

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

Agenda for issue specific hearing 8 (ISH8) dealing with matters relating to environmental matters including socio-economics and ecology and biodiversity

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue specific hearing 8 Environmental Matters including, but not necessarily limited to socio-economics, and ecology and biodiversity	Tuesday 22 September 2026 Hearing starts at 9:30am Registration and seating available at venue from 9:00am and virtual Registration Process from 9:00am	The National Self Build & Renovation Centre, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 8UB and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Agenda items

Item	Matters to be covered
Item 1	Welcome, housekeeping, purpose of the hearing, participant introductions
Item 2	Socio-Economics 2.1 Equine Business Impacts The Applicant will be invited to set out its understanding of, and anticipated effects on, the local equine industry including the proposed mitigation measures outlined in the Equine Business Report [REP5-105] . 2.2 Non-Equine Business Impacts 2.2.1 Viability of businesses The Applicant will be invited to provide an update on its engagement with Interested Parties (IPs) who have raised concerns regarding the potential adverse effects of the proposed development on the viability of their business operations. 2.2.2 Business compensation fund

Item	Matters to be covered												
	Wiltshire Council will be invited to set out why it considers a business compensation fund is required considering the Applicant’s conclusions in Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 16 [APP-068]. 2.3 Community Facilities The Applicant and Wiltshire Council will be requested to set out their views in relation to the potential need for, and scope of, any community facility compensation fund for those facilities most directly impacted by works.												
Item 3	Human Health The Applicant will be invited to respond to NHS Bath and North-East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) Deadline 6 submission [REP6-079]. The ICB will also be invited to identify any practical measures which it considers the Applicant could take to address its concerns, including, for example, further detail in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan regarding the role of the community liaison manager.												
Item 4	Ecology 4.1 Avian Species The Applicant will be invited to set out how it has arrived at its conclusion of risk to avian species within the cable route corridor based on the current level of information within the ES. To assist the examination, the Applicant is requested to complete the table below using information contained within ES Chapter 9 [REP4-010], Appendices 9-1 Ecological Baseline Report [REP4-019], 9-4 Breeding Bird Survey Report [APP-201] and 9-7 Wintering Bird Survey Report [APP-204], and Figures 9-1-5 to 9-1-24 [APP-111], APP-112, APP-113, REP1-036. The table should provide, for each relevant species, its conservation status, and the level of risk identified by the Applicant, with reference to the mitigation hierarchy. It would greatly assist the Examining Authority (ExA) if the table were sorted by conservation status and presented on-screen at the hearing during this this agenda item to enable discussion. <table><tr><th>Species, e.g. skylark, quail, etc.</th><th>Conservation Status</th><th>Mitigation Hierarchy Approach/ Level of Risk</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Species, e.g. skylark, quail, etc.	Conservation Status	Mitigation Hierarchy Approach/ Level of Risk									
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	4.2 Badgers The Applicant will be invited to provide an update on its discussions with Natural England regarding badgers and whether they intend to request a Letter of No Impediment (LONI). 4.3 LONI The Applicant will be asked to detail whether it expects a LONI covering any other species from Natural England to be submitted into the examination. 4.4 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) The Applicant will be asked to provide an update on its BNG position with respect to requirement 9 of the draft Development Consent Order. The Applicant and Wiltshire Council will also be invited to comment on the Applicant's approach to BNG considering the recently published Government guidance on BNG for developers of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
Item 5	Any oral representations from additional APs/ IPs arising from the change request on matters relating to ISH1 to ISH4 (if required)
Item 6	Review of the issues and actions arising
Close of hearing (no later than 2:30pm in light of open floor hearing 3 (OFH3) commencing at 4:00pm (if required))	

Purpose of ISH

The main purpose of ISH8 is to clarify and get views on matters relating to each of the subjects set out in the agenda above. The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing, although the agenda provided above is indicative and may be subject to change on the day.

Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing either in-person or virtually via MS Teams:

- Applicant
- Wiltshire Council
- Stop Lime Down
- Natural England
- NHS Bath and North East Somerset Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board
- IPs who consider their equine business may be directly affected by the Proposed Development
- IPs who consider their business may be directly affected by the proposed development

- IPs responsible for a community facility that they consider would be directly affected by the Proposed Development

The above list is not a closed list and does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All IPs 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.

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 **9:30am** those attending virtually should join promptly at **9:00am** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

For those parties who simply wish to observe the hearing, they should log into the livestream link, which will be posted on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Procedure at ISH

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.

The agenda is for guidance only, although every effort will be made to ensure that the issues listed in the agenda will be discussed on the day. However, due to the timetabled OFH3 at 3:30pm that afternoon, ISH8 must finish no later than 2:30pm to allow the ExA and case team, the Applicant, the audio-visual team, and any participants registered for both ISH8 and OFH3 to have a break between sessions.

Any questions about this hearing

Please contact the Case Team if you have any questions regarding the arrangements for the hearing or how to participate.

Email - limedown@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Telephone - 0303 444 5000

Post Hearing Submissions and Closing Statements

The ExA draws your attention to **deadline 7** in the examination timetable (**Friday 2 October 2026**) and requests that full summaries of all oral submissions given at the hearing by those who made them are submitted at that deadline. In addition, anyone

who is unable to complete all of their oral submission during the hearing should follow it up in writing at that deadline.

Finally, **deadline 7** is also the time for any IP to submit a closing statement into the examination.