



National Infrastructure Planning
Planning Inspectorate
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Slough
SL1 4PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000

email: FosseGreenEnergy@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010154

Date: 09 December 2025

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – section 88 and 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rules 6, 9 and 13

Application by Fosse Green Energy Limited for an order granting development consent for Fosse Green Energy

Invitation to the preliminary meeting and notification of hearings

Following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an examination of the application for the proposed Fosse Green Energy, I am writing to introduce myself and Frances Wilkinson, who is the other member of the ExA. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the documents tab on the [documents tab](#) on the project webpage of the Find a National Infrastructure Project website ([project webpage](#)).

We would like to thank those of you who submitted relevant representations (RRs). Those RRs have assisted us when considering how we will examine this application.

Invitation to the preliminary meeting

As a recipient of this letter, you are invited to the preliminary meeting to discuss **the procedure** for the examination of the above application.

Date	Start time	Venue and joining details
Tuesday 6 January 2026	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:30	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR and



	Virtual registration process from: 09:30 Preliminary meeting starts: 10:00	By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
IMPORTANT: The preliminary meeting will be completed before 13:00 on Tuesday 6 January 2026 .		

You must register by completing the [event participation form](#) by 30 December 2025 if you intend to participate in the preliminary meeting and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe the preliminary meeting, then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Tuesday 30 December 2025** using the [event participation form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Tuesday 30 December 2025**.

Purpose of the preliminary meeting

The purpose of the preliminary meeting is to enable views to be put to us about how the application should be examined. The ExA will therefore limit the scope of the preliminary meeting to consideration of **how the application will be examined**. See **Annex B** to this letter and 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 preliminary meeting is not an opportunity for you to give your views about what you like or do not like about the proposed development. The merits or disadvantages of the proposed development will only be considered once the examination starts, which will be after the preliminary meeting has been concluded. The relevant and important matters will be taken into account when we make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who will take the final decision about this case.



The agenda for the meeting is at **Annex A** to this letter. This has been set following our **initial** assessment of principal issues arising from our reading of the application documents and the submitted RRs. The ExA's initial assessment of principal issues is set out in **Annex C** to this letter.

Written submissions about how the application should be examined

The Planning Act 2008 establishes a principally written process for the examination of applications for development consent orders. Accordingly, **representations made in writing carry equal weight to oral representations at all stages of the examination.**

We are now requesting written submissions from recipients of this letter about how the application should be examined. We particularly wish to hear from you if either:

1. you consider changes need to be made to the draft examination timetable set out at **Annex D** to this letter and/or
2. you wish to comment about the arrangements for future examination hearings, including the use of online/virtual methods

You are invited to make a written submission about how the application is to be examined by **procedural deadline A (30 December 2025)** (see **Annex D** to this letter).

We request that all submissions are made using the '[Have your say](#)' page on the project webpage on or before **procedural deadline A. Annex H** to this letter provides further information about using the '[Have your say](#)' page.

Requests to participate at the preliminary meeting

Please note that **you are not required to attend, or make written submissions to, the preliminary meeting in order to participate in the examination.** If you are an interested party, you can make a written representation and comment on the written representations made by other interested parties during the examination. You will also be able to participate in the hearings that are arranged.

If you wish to participate at the preliminary meeting, you are required to notify the ExA in writing on or before **30 December 2025** (see **procedural deadline A**).

Any request to participate in the preliminary meeting **must include** the following information:

- name and unique reference number (found at the top your 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
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make

Requests to participate should be made using the [event participation form](#) on or before **procedural deadline A**.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the preliminary meeting, either virtually or in person.

Format of examination events – preliminary meeting and 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.

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events form part of the Planning Inspectorate's operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings to be held during the examination stage when we provide formal notification of each hearing in advance of it taking place.

We are providing formal notification that the **preliminary meeting will be a blended event, as will the ISH and CAH referred to in Annex E to this letter.**

After the preliminary meeting

After the preliminary meeting we will issue a letter (known as the Rule 8 Letter) setting out the finalised examination timetable. A note of the meeting will also be published on the [project webpage](#).

Notification of initial hearings

We have made a procedural decision to hold the following initial hearings:

Date	Hearing	Start Time	Venue and Joining details
Tuesday 6 January 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Environmental Matters	Seating available at venue from: 14.00 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 14.00	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to



		Hearing starts: 14.30	those who have pre-registered
Wednesday 7 January 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 1 Environmental Matters (Continuation of ISH1 from Tuesday 6 January 2026)	Seating available at venue from: 09.30 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 09.30 Hearing starts: 10.00	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre- registered
Thursday 8 January 2026	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)	Seating available at venue from: 09.30 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 09.30 Hearing starts: 10.00	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre- registered
Thursday 8 January 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) Development Consent Order (DCO) Matters	Seating available at venue from: 14.00 Virtual Arrangements Conference from: 14.00 Hearing starts: 14.30	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre- registered

Important information about these hearings is contained in **Annex E** to this letter, including: a high level indication of the topics to be considered; and what details need to be provided with a request to be heard at a hearing and the procedure that will be followed.

Examining Authority's draft list of written questions

The applicant and other interested parties should note that the ExA intends to issue a draft list of written questions prior to Christmas/New Year holiday period. Those draft



written questions will be published on the [project webpage](#). Those draft written questions will be issued to allow all parties an opportunity to begin to prepare their responses. However, responses to those draft questions should not be submitted. The draft questions will be replaced by what will become the ExA's first round of written questions (ExQ1), for which responses will be required. ExQ1 will be issued following the holding of the hearings between 6 and 8 January 2026. Responses to ExQ1 will be for submission not later than the deadline stated in what will become the confirmed examination timetable stated in the ExA's Rule 8 Letter, which will be issued following the conclusion of the preliminary meeting.

We wish to make clear that the draft list may not include all the questions that will be included in the final version of our first round of written questions and/or some questions may be changed or updated in the final version following the holding of the hearings between 6 and 8 January 2026.

Other procedural decisions made and/or advice provided by the Examining Authority

We have made some further procedural decisions and/or advice which are set out in detail at **Annex F** to this letter. They are summarised as follows:

- Ethical procurement for imported plant or other equipment
- Submission of written representations
- Submission of local authority local impact reports
- Submission of suggested locations for accompanied site inspections
- Arrangements for the applicant's updating of documents

Changes to land interests

When the applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an interested party under section 102A of the PA2008. The applicant should inform any such persons that information about how to do this can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's advice for members of the public: [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#). The examination timetable includes various deadlines for the submission of an updated book of reference and schedule of changes to the book of reference, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

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 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 H** to this letter.

There is also a function on the left-hand side of the project webpage called '[Get updates](#)'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the examination.

Your status in the examination

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 ExA) 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](#).

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



Yours faithfully

Grahame Gould

Grahame Gould
Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

- A** Agenda for the preliminary meeting
- B** Introduction to the preliminary meeting
- C** Initial assessment of principal issues
- D** Draft examination timetable
- E** Notification of initial hearings
- F** Other procedural decisions made and/or advice provided by the Examining Authority
- G** Examination documents
- H** Information about the 'Have your say' page

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

Agenda for the preliminary meeting

You must register by completing the [event participation form](#) by Tuesday 30 December 2025 if you intend to participate in the preliminary meeting and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe the preliminary meeting then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Tuesday 30 December 2025** using the [event participation form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Tuesday 30 December 2025**.

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online livestream of the event and the recording of the event which will be published on the [project webpage](#). A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the venue. Please contact the Case Team to notify them if you prefer not to be filmed at the event. A transcript of the event will also be published on the project page of our website after the event.

Venue: **Blended event at County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln, LN1 3AR and by virtual means using Microsoft Teams**
Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered

Attendees: **Invited parties who have pre-registered**

Agenda for the preliminary meeting	
09:30	Registration and seating available at venue for in-person attendees
09:30	Virtual registration process Please arrive at 09:30 to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the Case Team, greeted and given further instructions.

	The registration process will commence at 09:30. This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for the preliminary meeting and allow for any questions to be asked about how to take part.
10.00am Item 1	Preliminary meeting The preliminary meeting will formally open at 10.00am . The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.
Item 2	The Examining Authority's remarks about the examination process
Item 3	Initial assessment of principal issues – Annex C to Rule 6 Letter
Item 4	Draft examination timetable – Annex D to Rule 6 Letter
Item 5	Procedural Decisions – Annex D to this Rule 6 Letter and those included in [PD-005] and [PD-007]
Item 6	Any other matters
Close of the preliminary meeting	

If you are participating using Microsoft Teams please join the virtual lobby promptly using the instructions that will be sent to you. The event will start at **10.00am** irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

It may take some time to admit participants from the virtual lobby, your patience whilst you are waiting is appreciated.

The agenda for the preliminary meeting is subject to change at the discretion of the Examining Authority, although in making changes the Examining Authority will be mindful of the need to provide opportunities for fair involvement to all invited parties.

Any request to participate in the preliminary meeting **must include** the following information and be made on the [event participation form](#):

- name and unique reference number (found at the top your 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
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make.

Introduction to the preliminary meeting

Background

The preliminary meeting (PM) will be a blended event with some participants attending in person and some taking part virtually using Microsoft Teams.

This annex provides advance access to information that would usually be included in the ExA's introductory remarks. Please read this carefully. The ExA will only present a summary of the key points set out here in order to ensure that the time available for participants to speak is maximised.

The Examining Authority and the Case Team

The ExA will introduce themselves at the start of the PM.

The ExA will be supported by the Planning Inspectorate Case Team. During the registration process a member of the Case Team will welcome and admit participants from the virtual lobby, and will be available to answer questions by email before and after the PM. The contact email address is:

FosseGreenEnergy@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The purpose of the preliminary meeting

The PM is being held to discuss the arrangements for the examination of the application for a development consent order (DCO) for the proposed Fosse Green Energy, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and which will generally be referred to in the PM and examination as 'the proposed development'. The application has been made by Fosse Green Energy Limited, which will be referred to as 'the applicant'.

You will find information about the application and, in due course, documents produced for the examination on the project webpage of the Find National Infrastructure Project website ([project webpage](#)). The project webpage has links to the examination timetable, relevant representations and examination documents and examination procedure.

You are encouraged to look at the [project webpage](#) if you have not already done so, because it will be used to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the examination.

The main purpose of the PM is to discuss the arrangements for the examination of the application. **It focuses on the process only and it will not be looking at the substance of the proposals.** Questions, discussions and representations about the merits or disadvantages of the proposed development are for the examination itself, which will begin following the PM's conclusion.

The PM will be your opportunity to influence the process that the ExA intends to follow during the examination. The agenda for the PM is attached to this Rule 6 Letter at **Annex A**. It is important to have the letter and the agenda in front of you

and to refer to them during the course of the PM. You may wish to print these in advance of the PM for your reference.

Government guidance and policy

The application is a NSIP under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as a consequence of sections 14 and 15 because it includes a generating station that would have a capacity of more than 50 megawatts. The designated National Policy Statements (NPSs) for Energy EN1, EN3 and EN5 will apply to this examination and to decision-making relating to this application.

The ExA will consider the proposed development in accordance with the previously mentioned NPSs and any other applicable policy or considerations the ExA deem to be important and relevant. The PA2008 makes it clear that, in making a decision, the relevant Secretary of State (SoS) “must decide the application in accordance with any relevant NPS” (s104(3)), subject to certain provisos. Essentially, the provisos are that the application must not breach legal or treaty obligations, and that any adverse impact of the proposed development would not outweigh its benefits.

The SoS is entitled to disregard any representations that relate to the merits of the designated National Policy Statement (NPS). **In practice, this means that the ExA will not spend time examining representations that challenge policy set out in NPSs or the validity of NPSs themselves.** The focus will be on the merits or disadvantages of the proposed development, tested to the appropriate extent using the tests set out in relevant designated NPSs that are in force.

Other important and relevant planning policies that the ExA may consider include policies in the relevant local authorities’ development plans. However, if these conflict with policy in a NPS, then the NPS will take precedence.

In summary, the PM will establish the procedures and timetable for the examination of the proposed development. It will set a framework for the ExA to enable the SoS to consider and decide the application. In doing so, the ExA will have regard to:

- the positions and representations of all interested parties (IP)
- any local impact reports (LIR) prepared and provided by relevant local authorities
- other prescribed matters
- any other matters that appear to be both relevant and important to the relevant SoS’s decision

Preliminary meeting invitees

The applicant is invited to the PM and is generally given the opportunity to reply to any representations made.

Everyone who has made a valid relevant representation has been registered as an IP and has been invited to the PM. All IPs are entitled to involvement in the examination.

Each person or organisation with an interest in land or rights that are affected by a compulsory acquisition request in this application is an affected person (AP) and has been invited to the PM. In addition to a general entitlement to involvement in the examination, APs have a right to be heard in relation to any objection about the effects of compulsory acquisition on their interests in land and a right to be notified of any compulsory acquisition hearing. All APs are IPs, whether or not they have made a valid relevant representation.

Certain bodies are statutory parties and they have been invited to the PM. Statutory parties can elect to become IPs without having made a valid relevant representation by notifying the ExA in writing.

The ExA has the power to involve people who are not IPs in the examination as though they are IPs, including by inviting them to the PM. However, this is only done in exceptional circumstances, for example if it was clear that the application would materially affect a person, they are not automatically an IP or eligible to elect to become an IP and they had been unable to take the necessary action to register as an IP.

The ExA has decided to invite the following other persons to the PM:

- The Ministry of Defence/Defence Infrastructure Organisation
- The Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service

Conduct of the preliminary meeting

The ExA estimate that the PM will take up to two and a half hours to complete.

During the PM participants may have to make allowances and be patient if there are delays associated with the technology used. In recognition of the fatigue associated with on-screen communication, the ExA will provide breaks during the PM as appropriate.

A digital recording of the PM will be made available on the project webpage as soon as practicable following the close of the PM. The recording allows any member of the public who is interested in the application and the examination to find out what has been discussed at the PM. The making and publication of these recordings are a means by which the ExA meets the legal requirement to hold the PM (and any other hearings) in public. In this regard, **anyone speaking at the PM will need to introduce themselves each time they speak**, to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the event is clear who was speaking. A written note of the PM will be produced and published as soon as practicable following the close of the PM.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which The UK General Data Protection Regulation applies. Participants must do their best to avoid providing any information which

should otherwise be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the Case Team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and retain them for a period of 5 years from the SoS's decision on the DCO. If you actively participate in the PM, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording will be made available in the public domain. Please see our [Privacy Notice](#) for more information about how we handle your data.

Following the ExA's introductions, each participant who has been registered to speak will be asked to introduce themselves, including any organisations or groups that they represent. The ExA will then conduct the meeting in accordance with the agenda. If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you can switch off your camera at any point.

The examination process

The examination of NSIPs follows different processes to those, for example, of a public inquiry into a planning appeal following the refusal of planning permission. The main differences are that **the examination of an NSIP application is primarily a written process** and hearings take on an inquisitorial approach as opposed to an adversarial one.

This means that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence primarily using written questions. While some hearings are held to provide supplementary evidence, questions to the applicant and/or other IPs will come from the ExA. Questioning or cross-examination of witnesses representing the applicant or IPs by the opposing party will not generally be allowed.

In terms of opportunities to provide evidence in writing, the draft examination timetable makes provision for the following written processes:

- Local authorities can submit LIRs if they wish. Whilst these are voluntary, the PA2008 provides that if they are provided, they must be considered by the SoS in reaching a decision. Consequently, LIRs are a very important method for local authorities to communicate issues of concern to the ExA, the SoS and their residents
- IPs can make written representations (WR) and comment on WRs made by any other parties, as well as any written or oral representations made by the applicant during the examination
- IPs can respond to the ExA's written questions (ExQs) and comment on responses to those written questions provided by the applicant and/or other parties
- IPs may be asked to contribute to the making of statements of common ground (SoCG) if it appears that there are matters on which they and the applicant agrees, and if it would be useful for this to be clarified. SoCGs most usefully

extend to catalogue matters that are not agreed or are outstanding. In connection with SoCGs, the ExA through its issuing of [\[PD-007\]](#), has requested the applicant and a number of other parties prepare and submit SoCGs during the examination

The draft Examination Timetable includes a series of numbered deadlines (Deadline 1, Deadline 2 etc) for receipt of written submissions. Timely submissions received by the relevant deadline will be accepted and each deadline included in the Examination Timetable should be treated as being a '**not later than time and date**'. There is therefore no reason why submissions relating to a particular deadline cannot be made to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the stated deadline rather than waiting to make submissions on the day of that deadline. Any submissions that are submitted in advance of a deadline will, however, only be published by the Planning Inspectorate following the expiry of the relevant deadline. **Documents received after 23:59 on the relevant deadline may only be accepted at the discretion of the ExA and may not be accepted to ensure fairness to all parties.** Circumstances where documents are submitted late without good reason, causing inconvenience or delay to other parties can amount to unreasonable behaviour.

These written processes will be the principal means used by the ExA to gather information, evidence and views about the application. However, the examination will only be effective if all parties resolve to give timely, full, frank, clear and evidenced answers to every question that is relevant to their interests and to engage fully with any other related processes such as the completion of WRs and SoCGs.

There is no merit in withholding or delaying information, or in failing to co-operate, and should it occur, any unreasonable behaviour that caused another party to incur wasted expenditure could lead to an award of costs against the offending party.

The ExA has discretion to make amendments to the examination timetable for the wider benefit of the examination. If possible, events will be arranged for times when all relevant parties are available, but the ExA is under a duty to complete the examination by no later than the end of the six-month period beginning with the day after the close of the PM. This requirement is set out in the PA2008 and while the ExA will try to rearrange event dates to accommodate relevant parties, in practice there will be limited scope to alter dates set out in the draft examination timetable.

The statutory time limit for the examination means that where there are matters that still need to be discussed and agreed between the applicant and IPs, it will assist the conduct of the examination if these could be progressed as early as possible. In that regard the attention of the applicant and other IPs and other parties who will be involved in producing SoCGs and/or negotiating protective provisions is drawn to the relevant procedural decisions already made by the ExA and included in [\[PD-005\]](#) and [\[PD-007\]](#).

Hearings

The draft examination timetable includes provision for hearings, at which the ExA takes oral evidence from the various parties.

Any registered IP may request an **open floor hearing** (OFH) to make oral representations about the application if they believe this to be preferable to relying on their written representations, though both carry equal weight. Oral submissions made in an OFH should be based on representations previously made in writing, but they should not simply repeat matters previously covered in the written submission. Rather, submissions made in OFH should focus on specific detail and explanation to help inform the ExA. There should be no new or unexpected material in oral representations. A written summary note with any supporting evidence or references will be requested from each speaker following an OFH.

As with all examination events, OFHs are subject to the powers of control of the ExA, as set out in the PA2008 and supporting legislation. Participants must register in advance by the deadline shown in the examination timetable and in accordance with the instructions. It is common practice for the ExA to set a time limit for each speaker and speakers with common points are asked to come together to nominate a spokesperson or representative speakers to cover specific topics, so as to avoid repetition. Speakers representing public authorities, community and membership organisations or multiple IPs are normally provided with an additional time allowance, recognising their representative role.

The applicant's draft DCO provides for the compulsory acquisition of land and rights, and the temporary possession of land. APs (meaning those whose land or rights over land are affected) have a right to request and be heard at a **compulsory acquisition hearing** (CAH). If one or more APs request to be heard then a CAH must be held. Provisional dates for CAHs are included in the draft examination timetable along with deadlines by which requests to be heard must be submitted.

The ExA has the discretion to hold **issue specific hearings** (ISH) if it would aid in the examination and there is a specific reason this would be more helpful to the ExA rather than it relying on written evidence only. **The lack of an ISH on one or more topics does not suggest that that topic is less important than others which are subject to a hearing.** Rather, it is an indication that the ExA is content that the issues can be fully considered through written submissions and responses to its written questions and that each party has had a fair opportunity to put its case through the making of written submissions.

The draft examination timetable includes dates reserved for ISHs and IPs may make suggestions for topics to be discussed at an ISH in their written or oral representations to the PM.

It may be necessary for the ExA to hold more than one ISH on the draft DCO. This is normal practice and any ISH convened to exclusively consider the draft DCO are held on a without prejudice basis. Parties can suggest modifications and amendments to the draft DCO provided by the applicant with the application and

revised versions submitted by the applicant during the examination, without prejudicing their overall position on the application.

Holding such hearings does not imply that the ExA has reached any judgements on the merits of the application. Whatever the ultimate recommendation is, the ExA must make sure that the draft DCO is fit for purpose if the SoS decides to grant consent, as any consent will, amongst other things, be subject to requirements (similar to planning conditions) set out in the draft DCO.

At hearings it will not normally be necessary for parties to make long and detailed submissions that require, for example, PowerPoint presentations. Any supporting detail/ information can be provided in writing following the hearing by the relevant deadline.

The draft examination timetable includes a deadline (**Deadline 1, 20 January 2026**) for participants to notify the ExA that they wish to speak at an OFH or a CAH.

Site inspections

As part of the examination process the ExA may undertake site inspections. These can be either unaccompanied or accompanied.

The purpose of these is for the ExA to see features of the proposals within the context of the evidence put forward. Notes of unaccompanied site inspections (USI) are published on the [project webpage](#).

Accompanied site inspections (ASI) will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access. The purpose of ASIs is familiarisation only and no discussion of the merits of the proposed development will be entertained during an ASI.

The ExA may decide to hold USIs to relevant nominated locations, supported by the submission of additional written, photographic, video or even drone material if this would be preferable to not visiting sites or holding ASIs in circumstances which could make them difficult and unduly time-consuming to conduct. The ExA may 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 a USI on an access required basis (ARSI).

The draft examination timetable includes a deadline for IPs to make submissions suggesting sites and locations that the ExA should visit. These will be used to inform further USIs/ARSIs as well as possible ASIs.

Initial assessment of principal issues

Pursuant to section 88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), set out below is the Examining Authority's (ExA) Initial Assessment of the Principal Issues. This assessment of the issues is based on the ExA's consideration of the submitted application documents and relevant representations submitted by the interested parties.

This is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant issues. There will be other important issues subject to examination and inevitably some issues will overlap or interrelate. The ExA will have regard to important and relevant matters during the examination and when it writes its recommendation report to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero after the examination has concluded. Issues will be considered during the proposed phases of construction, operation and decommissioning where relevant.

The issues have been listed alphabetically and that does not imply any order of importance. The items listed under each issue are indicative and do not preclude other sub-items being considered.

For the avoidance of doubt, the policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with PA2008 will be an integral part of the examination and are therefore not listed as principal issues. It should also be noted that whilst the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as main issues, the ExA will conduct the examination with these in mind. Likewise, matters concerning the provisions of the draft DCO and land rights (compulsory acquisition and temporary possession) are taken as read as being important and relevant issues in the examination and have not been listed below.

Consideration will be given to all relevant matters during the construction, operation and decommissioning activities associated with the proposed development, and cumulatively with other plans and projects, as necessary.

Principal Issue	Brief amplification, to include but not necessarily be limited to:
Agriculture and land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on agriculture, including: Implications for best and most versatile land and the proposals for soil management during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed development • Effects on food security

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on mineral reserves, including the safeguarded reserves in the area
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on designated sites • Effects on protected and other locally present species • Effects on habitats including habitats of principal importance • Effects on trees and hedgerows • The quantum of the proposals for providing biodiversity net gain (BNG) and the measures for securing that provision • Adequacy of any proposed mitigation measures
Climate change and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The resilience of the proposed development to climate change • The greenhouse gas assessed for the proposed development and the effects on climate change, including the appropriateness of making comparisons with a future baseline without decarbonisation • Waste management, including waste arising during the decommissioning phase
Cultural heritage and archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on the historic environment, above and below ground, including the effects on buried archaeology during the construction and decommissioning phases • Adequacy of any proposed mitigation measures
General, cross cutting and other planning matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scale of the proposed ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station, including the justification for adopting a solar array overplanting ratio of up to 1.6 • Intended generating capacity for the proposed development and the relationship with the grid connection limit • Whether the scale of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would constitute associated development, having regard to section 115(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 and the Guidance on associated development applications for major infrastructure projects (April 2013)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approach to the consideration of alternatives to the proposed development • Consideration of the cumulative effects of the proposed development with other developments in the area
Landscape and visual impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on the character and appearance of the area during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed development, including whether the proposed development would be of good design • Effects of glint and glare, including any implications for the safety of military aviation • Adequacy of any proposed mitigation measures
Population effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on health and wellbeing during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed development • Health and safety considerations associated with the operation of the proposed BESS • Economic and employment effects on the local and wider economy
Traffic and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipated routing for construction traffic and the potential effects • The effect of the proposed highway works on the operation of the strategic and local highway networks • Effects on the availability and useability of public rights of way • Proposed provision of permissive paths • Provision made for active public or shared transport access during the construction phase • Adequacy of any proposed mitigation measures
Water environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy of the Flood Risk Assessment and whether the sequential and exception tests have been passed where required • Effects on surface and groundwater quality • Effects on water supply • Management of surface water runoff • Whether there would be compliance with the Water Framework Directive • Adequacy of any proposed mitigation measures

Draft examination timetable

The Examining Authority (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 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.	Procedural deadline A Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any written submissions on the examination procedure, including any submissions about the use of virtual methods requests to be heard orally at the preliminary meeting (PM) and/or attend at the venue in person requests to participate in issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1), Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) and ISH2 and/or attend at the venue in person suggested locations for site inspections (accompanied or unaccompanied), including justification, for consideration by the ExA and the issues to be observed there and whether the location(s) require access to privately owned land 	Tuesday 30 December 2025
2.	Preliminary meeting	Tuesday 6 January 2026 10:00
3.	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Matters 	Tuesday 6 January 2026 14:30
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of ISH1 	Wednesday 7 January 2026 10:00
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) 	Thursday

		8 January 2026 10:00
6.	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Consent Order (DCO) matters 	Thursday 8 January 2026 14:30
7.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the examination timetable (Rule 8 letter) • the ExA's written questions (ExQ1) 	As soon as practicable after the preliminary meeting
8.	Deadline 1 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases and responses to any hearing action points arising from ISH1, CAH1 and ISH2 • local impact reports (LIRs) from local authorities • written representations (WR), including summaries of any WRs that exceed 1500 words • comments on relevant representations (RR) and any additional submissions received • requests by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) • requests by interested parties to be heard at an open floor hearing (OFH) • the applicant's draft itinerary for an accompanied site inspection (ASI) (if necessary) • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of Examination Procedure Rules 	Tuesday 20 January 2026
9.	Deadline 2 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responses to ExQ1 • comments on written representations 	Tuesday 3 February 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on the local impact reports • comments on the applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI (if necessary) • the applicant's updated documents – see Annex F • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of Examination Procedure Rules • comments from any party on any submissions and any information received at Deadline 1 	
10.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ExA's final itinerary for the ASI (if required) • the ExA's further written questions (ExQ2) (if required) 	Week commencing 23 February 2026
11.	Hearings and ASI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further ISHs (if required) • CAH2 (if required) • OFH (if required) • Time reserved for an ASI (if required) 	Week commencing 9 March 2026
12.	Deadline 3 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions and any responses to any hearing action points • responses to ExQ2 (if required) • all final and signed Statements of Common Ground to be included by the applicant and the other relevant interested parties – see the first of the ExA's procedural decision included in [PD-007] • a version of the draft development consent order (DCO) that includes agreed or partially agreed bespoke protective provisions - see the second of the ExA's procedural decisions included in [PD-005] • the applicant's updated documents – see Annex F 	Tuesday 24 March 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any further information requested by ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules comments from any party on any submissions and any information received at Deadline 2 	
13.	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the applicant's updated documents – see Annex F any further information requested by ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules comments from any party on any submissions and any information received at Deadline 3 	<p>Tuesday 31 March 2026</p>
14.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required) ExA's commentary on or schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required) The ExA's written questions (ExQ3) (if required) 	<p>Week commencing 13 April 2026</p>
15.	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the dDCO (if required) responses to the RIES (if required) responses to ExQ3 (if required) the applicant's updated documents – see Annex F any further information requested by ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules comments from any party on any submissions and any information received at Deadline 4 	<p>Tuesday 28 April 2026</p>
16.	Hearings	<p>Week commencing 11 May 2026</p>

	Time reserved for further ISH, CAH or OFH (if required)	
17.	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions and any responses to any hearing action points • the applicant's updated documents – see Annex F • any further information requested by ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules • comments from any party on any submissions and any information received at Deadline 5 	<p>Tuesday 2 June 2026</p>
18.	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA, from the applicant, of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final draft DCO to be submitted by the applicant in the SI template. <p>The applicant must 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 must also provide a clean (all tracking removed) standalone Microsoft Word version of the draft DCO, with no header or cover page.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A final version of the Explanatory Memorandum (clean and tracked) • Final Book of Reference (BoR) and a schedule of any changes to BoR • Final Statement of Reasons (clean and tracked), including updates to the Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought (Annex A) • Final Statement of Commonality for SoCGs • Final Guide to the Application (Navigation Document) • Final status of negotiations with Statutory Undertakers <p>For receipt by the ExA, from any IP, of:</p>	<p>Tuesday 9 June 2026</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 6 	
19.	Close of examination The ExA intends to close the examination on this date. See 'Note about the close of examination date'.	Monday 15 June 2026

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 (6 July 2026). The ExA may, however, decide to close the examination earlier and on the date specified in the timetable if it considers that the application and the relevant matters have been examined adequately.

Submission times for deadlines

The time for submission of documents at all deadlines in the timetable is **not later than 23:59** on the relevant deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA. However, as explained in Annex B (The examination process) above, the deadlines included in the examination timetable are not later than dates and there is therefore no reason why submissions relating to a particular deadline cannot be submitted in advance of the stated deadline.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the deadlines 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. If the ExA decides to issue a RIES, comments on it will be invited and any received comments 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.

Notification of initial hearings

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following initial hearing/ hearings:

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue and Joining details
Tuesday 6 January 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Environmental Matters , including the consideration of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the scale of the proposed development and its contribution to meeting the need for electricity generation alternatives to the proposed development effects for agriculture and land use effects for cultural heritage and archaeology effects for traffic and transport the proposals for biodiversity net gain 	Registration and seating available at venue from: 14:00 Virtual registration process from: 14:00 Hearing starts: 14:30	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
Wednesday 7 January 2026	Continuation of Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Environmental Matters	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:30	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR and

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue and Joining details
		Virtual registration process from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
Thursday 8 January 2026	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) , including the consideration of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the applicant's case for compulsory acquisition (CA) and temporary possession (TP) progress with negotiations relating to the CA and TP powers sought the extent to which the proposals for the CA of land for biodiversity net gain purposes would accord with the relevant legislation and guidance 	Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:30 Virtual registration process from: 09:30 Hearing starts: 10:00	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
Thursday 8 January 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) , including the consideration of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the justification for the Articles; 	Registration and seating available at venue from: 14:00	County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue and Joining details
	<p>Requirements and other provisions included in the draft Development Consent Order (DCO);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the potential need for any additional provisions, including protective provisions within the draft DCO battery safety management and measures sought by the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service general drafting points within the draft DCO 	<p>Virtual registration process from: 14:00</p> <p>Hearing starts: 14:30</p>	<p>Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered</p>
<p>NOTE: If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification that a particular date is no longer required will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage, providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel them.</p>			

You must register by completing the [event participation form](#) by 30 December 2025 if you intend to participate in the hearings and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe any of the hearings then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical hearings at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **30 December 2025** using the [event participation form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **30 December 2025**.

Any request to participate in a hearing **must 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 compulsory acquisition hearings, 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

Requests to participate should be made using the [event participation form](#) on or before **procedural deadline A**.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend any of the hearings, either virtually or in person.

Hearing agendas

High-level agendas for these hearings have been included in this notification on the [project webpage](#) to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate.

For ISH1, ISH2 and CAH1 the ExA will publish detailed draft agenda on the project webpage at least 5 working days in advance of the hearing dates. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For open floor hearings an agenda may not be published.

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 Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public 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](#)

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.

Other procedural decisions made and/or advice provided by the Examining Authority

The following procedural decisions and/or advice have been made/or is provided by the Examining Authority (ExA):

1. Ethical procurement for imported plant or other equipment

Many of the submitted RRs raise the issue of ethical procurement in the supply chain for imported solar panels and other plant or equipment required to implement the proposed development.

Issues concerning the ethical procurement of imported plant and equipment are relevant to the United Kingdom's trade policy and international relations, rather than being land use planning considerations under the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). With respect to this matter IPs' attention is drawn to the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero's comments in the decision letter for the [Mallard Pass solar farm](#):

" 4.106 ... The ExA gives very minimal weight to the concerns raised in respect of ethical procurement and do not consider it affects its overall conclusions on the Application [ER 3.9.93].

4.107 The Secretary of State agrees with the ExA that the implications of materials sourcing have been reasonably assessed where relevant to other topics, notably on the potential climate change implications of the Proposed Development. However, the Secretary of State does not consider that ethical procurement is a relevant planning matter in itself in the determination of this Application and, whilst noting the concerns of IPs, this matter is therefore not ascribed any weight in the planning balance."

Having regard to: 1) how the Secretary of State approached the matter of ethical procurement in determining the Mallard Pass application; and 2) ethical procurement being outside the scope of the matters addressed in the relevant designated National Policy Statements, ethical procurement matters are unlikely to attract weight when the ExA makes its recommendation(s) about the proposed development to the Secretary of State following the examination's conclusion. The ExA therefore takes the view that written or oral submissions relating to ethical procurement during the forthcoming examination for the proposed development are likely to be given no weight or very limited weight. IPs when making written or oral comments about the proposed development are encouraged to restrict their submissions about the proposed development to its effects on the land it would occupy and/or the area within the vicinity of that land.

In the event of ethical procurement submissions being raised during the course of a hearing, the ExA may refuse to allow such representations to be made, having regard to the provisions of section 94(8) of the Planning Act 2008 (Hearings: general provisions).

2. Written representations (WRs)

WRs from interested parties are to be submitted by **deadline 1 (20 January 2026)** together with a summary in the case of any WRs that exceed 1,500 words. The applicant will then be expected to provide a response to any WRs by **deadline 2 (3 February 2026)**.

IPs should note historically WRs were for submission at an examination's second deadline. However, further to timing amendments made in April 2024¹ to The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, the submission of WRs has been brought forward by the ExA to deadline 1. That accords with a concurrent amendment included to the Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015² under which persons submitting relevant representations (RRs) should have, where practicable, submitted the full particulars of their cases in their RRs.

3. Local impact reports (LIR)

North Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and any other local authorities who intend to submit a LIR must ensure that appended to their respective LIR are copies of all of the relevant adopted development plan policies along with the explanatory/supporting text for those policies. Any local planning authority that fails to comply with this procedural decision will be requested by the ExA to resubmit its LIR with the missing policies and/or explanatory/supporting text added. In preparing their LIRs, the local authorities should also advise whether they have any new development plan documents in preparation and whether any change in the status of their development plan is expected to arise prior to the close of the examination.

All LIRs must be submitted not later than **deadline 1**.

4. Accompanied site inspection – suggested locations

The draft examination timetable at **Anex D** to this letter includes a date reserved for an accompanied site inspection (ASI) during the week commencing 9 March 2026.

The ExA requests that interested parties submit suggested locations for the ExA to visit as part of an ASI by **procedural deadline A (30 December 2025)**. The request must include:

- sufficient information to identify the location
- the issues to be observed at the location
- information on whether the site can be accessed via public land
- the reason why the location has been suggested.

¹ The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2024

² Regulation 3 of The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024

Interested parties should be aware that ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the proposed development. However, participants may be invited by the ExA to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

The applicant is requested to prepare a draft itinerary for the ASI to be submitted by **deadline 1**. This should include:

- relevant locations referred to in the relevant representations received
- any other locations at which the applicant has predicted likely significant environmental effects
- the locations suggested by interested parties submitted by **procedural deadline A**

Comments by interested parties on the applicant's draft itinerary must be submitted by **deadline 2**.

The ExA 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. The ExA will also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that those sites could be inspected by the ExA as part of an unaccompanied site inspection on an access required basis.

The ExA will publish its final itinerary at least 5 working days before the date of the ASI.

5. The applicant's document updates

The draft examination timetable in Annex D includes deadlines for the applicant to provide updates to the examination. This will help with the smooth running of the examination and will ensure that the ExA has the most up-to-date information at that time. This annex sets out the ExA's for the matters to be included in those updates.

a) Schedule of the latest versions of the applicant's submission documents and documents to be certified

The ExA requests that the applicant provides, at each deadline, an updated version of its "Guide to the Application"/Navigation Document [APP-003] **in both clean and tracked forms**. Each update to [APP-003] (which will be allocated a new Examination Library reference number on each occasion it is updated) should list of: 1) the most up-to-date version of all documents submitted by the applicant either: 1) as part the originally submitted application and then subsequently updated during the course of either the pre-examination (namely [AS-001 to AS-102]) or examination periods; and 2) any other documents submitted by the applicant during the course of the examination (for example responses to the ExA's written questions and post hearing submissions) and should

record any updates to any such documents that may subsequently be revised during the examination. The updates to the Navigation Document must record the following details:

- The reference number allocated to it by the applicant and its version number or letter
- The submission date, namely the application date for documents that have not been or become the subject of a revision or revisions; or the relevant examination deadline for non-application documents
- The Examination Library reference number allocated to the document by the Planning Inspectorate (when known)

A final version of the Navigation Document must be submitted before the close of the examination. All examination documents submitted should include a version number and date.

b) Updates to the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) and Explanatory Memorandum (EM)

To include:

- The latest, fully up-to-date versions of the draft DCO and EM
- Clean copies and copies showing tracked changes to the immediately preceding version of the draft DCO and the EM
- An updated 'Schedule of Changes to the draft DCO, setting out the reasons for the changes included in each update
- For each substantive update of the draft DCO, a clean Microsoft Word version, in addition to clean and tracked changes PDF versions, shall be submitted.

This request has been made because increasingly ExAs have been encountering during their reporting periods Microsoft Word versions of draft DCOs that have broken templates. A draft DCO with a broken template can be very difficult to use when a recommended version is being prepared by the ExA for the Secretary of State's consideration, irrespective of what the ExA's overall recommendation about an application is. Accordingly, the ExA wishes to have Microsoft Word versions of the draft DCO available to it regularly during the examination so that it can check the functionality of this format version of the draft DCO in advance of the examination's close.

In the event of the ExA encountering functionality issues with the Microsoft Word version of the draft DCO during the examination that will be drawn to the applicant's attention, with an expectation that the applicant resubmits the draft DCO using a Microsoft Word template that has not become broken.

c) Updates to the Book of Reference (BoR) and Statement of Reasons (SoR)

To include:

- The latest, fully up-to-date versions of the BoR and SoR
- Clean copies and copies showing tracked changes compared with the previous versions
- A 'Schedule of Land Rights Changes' report, or equivalent, setting out the reasons for the changes included in each update

d) Updates to the Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker included as Annex A of the SoR APP-020]

To include clear highlighting/signposting where updates have been made within the tracker since the previous deadline.

e) Updates to other documents for example the Environmental Statement (ES) and framework management plans

In the event of revised versions of documents such as the ES (individual chapters or appendices), framework management plans or other documents in the series of documents numbered 7.1 to 7.18 being submitted, clean copies and copies showing tracked changes highlighting the changes made to the previous version of the document should be submitted. In instances of changes (other than minor typographical corrections) being made, a summary explanation of the reason(s) for those changes being made should be provided.

f) Schedule of progress in securing other consents [APP-182]

To include:

- An updated 'Consents Agreement and Position Statement' document required for the delivery of the proposed development, including the name of the consent, the relevant legislation (or policy or guidance), the consenting authority, the scope of the consent, why it is required, and when it is expected to be obtained.
- A summary of the up-to-date position in respect of obtaining the necessary consents and whether there is any reason to believe that any consent will not be granted.
- Where the Environment Agency or Natural England would be the consenting authority, and without prejudice to their subsequent decision, written confirmation of whether they have any reason to believe that any consent would not be granted. As well as being required for the ExA to assess the adequacy of the applicant's mitigation proposals, this is required for the ExA to report any known impediments to the Secretary of State.
- A summary of the progress made since the last update, any outstanding matters, the next steps to be taken and the progress

anticipated by the next deadline and by the close of the examination.

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 under the [documents tab](#) 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 FosseGreenEnergy@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 button under the [documents tab](#). The EL is updated regularly throughout the examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document
- each representation made to the examination
- each procedural decision made by the Examining Authority

Each document is given a unique reference 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 Find a National Infrastructure Project 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 D** 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.