



Planning Inspectorate

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To: All Interested Parties

Our Ref: EN010168

Date: 27 August 2026

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rules 9 and 13

Application by Lime Down Solar Park Limited for an order granting development consent for the Lime Down Solar Project

Initial assessment of issues and notification of hearings

The Examining Authority (ExA) has previously accepted for examination the applicant's request to change the submitted application [\[PD-012\]](#). The re-opened period for submitting relevant representations on the change application closed on 21 August 2026. In line with regulation 11 of The Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (the CA Regs), the ExA has made an initial assessment of the issues arising in connection with the accepted change, having regard to the relevant representations. The ExA is of the view that the issues, as set out in annex C to the ExA's Rule 6 letter [\[PD-006\]](#) remain the same. As such, the ExA does not consider that a separate preliminary meeting to discuss this is necessary.

Notwithstanding, the examination timetable at annex A of the ExA's [rule 8\(3\) letter](#), dated 16 July 2026, included reserved dates for hearings. We are now writing to advise you that additional hearings will be scheduled for the week of the 21 September under sections 91, 92 and 93 of the Planning Act 2008. The hearings will be blended events, with participants attending either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

In accordance with the CA Regs, any additional interested parties (IPs) and/ or additional affected persons (APs) arising from the applicant's [change request](#), should also be afforded the opportunity to make oral representations in relation to any open floor hearings (OFH) and issue specific hearings (ISH) that have already been held. Relevant hearings already held were as follows:

- OFH1, held on Tuesday 21 April 2026
- ISH1 on the scope of the development, held on Wednesday 22 April 2026. The agenda for that former hearing can be found [here](#)
- OFH2, held on Tuesday 30 June 2026

- ISH2 on various environmental matters, held on Wednesday 1 July 2026. The agenda for that former hearing can be found [here](#)
- ISH3 on various environmental matters, held on Thursday 2 July 2026. The agenda for that former hearing can be found [here](#)
- ISH4 on the draft Development Consent Order, held on Friday 3 July 2026. The agenda for that former hearing can be found [here](#)

Whilst a compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH1) was also held on Tuesday 30 June 2026, the CA Regs also make provision for additional APs to request to be heard at a further CAH.

Therefore, based on the above, and pursuant to rule 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, the ExA provides notification of its intention to hold the following Hearings during the week of the 21 September:

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue and Joining Details
Tuesday 22 September 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 8 (ISH8) on environmental matters, including, but not necessarily limited to socio-economics, and ecology and biodiversity. ISH8 will include an agenda item allowing additional APs/ IPs arising from the change request to make oral representations on matters relating to ISH1 to ISH4 (if required)	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:00am Virtual registration process from: 9:00am Hearing starts: 9:30am	The National Self Build & Renovation Centre, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 8UB 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
Tuesday 22 September 2026	Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3) This hearing is open only to any additional APs or IPs arising from the applicant's change request	Registration and seating available at venue from: 3:30pm Virtual registration process from: 3:30pm Hearing starts: 4:00pm	The National Self Build & Renovation Centre, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 8UB 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 23 September 2026	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2) This hearing is open to any AP, including additional APs arising from the applicant's change request	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:00am Virtual registration process from: 9:00am Hearing starts: 9:30am	The National Self Build & Renovation Centre, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 8UB 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 23 September and Thursday 24 September 2026 (if required)	Issue Specific Hearing 9 (ISH9) on the draft Development Consent Order and any other matters This hearing is open to all APs and IPs	Registration and seating available at venue from: 1:30pm Virtual registration process from: 1:30pm Hearing starts: 2:00pm And if required on Thursday 24 September 2026 Registration and seating available at venue from: 09:00am Virtual registration process from: 09:00am	The National Self Build & Renovation Centre, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 8UB 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

		Hearing recommences: 09:30am	
Notes: • If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website, providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel. • The ExA will publish detailed agendas on the project webpage at least one week before the hearing date(s). However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.			

Applicant's notification duties

The applicant is reminded of its duty to notify and publicise hearings under rule 13(6) and 13(7) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Purpose of hearings

Please refer to The Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for information about the purpose of open floor, issue specific and compulsory acquisition hearings.

Registration and requests to participate in hearings

Please register using the [event participation form](#) by 17 September 2026 if you intend to participate in the hearings and provide all the information requested. If you have any difficulty completing the form please contact the case team.

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online live stream of the event and the recording of the event which will get published on the [project webpage](#). A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the event. 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 webpage after the event.

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);
- Confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;

- Confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, and if available the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/ or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise
- The [examination library](#) reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Joining instructions for hearings will be issued by the case team via email shortly before the hearing dates.

Please contact the case team if you require any support or assistance to attend any hearing, either virtually or in person.

If you simply wish to observe any of the hearings then you can 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; and/or
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 **17 September 2026** 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 **17 September 2026**.

Hearing agendas

The agendas and any detailed arrangements for the hearings will be published on the [project webpage](#) at least five working days before the hearings. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at our discretion. There may not be an agenda for an open floor hearing.

Procedure at hearings and post hearing submissions

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Participation in a hearing will be subject to the ExA's powers of control. It is for the ExA to determine how the hearing will be conducted, including the time allowed at the hearing for the making of a person's representations. The hearing will be managed in the interests of ensuring fair access to the hearing for all parties, and to ensure that the submissions of all invited persons are fully heard within the allotted time. For issue specific hearings interested parties (IPs) may be invited to make oral representations at the hearing on the specific issues being examined at the hearing as set out in the agenda.

All hearings are recorded. The recordings and transcripts will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following 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 at a hearing. It is therefore important to note that anyone speaking at the hearing will need to introduce themselves, including any organisation or

groups that they represent, **each time they speak** to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the hearing is clear who was speaking.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies. Please refer to our [Privacy Notice](#) for further information. Participants must do their best to avoid making public any information which they would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form, for while 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 transcripts and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the development consent order (DCO). If you actively participate in the hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording and transcript will be made available in the public domain.

The evidence presented orally at hearings should be included in post hearing submissions and submitted at the relevant deadline in the [examination timetable](#).

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case team by email: limesdown@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Janine Laver

Janine Laver
Lead member of the panel of Examining Inspectors

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