

**Planning Act 2008 – section 91****Application by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited for an order granting development consent for Peartree Hill Solar Farm (EN010157)****Revised agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) dealing with environmental matters**

Notification of the date, time, location and attendance instructions for ISH2 was initially provided in the Examining Authority's (ExA) [letter](#) dated 23 September 2025. The date of ISH2 was subsequently amended as per the ExA's [letter](#) dated 15 October 2025.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 23 October 2025</b>
<b>Seating and registration from</b>	<b>09:00am</b>
<b>Hearing start time:</b>	<b>09:30am</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Tickton Grange Hotel, Main St, Tickton, Beverley HU17 9SH and Virtual event (Microsoft Teams<sup>1</sup>)</b>
<b>Access and parking:</b>	<b>Please contact the venue for information</b>

**Arrangements Conference (if attending virtually)**

Please join at 09:00am. The Case Team will admit you from the virtual lobby and register your attendance. The lobby is silent, so please be patient and we will admit you as soon as possible. Where necessary breaks will be provided during the hearing.

**Agenda****1. Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing****2. Noise and vibration**

- Clarification regarding the applicant's response to the ExA's written question ExQ2.11.2.

**3. Land, soil and groundwater**

- To what extent the Environment Agency's outstanding concerns have been addressed, including matters relating to:
  - The Water Framework Directive (WFD).

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<sup>1</sup> Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance of the meeting to those who register to participate.

- Water Environment Regulations Compliance/ WFD – assessment and mitigation.
- Water supply assessment – assessment and mitigation.
- Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) – mitigation.
- Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) – mitigation.
- Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) – mitigation.
- Groundwater Protection – assessment and mitigation.
- Further clarification on the volumes of water required and intended source of supply for Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD).
- Surface water – Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) fires and potential for contamination.
- Potential cumulative impact of potentially culverting rivers in multiple locations.
- Disapplication of permits.
- Licencing matters.

#### **4. Health and safety**

- Consideration of health and safety matters around the proposed BESS.
- Clarification of reasons for a dispersed BESS arrangement rather than clustered.
- To what extent the applicant has liaised with Humberside Fire and Rescue Service over the oBSMP and what further steps can/ will be taken.

#### **5. Landscape and visual**

- Consideration of potential effects of construction lighting.
- Consideration of the scope/ opportunity for additional planting and advance planting to further reduce potential effects.
- Consideration of cumulative effects and the applicant's conclusions.
- Consideration of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy paragraph 5.10.26, and for the applicant to expand on its response to the ExA's written question ExQ1.10.25 in this regard.

#### **6. Heritage**

- To what extent East Riding of Yorkshire Council's (ERYC) outstanding concerns have been addressed, including:
  - The effect on the setting of the Church of St. Margaret (grade II\* listed).
  - A proposed passing place opposite Meaux Abbey farm (grade II listed).
- Discussion regarding differences in view of harm to designated heritage assets between applicant, ERYC and Historic England.

#### **7. Biodiversity**

- To what extent Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's concerns in its relevant representation/ statement of common ground have been addressed.
- To what extent Natural England's (NE) outstanding concerns have been addressed, including:
  - Potential impacts related to pink-footed geese.
  - Further details regarding management and monitoring measures in relation to bird mitigation areas.
  - Scape mitigation details, to ensure that the scrapes would remain hydrologically isolated.

- Noisy works – location and impact on birds and mitigation.
- Bentonite breakout – edits to the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.
- Protected species – the use of mammal gates.
- Noting the applicant's response to the ExA's written question ExQ2.6.3 setting out that no further noise modelling is proposed, whether discussions with NE indicate that this is likely to be agreed.
- To what extent ERYC's outstanding concerns have been addressed, including:
  - Mitigation areas – potential for disturbance (including discussion around the forthcoming change request and permissive paths).
  - The size of potential welfare facilities on Figiam Pastures Local Wildlife Site (should these be necessary).
  - Loss of category B trees and potential impacts to T076, a category A oak.
  - Minor discrepancies between the biodiversity net gain (BNG) metric and the BNG assessment, together with further justification behind some of the assumptions of the assessment.

## **8. Transport and access**

- Consideration of the use of Park Lane for construction access to Creyke Beck substation, the potential for highway safety related issues and the potential for further mitigation measures.
- Consideration of the potential for any alternatives to the use of Park Lane, such as the use of an access proposed directly off the A1079 associated with an unrelated planning application for works at Creyke Beck substation.
- Consideration/ clarification of maintenance access to Fields E15 to E17, including for any replacement infrastructure, and potential for effects.
- Consideration of potential construction traffic/ routing and implications for the implementation of Field House Solar Farm.

## **9. Application documents**

- Clarification of updates to documents following change requests and having regard to the Environmental Statement Addendum.

## **10. Review of issues and action points**

## **11. Any other matters**

## **12. Closure of hearing**

### **Notes on participation, conduct and management of the hearing**

All interested parties (IP) are invited to attend issue specific hearings. The event will also be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project page](#) of the Find a National Infrastructure Project website closer to the event date.

Each IP is entitled to make oral representations at the hearing. However, this is subject to the ExA's power to control the hearing.

The ExA would find it helpful for the following attendees to participate in ISH2:

- **The applicant** - including representatives of the applicant who are able to discuss the matters on the agenda
- **East Riding of Yorkshire Council**
- **Environment Agency**
- **Natural England**
- **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**
- **Humberside Fire and Rescue Service**
- **Any other IPs** - with an interest in environmental matters

Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the hearing will be conducted to ensure that legal representation is not required. Guidance under PA2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that it is the ExA that will probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. The hearing will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered. If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at any hearing, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to written questions.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The ExA may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.

All examination documents are provided with a unique identification number for referencing purposes shown in square brackets [ ].

The evidence presented orally at ISH2 should be included in post-hearing submissions and submitted by **Friday 31 October 2025 (deadline 4)**.

### *Contingencies*

The ExA will endeavour to hear all participants. If the ISH, or parts of it, is unable to proceed, for example for technical reasons, then the ExA may adjourn incomplete business to reserved hearings later in the examination timetable. Notice of any adjournments will be provided on the project page of the Find a National Infrastructure Project website.

### **Purpose of the ISH**

The main purpose of ISH2 is to undertake an examination of various environmental matters. In particular, to review environmental impact considerations, including matters arising from the application documentation and representations relating to:

- Noise and vibration.
- Land, soil and groundwater.
- Health and safety.
- Landscape and visual.
- Heritage.
- Biodiversity.
- Transport and access.