



Planning Inspectorate

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

Our Ref: EN010162

Date: 2 December 2025

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 8 and 9

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

Examination timetable and procedure

This letter (the Rule 8 Letter) provides important information about the examination of this application. The letter includes:

- The examination timetable
- An invitation to submit written representations
- Other procedural decisions made by the ExA
- Information about the availability of examination documents
- Guidance on the use of the 'Have your say' tab on the project webpage

All documentation associated with this examination, including a note of the preliminary meeting and the recording of that meeting, can be viewed under the [documents tab](#) on the [project webpage](#) of the Find a National Infrastructure Project website .

The examination timetable

We have made a procedural decision about the way the application will be examined. The final examination timetable is attached at **annex A** to this letter.

The examination timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our Rule 6 letter. In finalising the examination timetable, we have considered requests and

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suggestions made orally or in writing to the preliminary meeting. A list of the main changes we made to the draft examination timetable is set out at **annex B** to this letter.

Please note that the examination timetable contains a number of deadlines for receipt of information by The Planning Inspectorate. All deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, we may disregard them.

We request that all interested parties make their submissions using the 'Have your say' page on the project webpage on or before the applicable deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the 'Have your say' page.

If we consider it necessary to vary the examination timetable during the examination, notification will be sent to interested parties, statutory parties and other persons invited to the preliminary meeting. The changes will be published on the [project webpage](#).

Written representations

All interested parties are now invited to submit written representations and any comments on the relevant representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **deadline 1** in the examination timetable.

Written representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our initial assessment of principle issues.

Any person, other than the applicant, who submits a written representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested parties should also provide with their written representations any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the examination (see paragraph 009 of the [government's guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects](#) for further information about written representations).

We have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the examination (see **annex A**).

Any written representations and any further written submissions requested during the examination, that exceed 1500 words, should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/ evidence hosted on third party websites. See The Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions.

Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority

Annex B to this letter contains important details and clarifications about other procedural decisions we made at, or following, the preliminary meeting. These include:

- Alteration to the deadline for requests for accompanied and unaccompanied site inspections
- Alteration to the deadline for the applicants draft itinerary for accompanied site inspections
- Alteration of the date of publication by the ExA of the final itinerary for the ASI (if required)
- Addition of further dates for accompanied and unaccompanied site inspections

Format of examination events

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when we provide formal notification of each hearing in advance of it taking place.

Hearings and site inspections

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 also 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](#)

On this basis the examination timetable at **annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held. We will notify all interested parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the examination in advance of them taking place. That notification will include a deadline for interested parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to participate at the notified hearing(s).

Annex C provides details about what interested parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings.

We will also undertake site inspections. Where we are able to view the site from public land we are likely to do this unaccompanied and a note of the site inspection will be published on the project webpage. The examination timetable reserves time for us to undertake an accompanied site inspection (ASI) during w/c 23 February 2026. We 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. We will 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 an unaccompanied site inspection on an access required basis.

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 from the Planning Inspectorate 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 E** to this letter.

You can also use the 'Get updates' button on the project webpage 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 Examining Authority) 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

Andrea Mageean

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

- A** Examination timetable
- B** Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- D** Examination documents
- E** Information about the 'Have your say' tab

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

Examination Timetable

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"> written submissions on the examination procedure, including any submissions about the use of virtual methods requests to speak at the preliminary meeting requests to speak at is sue specific hearing 1 (ISH1) requests to speak at open floor hearing 1 (OFH1) suggested locations for site inspections (accompanied or unaccompanied), including justification, for consideration by the ExA 	Tuesday 18 November 2025
2.	Preliminary Meeting (PM)	Wednesday 26 November 2025 (am)
3.	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1)	Wednesday 26 November 2025 (pm)
4.	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1)	Thursday 27 November 2025 (am)
5.	Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)	Thursday 27 November 2025 (pm)
6.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the examination timetable 	As soon as practicable after the preliminary meeting
7.	Deadline 1 For receipt by the ExA of:	Wednesday 10 December 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • post hearing submissions, including written summaries of any oral cases heard in ISH1 and OFH1 • local impact reports (LIR) from the local authorities • comments on relevant representations (RR) • summaries of all RR exceeding 1500 words • written representations (WR) and summaries of any WR which exceed 1500 words • initial statements of common ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA • requests by interested parties to be heard at a further open floor hearing • requests by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) • any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules • comments on any further information/submissions accepted by the ExA • Updates from the applicant • suggested locations for site inspections (accompanied or unaccompanied), including justification, for consideration by the ExA 	
8.	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1) 	Friday 19 December 2025
9.	Deadline 2 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responses to ExQ1 • responses to WRs • comments on responses to RRs • comments on the applicant's draft itinerary for ASI (if required) • comments on LIRs • comments from affected persons on applicant's updated land rights tracker • comments on any updated or additional documents from the applicant 	Friday 16 January 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on any additional submissions received by Deadline 1 and accepted by the ExA (if required) • responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules • applicant's draft itinerary for an accompanied site inspection (ASI) (if required) • Updates from the applicant 	
10.	Week reserved for hearings, if required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue specific hearing (ISH2) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) • Further Open Floor Hearing (OFH2) 	W/C Monday 2 February 2026
11.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ExA's final itinerary for the ASI (if required) 	Friday 13 February 2026
12.	Deadline 3 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on responses to ExQ1 • comments on responses to LIRs • comments on responses to WRs • post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of any oral cases made at hearings held during w/c 2 February • comments on any additional submissions received by Deadline 2 and accepted by the ExA (if required) • updates from the applicant • any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules 	Wednesday 18 February 2026
13.	Week reserved for unaccompanied and accompanied site inspections (if required)	W/C Monday 23 February 2026
14.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • second written questions (ExQ2), (if required) • the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required) • the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO (if required) 	Wednesday 4 March 2026

15.	Deadline 4 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responses to ExQ2 • responses to RIES (if required) • comments on any revised SoCG • comments on applicant's revised dDCO • comments on any additional submissions received by D3 and accepted by the ExA (if required) • responses to any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of Examination Procedure Rules • updates from the applicant 	Wednesday 25 March 2026
16.	Deadline 5 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on ExQ2 (if required) • comments on responses to the ExA's proposed dDCO (if required) • comments on any additional submissions received by Deadline 4 and accepted by the ExA (if required) • responses to any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of Examination Procedure Rules • updates from the applicant 	Wednesday 15 April 2026
17.	Deadline 6 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summary statements from parties regarding matters that they have previously raised during the examination that have not been resolved to their satisfaction • comments on submissions for deadline 5 • any other information requested by the ExA for this deadline • final updates from the applicant 	Thursday 23 April 2026
18.	The ExA intends to close the examination on the date specified.	Tuesday 28 April 2026

	See 'Note about the close of the examination date' below.	
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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. 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 relevant matters have been examined adequately.

Submission times for deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

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. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received 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.

Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

We have made a number of procedural decisions following the preliminary meeting:

1. Examination timetable

We are grateful for comments made at the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and representations made at Procedural Deadline A. The ExA has made the following changes to the timetable:

- **Suggested location for accompanied and unaccompanied site inspections:** we have extended the deadline for suggested locations for accompanied and unaccompanied site inspections to **deadline 1**.
- **Applicant's draft itinerary for accompanied site inspections:** the applicants draft itinerary for accompanied site inspections is requested at **deadline 2**.
- Publication by the ExA of the **final itinerary for the ASI** (if required): on the basis of the alterations to dates for suggested site inspections, the ExA will publish the final itinerary for accompanied site inspections (if required) on **13 February 2026**.
- **Time reserved for accompanied site inspections:** noting that hearings will occupy a considerable proportion of w/c 2 February 2026, we added a separate opportunity for site inspections during w/c 23 February 2026.

We have also considered the comments made about the timing of **deadline 2**. There are 4 weeks between the issuing of the Examining Authority's (ExA) First Written Questions and deadline 2. Therefore, notwithstanding the Christmas and New Year break, we consider there to be sufficient time for parties to respond. This is also and in line with timescales set by other NSIP applications over this period. The ExA also wishes to maintain a sufficient period of time after deadline 2 to allow for preparation for the February hearings.

More generally, we have considered the comments made at the Preliminary Meeting about the **length of the examination**. We do not consider it to be necessary to amend the timetable which has been set in line with examinations for similar nationally significant solar farm proposals. At this point we consider this period is sufficient to enable the application to be thoroughly assessed. However, we are mindful of the comments made by members of the public about the pressures of dealing with large volumes of information within the examination period. Should matters arise which justify extending this period, we will consider making amendments to the timetable.

2. Statements of common ground (SoCG)

The applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it would aid the smooth running of the examination if all interested parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the applicant in respect of their production. We set out in **annex F** of our **Rule 6 Letter** the SoCGs we request are submitted during the examination of this application. Final signed versions of the SoCGs listed below are requested to be submitted **by the applicant to deadline 6**:

- A. SoCG between the applicant and Newark and Sherwood District Council
- B. SoCG between the applicant and Nottinghamshire County Council
- C. SoCG between the applicant and Environment Agency
- D. SoCG between the applicant and Historic England
- E. SoCG between the applicant and Natural England and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- F. SoCG between the applicant and National Highways
- G. SoCG between the applicant and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue
- H. SoCG between the applicant and National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
- I. SoCG between the applicant and National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc
- J. SoCG between the applicant and RWE Generation UK plc
- K. SoCG between the applicant and National Gas Transmission plc
- L. SoCG between the applicant and Cadent Gas Ltd
- M. SoCG between the applicant and Trent Valley International Drainage Board
- N. SoCG between the applicant and Severn Trent Water Limited
- O. SoCG between the applicant and Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

Additionally, following the discussion at ISH1, the ExA has requested that the applicant and Norwell Solar Farm Steering Group should work together to produce a SoCG in relation to the applicant's greenhouse gas assessment.

All of the SoCGs listed A-O above should cover the articles and requirements in the draft DCO. Any interested party seeking that an article or requirement is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought.

The content of SoCGs will help to inform us about the need to hold any issue specific hearings during the examination, and to enable us and the applicant to give notice of such hearings in advance of them taking place.

Arrangements for hearings

Our examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions. However the examination timetable reserves periods of time for hearings to be held (if required).

Requests to participate at hearings

Interested parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in an open floor hearing (OFH) or compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) on or before **Wednesday 10 December 2025** (see **deadline 1**).

Any request to participate in a hearing **should 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 CAHs, 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

The ExA will provide reasonable notice of the time, date and place of any hearings to all interested parties.

Requests to participate should be made using an **event participation form** which will be provided with the notification of the hearing.

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

If no written requests to take part in an OFH or CAH are received by the above deadline, we are not required to hold such a hearing, although we may choose to do so nonetheless.

We may also choose to hold issue specific hearings (ISH) about topics that we think need to be explored orally. The decision to hold an ISH about a particular topic is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

Hearing agendas

For ISHs and CAHs the ExA will publish a detailed draft agenda on the project website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For OFHs 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 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.

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 GreatNorthRoadSolar@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 and submission made to the examination
- each procedural decision made by the Examining Authority

Each document is given a unique reference number 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 National Infrastructure Planning 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 A** 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.