



Planning Inspectorate

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All Interested Parties and Statutory
Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010152

Date: 1 August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 9 and rule 8(3)

Application by Fenwick Solar Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Fenwick Solar Project

Notice of variation to the examination timetable

I write to provide notification that the Examining Authority (ExA) has made a procedural decision to vary the examination timetable relating to its issuing of a report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES). The variation is set out in **Annex A** and in summary:

- Creates a new date for publication by the ExA of the RIES; and
- Creates a new deadline (deadline 6) to receive comments on the RIES.

The variation is made in order to ensure that the Secretary of State has all the information available on HRA matters to enable them to undertake their duties as the competent authority. The changes to the examination timetable will also ensure that interested parties are provided with an opportunity to comment on the RIES and respond to any questions raised therein.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please contact the case team on the details above.

Yours faithfully

Rory Cridland

Rory Cridland
Lead member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

Varied 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.

Items greyed out indicate that the deadline/event has passed.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	Procedural Deadline A Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written submissions about how the application should be examined, including the draft examination timetable requests to register for the Preliminary Meeting requests to register for Open Floor Hearing 1 requests to register for Issue Specific Hearing 1 regarding the draft Development Consent Order suggested locations for site inspections, including the reason for nomination, issues to be observed there and whether the location(s) require access to private land 	Wednesday 5 March 2025
2.	Preliminary Meeting (PM)	Wednesday 19 March 2025
3.	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	Wednesday 19 March 2025
4.	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on the draft Development Consent Order	Thursday 20 March 2025
5.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Examination Timetable 	As soon as practicable after the Preliminary Meeting
6.	Deadline 1 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comments on relevant representations 	Wednesday 30 April 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • statements of common ground requested by the ExA – see Annex F of the Rule 6 letter and Annex B of this Rule 8 letter • local impact reports from local authorities • written summaries of oral submissions made at hearings held during the w/c 17 March 2025 • written representations and summaries for any that exceed 1500 words • requests from interested parties to be heard at a further open floor hearing • requests by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a compulsory acquisition hearing • the applicant's proposed itinerary for an accompanied site inspection (if held) • the applicant's updated documents - clean version and version showing tracked changes since the last submitted version, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the draft Development Consent Order - the Explanatory Memorandum - the Book of Reference - the Statement of Reasons • the applicant's reports on progress including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Land Rights Tracker - updated Schedule of Progress regarding Protective Provisions and Statutory Undertakers - Guide to the Application including an up-to-date schedule of documents to be certified • any other information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
7.	Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ExA's First Written Questions (ExQ1) 	Friday 9 May 2025
8.	Deadline 2 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on submissions for deadline 1 • responses to the ExA's First Written Questions (ExQ1) • updated statements of common ground in clean and tracked changes versions 	Wednesday 28 May 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the applicant's updated documents – clean version and version showing tracked changes since the last submitted version: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the draft Development Consent Order the Explanatory Memorandum the Book of Reference the Statement of Reasons the Land Rights Tracker Schedule of Progress regarding Protective Provisions and Statutory Undertakers Guide to the Application including an up-to-date schedule of documents to be certified Any other information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
9.	<p>Time reserved for hearings and an accompanied site inspection (if required), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Specific Hearings (ISHs) Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) Open Floor Hearing (OFH) 	W/C 16 June 2025
10.	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comments on submissions for deadline 2 updated statements of common ground in clean and tracked changes versions written summaries of oral submissions made at hearings held during the w/c 16 June 2025 the applicant's updated documents – clean version and version showing tracked changes since the last submitted version, including where relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the draft Development Consent Order the Explanatory Memorandum the Book of Reference the Statement of Reasons the Land Rights Tracker Schedule of Progress regarding Protective Provisions and Statutory Undertakers 	Wednesday 2 July 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - updated Guide to the Application including an up-to-date schedule of documents to be certified • any other information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
11.	Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ExA's Second Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required) 	Wednesday 9 July 2025
12.	Deadline 4 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responses to the ExA's Second Written Questions (ExQ2) • comments on submissions for deadline 3 • updated statements of common ground in clean and tracked changes versions • the applicant's final documents – clean version and version showing tracked changes since the version submitted with the application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the draft Development Consent Order in the statutory instrument template with the statutory instrument template validation report - the Explanatory Memorandum <p>(Please note the final documents referred to above should include a consolidated tracked change version showing the differences between the version submitted with the application and the final version as well as a tracked change version showing changes since the last submitted version).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the applicant's updated documents – clean version and version showing tracked changes since the last submitted version: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Book of Reference - the Statement of Reasons - the Land Rights Tracker - Schedule of Progress regarding Protective Provisions and Statutory Undertakers - updated Guide to the Application including an up-to-date schedule of documents to be certified 	Wednesday 23 July 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any other information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
13.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ExA's schedule of proposed changes to the draft Development Consent Order (if required) the Report on Implications for European Sites (if required) 	Wednesday 30 July 2025
14.	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comments on submissions for deadline 4 comments on the ExA's schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (if required) comments on the Report on Implications for European Sites (if required) final statements of common ground in clean and tracked changes versions summary statements from parties regarding matters that they have previously raised during the examination that have not been resolved to their satisfaction the applicant's final documents – clean version and version showing tracked changes since the last submitted version: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Book of Reference the Statement of Reasons the Land Rights Tracker Schedule of Progress regarding Protective Provisions and Statutory Undertakers updated Guide to the Application including an up-to-date schedule of documents to be certified summary of progress in securing other consents and licences (if any) any other information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 22 August 2025
15.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Report on Implications for European Sites (if required) 	Friday 29 August 2025

16.	Deadline 6 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on the Report on Implications for European Sites (if required); and • any other information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 12 September 2025
16.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application no later than:	Friday 19 September 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. Please ensure submissions arrive by the deadline because they may otherwise be disregarded.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the deadline 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.

Updated Documents

Where updated documents are requested in the examination timetable but no changes have been made since the previous iteration, the applicant is not required to provide updated documents (but should confirm that this is the case as part of its submissions at that deadline).

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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