

**Application by Springwell Energyfarm Limited for an Order Granting
Development Consent for the Springwell Solar Farm****Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4):**

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 4	Thursday 17 July 2025 Hearing starts at 10.00 Registration and seating available at venue from 09:30 and virtual registration process from 09:30	Blended event at Doubletree by Hilton Lincoln, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln, LN1 1YW 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. Grid Connection**
 - 3.1. The Applicant and Local Authorities will be asked about the agreed grid connection change request with National Grid and any implications it might have for the application and its supporting documents.
 - 3.2. Matters associated with delivery of the proposed Navenby substation and whether there are likely to be any potential reasons why the future planning application or delivery of powerlines might be refused, will be discussed with the Applicant and Local Authorities.
 - 3.3. The Local Authorities will be asked what weight they would afford to the benefits of the Proposed Development if it was delivered after 2030.
 - 3.4. The Applicant and Local Authorities will be asked further questions about whether there is a need for a requirement restricting the commencement of construction of the Proposed Development.

4. Traffic and Transport, inc Public Rights of Way

- 4.1. National Highways will be asked for an update of its consideration of Abnormal Load Movements on the Strategic Road Network.
- 4.2. The new mitigation measures proposed by the Applicant at the A15/ B1202 Junction at Deadline 1 will be discussed with the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council. Further, the Applicant will be asked whether this could result in more traffic on other roads and have any implications for the existing assessment.
- 4.3. The Stage 1 Road Safety Audits [REP1-075] provided by the Applicant at Deadline 1 for the Gorse Hill Lane & Temple Road/B1191 A15 junctions will be discussed with the Applicant and Lincolnshire County Council.
- 4.4. The Applicant and the Local Authorities will be asked whether the additional wording put within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan that requires Lincolnshire County Council to agree any street works should be included in the dDCO itself.
- 4.5. Network Rail will be asked to provide an update on its position with regard to the Proposed Development.
- 4.6. In relation to cumulative effects, the Applicant will be asked why an updated assessment that included estimated traffic movements from the proposed Navenby substation was not undertaken as agreed at Issue Specific Hearing 1.
- 4.7. The Applicant's proposed changes to Sheet 10 of the Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [REP1-004] and Illustrative Layout Plans & Sections [REP1-005] and whether they should be considered as a change to the application will be discussed with the Applicant and Local Authorities.
- 4.8. Lincolnshire County Council's outstanding concerns in relation to Public Rights of Way will be discussed with the Applicant.

5. Water Environment

- 5.1. Matters associated with the Sequential test for flood risk and whether there is an operational need for solar panels to be located in flood zone 3b will be further discussed with the Applicant.
- 5.2. The Applicant and Environment Agency will be asked questions about Part 2 Principal Powers – Article 6 sub-paragraph (d) of the draft Development Consent Order.
- 5.3. The Environment Agency will be asked whether it accepts the Applicant's view that a connection to a public sewer is not feasible.

- 5.4. The Applicant and Environment Agency will be asked for an update on discussions in relation to all current matters of disagreement.

6. Draft Development Consent Order

- 6.1. The Applicant and Local Authorities will be asked questions about Articles 40 and 41, associated with felling or lopping of trees and removal of hedgerows and trees subject to tree preservation orders.
- 6.2. Matters associated with the sought disapplication of the railway related legislation will be discussed with the Applicant and Network Rail.
- 6.3. The Applicant and Local Authorities will be asked questions about Schedule 16 – Procedure of Discharge of Requirements, particularly in relation to Paragraph 3(6)(a).
- 6.4. The Applicant will be asked for an update on discussions with the Ministry of Defence in relation to the wording of some requirements and the addition of a new requirement in relation to electrical noise.
- 6.5. Whether the UK Health Security Agency should be added as a consultee for Requirement 7 will be discussed with the Applicant.
- 6.6. Matters associated with early decommissioning and a ‘force majeure event’ will be discussed with the Applicant and Local Authorities.
- 6.7. The Applicant will be asked further questions in relation to Part 2 Principal Powers – Article 6 and Part 6 Miscellaneous and General – Article 49 of the Draft Development Consent Order.

7. Procedural Decisions, Review of Actions and Next Steps

8. Closing Remarks

Purpose of ISH4

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
- Environment Agency
- National Highways
- Network Rail

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 ISH4

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.