

**Application by Elements Green Trent Limited for an order granting development consent for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park**

**Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) dealing with general and overarching matters**

<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Issue Specific Hearing 1</b>	<b>Wednesday 26 November 2025</b>	Sir Stuart Goodwin Suite, Newark Showground, Lincoln Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 2NY  and  By virtual means using Microsoft Teams
	<b>Hearing starts at 2pm</b>	
	Registration and seating available at venue from 1.30pm and virtual registration process from 1.30pm	
	<b>Thursday 27 November 2025</b>	
	<b>Hearing starts at 10am</b>	
	Registration and seating available at venue from 9.30pm and virtual registration process from 9.30pm	

**The Examining Authority (ExA) anticipates that items 3.1 and 3.2 will be covered on Wednesday 26 November, and that items 3.3 and 3.4 will not be considered until Thursday 27 November**

**Agenda**

- 1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the hearing**
- 2. Purpose of Issue Specific Hearing 1**
- 3. Matters for discussion at the hearing:**

### **3.1 Site selection and design evolution**

The main purpose of this item will be to gain an overview of the application as a starting point for consideration of more detailed matters.

The ExA will ask the applicant to give a 10 minute presentation overview of the proposed development, approach to the identification of site requirements, site selection and the design of the application in terms of whether all relevant legislation and policy has been complied with.

This will be followed by more detailed discussion and questioning from the ExA in relation to:

- Generating capacity and load factors, including the approach to overplanting
- The development and application of design parameters
- Consideration of alternatives
- Best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land
- The role and status of NG+

The ExA will invite the host local authorities (HLAs) to comment on any of the general matters considered, followed by statutory consultees, then statutory undertakers and then any other interested parties.

### **3.2 Climate and sustainability**

The applicant will be asked to explain and justify its approach to the calculation of GHG emissions for the various phases to determine whole life cycle benefits and harms.

This may include policy, guidance and recent comparator projects and independent scrutiny as appropriate.

The underlying assumptions will be explored including the forecasting of operation and how the battery energy storage system (BESS) has been considered.

The applicant will be asked to explain and justify its approach to how significance has been assessed.

At appropriate points other interested parties will be invited to comment and the applicant will be invited to respond.

### **3.3 Biodiversity and ecology**

The purpose of this item is to gain an understanding of the applicant's approach to the biodiversity mitigations and enhancements, including how the biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment has been undertaken.

The applicant will be asked to present a short summary and explain why and how the various parcels of land within the order limits set aside for biodiversity mitigation

and enhancement have been chosen, the role and function of the different aspects of the biodiversity mitigations and enhancements included within the outline landscape and ecology management plan (oLEMP), and their role in relation to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed development.

Questions will consider the provisions included within the oLEMP and the draft development consent order (dDCO).

The applicant will also be asked to briefly summarise the BNG assessment principles and methodology. Questions will consider the assumptions and approach to the assessment.

The ExA will be asking questions on the points raised by HLA's, statutory consultees, and interested parties, before inviting comments from those parties.

### **3.4 Cumulative environmental effects**

The purpose of this item is to gain an understanding of the approach and methodology used to assess cumulative effects.

The applicant will be asked to explain their methodology for the assessment of cumulative effects, and how this has informed the findings of the Environmental Statement, with particular reference to:

- The relationship between existing and planned developments, noting the scale of the proposed development clustering of solar schemes in the sub-region
- The assessment of landscape effects
- BMV agricultural land

The ExA be asking questions before inviting comments on the points raised from HLA's, statutory consultees, and interested parties.

### **3.5 Additional points of consideration or clarification**

#### **4. Review of issues and actions arising**

#### **5. Any other business**

#### **6. Close**

### **Purpose of ISH**

The main purpose of ISH1 is to undertake an examination of various environmental impact matters arising from consideration of the application and representations. The focus will be on gaining an overview of key elements of the applicant as a framework for more detailed consideration as the examination progresses.

## **Attendees**

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing.

- Applicant
- Newark and Sherwood District Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Interested parties who submitted comments on any of the topics proposed to be covered at this hearing

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All Interested Parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing in person, who has not already advised the case team of this, should do so as soon as possible.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

## **Registration process**

Parties who have registered to speak (both in person and virtually) will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone. To enable the hearing to start on time at 2pm on 26 November 2025 and 10am on 27 November 2025, those attending virtually should join promptly at 1.30pm and 9.30pm on those days to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

## **Procedure at ISH1**

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.