines A and B we have exercised our discretion and made a Procedural Decision to accept Additional Submissions from the following:

- 1. Cumnor Parish Council published on 22 April 2025
- 2. GTC published on 22 April 2025
- 3. Indigo Networks published on 22 April 2025
- 4. Begbroke and Yarnton Green Belt Campaign published on 17 April 2025
- 5. Dr Stuart Brookes published on 17 April 2025
- 6. Rosemary Lewis published on 17 April 2025
- 7. Judith Frances Wardle published on 17 April 2025

Arrangements for hearings

Our Examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions however the Examination Timetable reserves periods of time for hearings to be held (if required).

Requests to participate at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) on or before **22 August 2025** (see **Deadline 4**). Additional Open Floor Hearings (OFH), further to those already held immediately after the Preliminary Meeting, may be organised by the ExA depending on the circumstances.

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 inperson;
- 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 <u>Examination Library</u> reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

Requests to participate should be made using an **Event Participation Form** which will be provided with the notification of the hearing.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend an Event, either virtually or in person.

If no written requests to take part in an OFH or CAH are received by the above Deadline, we are not required to hold such a hearing, although we may choose to do so nonetheless.

We may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that we think need to be explored orally. The decision to hold an ISH about a particular topic is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

Hearing agendas

For Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition Hearings the ExA will publish a detailed draft agenda on the <u>project website</u> in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For Open Floor Hearings an agenda may not be published.

Procedure at hearings

The Examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say for more information.

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the <u>project webpage</u> shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the <u>project</u> <u>webpage</u> as soon as practicable after the close of 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.

Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) and requests to attend

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI during the week commencing 6 October 2025.

As requested in the Examination Timetable in Annex A of this letter, suggestions, including justification, for locations to be included in the ASI are requested to be submitted by **Deadline 2**, Tuesday 1 July 2025. It is the ExA that will have ultimate discretion on whether or not a location requires visiting or visiting under the procedure of an ASI.

Should an ASI be held, please note that for logistical and safety reasons it may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany us for the whole ASI. However, it should be possible for arrangements to be made for Interested Parties (or their representatives) to join the inspection at specified locations within the itinerary.

Requests by Interested Parties to attend the ASI should be provided by **Deadline 5** and should include confirmation of whether the request is to attend for the whole inspection or just specific locations. The request must be submitted separately from any other written submission.

Please select the appropriate deadline and submission item under the <u>'Have your say'</u> <u>page</u>. **Annex E** provides further information about the 'Have your say' page.

Interested Parties should be aware that ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to us about the Proposed Development. However, we may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the ASI.

Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations can be inspected on the <u>project</u> <u>webpage</u>.

How to stay up to date

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the <u>Documents tab</u> of the project webpage.

You can also sign up to get email updates.

If you have any questions about the process, examination events or how to access the documents, you can email BotleyWestSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or contact us on 0303 444 5000.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the <u>Examination Library</u> (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the Documents tab on the website project page. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- Each application document;
- each representation and submission made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference number which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.

Information about the 'Have your say' page

The 'Have your say' page is available on the project webpage.

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your letter or email from The Planning Inspectorate). If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do have not your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered interested party, then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the <u>project webpage</u> as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our <u>Privacy Notice</u>.

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third-party website eg technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: <u>Advice for submitting representations or comments</u> for important information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate Submission item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items then please select the Submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the 'Have your say' page please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.