



Preliminary meeting note

Application: Fosse Green Energy
Reference: EN010154
Time and date: 10:00, Tuesday 6 January 2026
Venue: County Assembly Rooms, 76 Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR

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

Grahame Gould, welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the panel of Examining Inspectors, the Examining Authority (ExA) and Frances Wilkinson as a panel member to examine the Fosse Green Energy application.

Mr. Gould explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government on 22 August 2025.

Mr. Gould explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by Fosse Green Energy Limited ('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.

Mr. Gould 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. Recording

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

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained The Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR 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), further info 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. Initial assessment of principal issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the initial assessment of principal issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [annex C](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 9 December 2025 and asked for any observations on them.

North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) sought clarification on how effects associated with the “Stepping Out” network of walks are to be considered, in reference to its written submission and NKDC highlighted that there are different aspects to this including transport and traffic, population effects and landscape and visual effects, it queried which part of the hearings, and the examination would this be addressed in.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) advised that the topic of waste under climate change should not be limited to decommissioning waste and should include waste arising from the construction phase, repairs as well as the cumulative waste impact.

Marianne Overton for Cliff Villages Solar Action Group queried how Health impacts would be included in the examination.

The applicant highlighted that it did not have any issues to raise with respect to the ExA’s initial assessment of principal issues but highlighted that under the issue of Population Effects there is a subtitle of ‘Effects on health and wellbeing during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed development.’

6. Examination Timetable

The ExA noted requests, already received in writing to amend the draft examination timetable contained in [annex D](#) of Rule 6 letter and also welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the timetable issued with the rule 8 letter.

The examination timetable can be found in the [rule 8](#) letter published on 14 January 2026.

7. Hearings and site inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue specific hearings
- Compulsory acquisition hearings
- Open floor hearings
- Accompanied site inspections

- Unaccompanied site inspections

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. These were duly noted and considered by the ExA.

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'](#)

8. 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 [\[PD-005\]](#), [\[PD-006\]](#), [\[PD-007\]](#) [annex F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter [\[PD-008\]](#) and [\[PD-009\]](#).

The ExA highlighted that time has been reserved for hearings to take place during the week commencing the 9 March 2026 and 11 May 2026. The ExA clarified that the week of the 9 March 2026 will include time for an open floor hearing.

The applicant raised concern over the tightness of the deadlines between Deadline 1 and Deadline 2 and requested whether the ExA would consider moving Deadline 2 back one week to 10 February 2026.

The applicant suggested that it provide an update on the statement of common ground (SoCG) by 2 March 2026 to assist with the preparations for the week of the hearings commencing 9 March 2026.

The ExA confirmed that it will be necessary that the applicant and all interested parties who will be entering into SoCG meet the examination midpoint deadline. The ExA highlighted that this does not mean that once a SoCG has been submitted in its final form, negotiations cannot continue between parties and suggested that an addendum could potentially be submitted to clarify the parties' position beyond the examination's midpoint deadline.

The ExA advised that it would be preferable for LCC and the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service to submit separate SoCGs, although it was recognised that an addendum to the LCC's SoCG might cover the matters for consideration between the fire and rescue service and the applicant.

NKDC identified that there is only a week between Deadline 3 and Deadline 4 and explained that it understands the time pressures of the process and stated that it would try to meet this, but it may request extensions of time if it was not possible to meet the deadlines.

LCC stated that although its Local Impact Report (LIR) has been published, it has not yet been approved by the members of the council for submission as an examination document and therefore its contents maybe subject to change. LCC highlighted that its LIR is due to be considered at a committee meeting on 12 January 2026 and that the final version of its LIR will be submitted at Deadline 1.

LCC requested that at future ISHs cumulative impacts, landscape and visual and public health matters are considered.

NKDC advised that its LIR was approved on 16 December and is in the public domain.

The applicant highlighted that it has been following the progression of the LIRs.

Nick Lyons of Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council expressed concern that holding hearings so close to the Christmas break and within the daytime, has limited participation and requested that there is an open floor hearing held in future hearings in March.

Marianne Overton for Cliff Villages Solar Action Group made a formal request for an open floor hearing to be held and highlighted that it had been difficult to prepare for the January hearings due to the Christmas break.

The ExA noted that both NKDC and the applicant have put forward potential locations for accompanied site inspections (ASI). NKDC indicated that its requested locations could be viewed as part of an unaccompanied site inspection (USI). The ExA explained it will consider the applicant's suggestions along with suggestions that have been made for USI locations and highlighted that it will also consider the suggested locations from Mrs Heard. The ExA also stated that where necessary, it might arrange an access required site inspection (ARSI), which is where the landowner, on the ExA's request, gives the ExA consent to enter its land.

Marianne Overton of Cliff Action Group questioned whether if it submits further suggested locations if the ExA would use its discretion to accept this.

The ExA noted that since the issuing of the Rule 6 letter the applicant had submitted a notification of a change request on 9 December 2025 and that the ExA had commented on that in [\[PD-009\]](#).

The applicant highlighted that there were three proposed changes to the submitted application: reduction in red line boundary at Thurlby, arising from discussions with the landowner and removes an area of approximately 13 hectares of the proposed Order Limits to the north of Thurlby; removal of proposed solar array in field 46 resulting in a consequential reduction in visual impacts at Grange Cottage; and the removal of hedgerows at River Farm, following discussions with the landowner.

The applicant stated that it received the ExA's response to its change notification on the 9 December and requested two further documents or additional information, which has now been submitted.

The ExA advised in [\[PD-009\]](#) it had confirmed that the documents that accompanied the change notification had been published and included in the Examination Library. The ExA also clarified that the discussions at the hearings held between 6 to 8 January 2026 would be based only on the documents submitted by the applicant prior to the submission of the change notification on 9 December 2025.

Any other matters

An attendee raised a point regarding the applicant's consultations with various government departments and the ExA clarified the roles of different parts of the government in the formulation of the policy included in the designated National Policy

Statements and in examinations. Concerns were raised by parties regarding a feeling of predetermined outcomes and disadvantage that may be experienced by some unrepresented parties. The ExA explained that submissions from interested parties and affected persons would be considered impartially it.

Close

The Preliminary Meeting was closed at 11:52.