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All interested parties, statutory parties and any other person invited to the preliminary meeting

Our Ref: EN010148

Date: 24 April 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam

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

Application by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited for an order granting development consent for the Tween Bridge Solar Farm Project

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) 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 'Have your say' 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 on the [documents page](#) on the project webpage of the Find a National Infrastructure Project website ([project webpage](#)).

The examination timetable

I 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 my [Rule 6 letter](#). In finalising the examination timetable, I have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the preliminary meeting. A list of the main changes I made to the draft examination timetable is set out at **annex B** to this letter.

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, I may disregard them.

I request that all interested parties make their submissions using the '[Have your say](#)' page on the project webpage on or before the applicable deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the 'Have your say' page.

If I 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 [project webpage](#).

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** in the examination timetable (please note that formal notification of this deadline was provided in my Rule 6 letter, dated 16 March 2026).

Written representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in my initial assessment of principal issues.

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).

I 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: Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions.

Details of how to view the examination documents are included at annex D of this letter.

Examining Authority's written questions

I have prepared written questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions are published on the project webpage and can be accessed at the following link:

[Examining Authority's First Written Questions \(ExQ1\)](#)

Responses to ExQ1 must be provided by **deadline 2** in the examination timetable.

If you require an editable Microsoft Word version of ExQ1, please contact the Case Team 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 I made at, or following, the preliminary meeting. These include:

- Publication of the examination timetable.
- Publication of EXQ1.
- Invitation to submit Local Impact Reports.

Format of examination events

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the operating model. I remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when I provide formal notification of each hearing 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](#)

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

On this basis the examination timetable at **annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and I will notify all interested parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the examination 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).

I will also undertake site inspections. Where I am able to view the site from public land I am 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 me to undertake an accompanied site inspection (ASI) during **week commencing 22 June 2026**.

I 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.

I 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. I will confirm whether I will be undertaking an ASI at least five working days prior to 22nd June 2026 and I will provide details of the itinerary if an ASI is to be undertaken.

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 [project webpage](#).

A '[Have your say](#)' page 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 'Have your say' page is provided at **annex E** to this letter.

You can also use the 'Get updates' button on the project webpage to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the examination.

Your status in the examination

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>



You have received this letter because you are a person or organisation who is involved in the 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 [project webpage](#).

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 [Privacy Notice](#).

I look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Luke Simpson

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' tab

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.

Examination Timetable

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.	Preliminary meeting (PM)	Tuesday 14 April 2026
2.	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	Tuesday 14 April 2026
3.	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) regarding Network connection and environmental matters (to include landscape and visual, flood risk, cultural heritage and biodiversity & ecology)	Wednesday 15 April 2026
4.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the examination timetable. Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1). 	As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
5.	Deadline 1 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comments on relevant representations (RR); written representations (WR), and summaries of any WR which exceed 1500 words; written summary of oral submissions made at ISH1, OFH1 and PM; requests to speak at an open floor hearing (a second OFH will be held if required); requests to speak at a compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) – Requests can be made by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008); any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010; comments on any additional submissions accepted by the ExA. From local authorities only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Impact Reports (LIR). 	Tuesday 5 May 2026

	<p>From the applicant only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drafts of any DCO obligations (s106) if necessary; • draft Statements of Common Ground (SoCG); • applicant's revised dDCO and schedule of changes to dDCO; • applicant's revised Explanatory Memorandum; • updated land and rights negotiations tracker; and • schedule of statutory undertakers and progress on protective provisions. 	
6.	<p>Deadline 2</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responses to ExQ1; • responses to WRs; • comments on responses to RRs; • comments on LIRs; • comments from affected persons on the applicant's updated land and rights negotiations tracker; • any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010; • applicant's document explaining implications for EIA resulting from revised grid connection date; • comments on any further information received Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 1; and • requests to be heard at any issue specific hearings w/c 22 June 2026. <p>From applicant only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latest draft SoCGs; • updated outline control documents; • details of progress on securing other consents; and • updated Policy Compliance document. 	Tuesday 19 May 2026
7.	<p>Time reserved for hearings and ASI (if required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Specific Hearings (ISH). • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) (if required). 	w/c Monday 22 June 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Floor Hearing (OFH 2) (if required). • Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) (if required). 	
8.	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written summary of oral submissions made at hearings in w/c 22 June 2026; • comments on responses to ExQ1; • comments on responses to LIRs; • comments on responses to WRs; • any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010; and • comments on any further information received Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 2. 	<p>Tuesday 30 June 2026</p>
9.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2). 	<p>Tuesday 7 July 2026</p>
10.	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responses to ExQ2; • any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010; and • comments on any further information received Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 3. <p>From the applicant only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drafts of any DCO obligations (s106) if necessary; • draft Statements of Common Ground (SoCG); • applicant's revised dDCO and schedule of changes to dDCO; • applicant's revised Explanatory Memorandum; • updated land and rights negotiations tracker; and • schedule of statutory undertakers and progress on protective provisions. 	<p>Tuesday 21 July 2026</p>

11.	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to ExQ2; • any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010; and • comments on any further information received Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 4. 	Tuesday 4 August 2026
12.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and any associated questions; • the ExA’s commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO; and • the ExA’s third written questions (ExQ3) (if required). 	Tuesday 11 August 2026
13.	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responses to ExQ3 (if required); • responses to ExA proposed dDCO; • comments on RIES; • any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010; and • comments on any further information received Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 5. 	Tuesday 22 September 2026
14.	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on responses to ExQ3; • comments on responses to ExA proposed dDCO; • any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010; and • comments on any further information received Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 6. 	Tuesday 29 September 2026

<p>15.</p>	<p>Deadline 8</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA from the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the final draft DCO - The Final draft DCO should be submitted by the applicant in the SI template Applicant 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; • the final updated BoR - The final BoR and schedule of changes to BoR; • final SoCGs (these should clearly set out the areas of agreement and disagreement); • list of matters not agreed where SoCG could not be finalised (can be referred to as ‘closing statements’); • final Navigation Document/ Guide to the Application; • final Status of Negotiations CA Schedule; • final Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers; • final NPS Tracker; and • final signed and dated section 106. <p>For receipt by the ExA, from any IP, of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on any further information received Comments on any additional information/submissions received by deadline 7; and • any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 	<p>Tuesday 6 October 2026</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p>Deadline 9</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any further information requested by ExA Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. 	<p>Thursday 8 October 2026</p>

17.	<p>Close of examination</p> <p>The ExA intends to close the examination on this date. See 'Note about the close of examination date'.</p>	<p>Monday 12 October 2026</p>
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Note about the close of examination date

The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the preliminary meeting. The ExA may however decide to close the examination earlier if it considers that the application and relevant matters have been examined adequately.

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 [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions.

Hearing agendas

Please note that draft agendas will be made available on the project webpage at least 5 working days 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 OFHs agendas may not be published.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided 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)

I have made a number of procedural decisions following the preliminary meeting:

1. Examination timetable

The only change made to the examination timetable compared to that included as part of my rule 6 letter is as follows:

- Deadline 2 has been amended to include provision to for the applicant to submit document explaining the implications of a revised connection date for its Environmental Impact Assessment.

Representations can be subsequently made on this document at Deadline 3 (under '*comments on any further information received Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 2*') and a final response to any such representations should be provided by the applicant at deadline 4 (under '*comments on any further information received Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 3*').

2. Examining Authority's written questions

My first written questions (ExQ1) have been published alongside this Rule 8 Letter. Whilst most of my written questions are directed at specific parties, no other party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question I ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

Some of my questions are directed to specific statutory parties which have not, at the time of writing, confirmed that they wish to become interested parties for the purposes of the examination of the application.

All relevant statutory parties are requested to check my 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 Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as soon as possible.

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 [Advice for local authorities](#).

Local authorities, defined in section 56A of the Planning Act 2008, are invited to submit LIRs by **deadline 2**.

Arrangements for hearings

My 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 an open floor hearing (OFH) or compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) on or before **Tuesday 5 May 2026** (see **deadline 1**).

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 CAHs, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the [Book of Reference](#) and the [Land Plans](#)
- The [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/ page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to

The ExA will provide reasonable notice of the time, date and place of any hearings to all interested parties.

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, I am not required to hold such a hearing, although I may choose to do so nonetheless.

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

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 [project webpage](#) 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 [project webpage](#) 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 week commencing 22 June 2026. The applicant provided a draft itinerary for an ASI at Procedural Deadline A. I will consider this itinerary and if an ASI is required I will provide notification of the ASI, the route, arrangements and details of how to request to attend, at the same time as I issue hearing notifications.

It may be that an ASI is not required. This will be the case if I consider that I can view the site from public land or that I can arrange to view the site from private land on an unaccompanied basis.

Examination documents

The application documents and relevant representations can be inspected on the [project webpage](#).

How to stay up to date

All further documents submitted in the course of the examination will also be published on the [documents](#) page 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 TweenBridge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or contact us on 0303 444 5000.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#) (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue link at the top of the documents 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
- 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 not have 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 [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

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, for example technical reports, media articles and so on. See The Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) 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.