



Preliminary meeting note

Application: Frodsham Solar Farm

Reference: EN010153

Time and date: 9:30am 2 December 2025

Venue: Blended event at Forest Hills Hotel Forest Hills Hotel Frodsham, Bellemonte Road, Overton Hill, Frodsham, Cheshire. WA6 6HH and by virtual means using Microsoft Teams.

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the preliminary meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jason Rowlands (JR) welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the panel of Examining Inspectors, the Examining Authority (ExA) and Stuart Cowperthwaite as panel member to examine the Frodsham Solar Farm application.

JR explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero on 05 August 2025 under rule 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 [[PD-001](#)].

JR explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by Frodsham Solar Ltd ('the applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an order granting development consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

JR explained the purpose of the preliminary meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Audio recording

The video recording of this PM is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#).

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA referred to the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice provided in the Rule 6 letter [[PD-006](#)] and further information relating to the General Data Protection Regulation can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's '[Privacy Note](#)'.

4. Examination process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), and that it sets a statutory timescale. Further information can be found:

- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event'](#)
- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, an event'](#)

5. Draft Examination Timetable

The ExA highlighted that the draft examination timetable sets out a 4 ½ months examination period with seven deadlines.

The ExA thanked the host local authority and the applicant for their suggested modifications to the draft examination timetable contained in [annex C of Rule 6](#) letter.

The ExA highlighted the purpose and dates for the different types of hearings and thanked the host local authority for suggested locations for an accompanied site inspection that it was considering.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found:

- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event'](#)
- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, an event'](#)

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the rule 8 Letter.

6. Initial assessment of principal issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the [initial assessment of principal issues](#) [OD-006] (section 88 of the PA2008).

The Applicant referred to the need case and said that this was supported by the national policy statements. The ExA advised the need case may be examined, for example in case of any important or relevant policy being made after the application was submitted.

The Applicant suggested that the proposed development would not be within the jurisdiction of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The ExA advised that it was considering this matter and would raise it during the examination if it considered it necessary to do so.

The council had no comments to make at this time.

7. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations.

Procedural decisions can be found in [annex E of the Rule 6 Letter](#).

The ExA requested that Statements of Common Ground be finalised by Deadline 5 of the examination timetable. The applicant provided an overview of the progress made on Statements of Common Ground.

The ExA advised that it was, in principle, content with the Applicant's proposal to address the updates requested under items 1, 6 and 9 of annex E of the Rule 6 in a single document, provided that all matters listed under those items are addressed.

The ExA requested both clean and tracked changes of documents submitted by the applicant to the examination.

The applicant confirmed they had not updated documents from Procedural Deadline A and confirmed the only documents that had been updated were in relation to the environment agency.

8. Close

The ExA closed the preliminary meeting. Tuesday 2nd December at 10.41am