

**Application by Springwell Energyfarm Limited for an Order Granting  
Development Consent for the Springwell Solar Farm****Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1):**

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
<b>Issue Specific Hearing 1</b>	<b>Thursday 8 May 2025</b>  <b>Hearing starts at 10.00</b>  Registration and seating available at venue from 09:30 and virtual registration process from 09:30	Blended event at County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR  and  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

**Agenda**

- 1. Welcome, Introductions, Arrangements for the Hearing**
  - 1.1. The Examining Authority (ExA) will welcome participants, lead introductions, and address housekeeping matters.
- 2. Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing**
  - 2.1. The ExA will explain the purpose of the Hearing.
- 3. Alternatives and Site Selection**
  - 3.1. The Applicant will be asked to explain its approach to considering alternative sizes and scales of site for the Proposed Development.
  - 3.2. The Applicant will be asked about the site selection criteria of a maximum of two landowners.
- 4. Grid Connection**
  - 4.1. The Applicant, National Grid and the Local Authorities will be asked questions about the delivery of the proposed Navenby Substation, its implications for the Proposed Development and its supporting assessments, and whether it should be included in the Order limits.

## **5. Cumulative Effects**

- 5.1. The Applicant and the Local Authorities will be asked whether the approach to the cumulative assessment is robust and has captured all relevant other developments, including Leoda Solar Farm. The Applicant will also be requested to prepare an inter-relationship report.

## **6. Air Quality**

- 6.1. The Applicant will be asked about the implications of the PM2.5 Targets: Interim Planning Guidance. The robustness of the Battery Energy Storage System Plume Assessment will also be discussed with the Applicant and the UK Health Security Agency.

## **7. Traffic and Transport**

- 7.1. The Applicant and National Highways will be asked about the Strategic Road Network and the robustness of the Transport Assessment. Cumulative transport effects will be discussed with the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council.
- 7.2. Matters associated with the level of detail required for proposed Highway Improvements and Site Accesses will also be explored with the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council.

## **8. Water Environment**

- 8.1. The Applicant will be asked what implications the New Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Data from the Environment Agency has for the Proposed Development.
- 8.2. Matters associated with the sequential test for flood risk will be explored with the Applicant.

## **9. Cultural Heritage**

- 9.1. The Applicant, Local Authorities and Historic England will be asked questions relating to the extent of assessment stage archaeological trial trenching, archaeological investigations post-DCO and Requirement 11 of the draft Development Consent Order.
- 9.2. The Applicant and Local Authorities will be asked about the level of detail in the analysis of above ground heritage assets.

## **10. Landscape and Visual Effects**

- 10.1. The Local Authorities will be asked if they have any comments on the Applicant's assessment methodology, study area and photomontage viewpoint selection.

10.2. The Applicant will be asked questions relating to the approach to the residential visual amenity assessment.

**11. Procedural Decisions, Review of Actions and Next Steps**

**12. Closing Remarks**

## **Purpose of ISH**

The main purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing is to clarify and get views on matters relating to each of the subjects set out in the agenda above.

## **Attendees**

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing.

- Applicant
- Lincolnshire County Council
- North Kesteven District Council
- National Grid
- National Highways
- Historic England
- UK Health Security Agency
- Environment Agency

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All interested parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing in person, who has not already advised the case team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

## **Registration Process**

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the hearing to start on time at 10.00 those attending virtually should join promptly at 09.30 to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

## **Procedure at ISH**

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the

evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.