

**NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY MEETING, ISSUE SPECIFIC AND OPEN-FLOOR HEARINGS –
SECTIONS 91 AND 93 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 AND RULE 13(6) OF THE
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010**

The Meridian Solar Farm Development Consent Order

Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN010169

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, at the dates, times and locations set out below, the following Hearings will be held by the Examining Authority (on behalf of the Secretary of State) for the examination of the application for the Meridian Solar Farm made by Meridian Solar Farm Limited (company number 14887675) of 10 Lower Thames Street, London, England, EC3R 6AF (the “Applicant”) for a Development Consent Order under Sections 14, 15 and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the “Application”).

The Application is for development consent to construct, operate (including maintain), and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating station with associated infrastructure, including co-located Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Inter Array Connections to link the land parcels that form the Solar Development Areas, and an up to 13km overhead line Grid Connection (with one short undergrounded section) which would run north towards a point of connection at the National Grid Electricity Transmission planned Weston Marsh B Substation, east of Spalding. The Scheme would have a generating capacity of more than 100 MW (AC) and is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council.

The Application (Reference No. EN010169) was submitted by the Applicant to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 20 March 2026 and was accepted for examination on 15 April 2026.

The Examining Authority issued the Rule 6 Letter dated 23 July 2026 that contains a draft timetable for the examination of the Application. Within the letter, the Examining Authority also gave notice of the Preliminary Meeting, Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) and Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1) detailed in the table below.

Preliminary Meeting/Hearing dates and locations

Date	Event	Time	Venue
Tuesday 8 September 2026	Preliminary Meeting	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:30am Virtual registration process from: 9:30am Preliminary meeting starts: 10:00am	Allia Future Business Centre Peterborough, Peterborough Conference Room, Peterborough United Football Club, London Road, Peterborough, PE2 8AN 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 8 September 2026	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	Registration and seating available at venue from: 2:00pm Virtual registration process from: 2:00pm Hearing starts: 2:30pm	Allia Future Business Centre Peterborough, Peterborough Conference Room, Peterborough United Football Club, London Road, Peterborough, PE2 8AN 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 9 September 2026	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Strategic Matters	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:30am Virtual registration process from: 9:30am Hearing starts: 10:00am	Allia Future Business Centre Peterborough, Peterborough Conference Room, Peterborough United Football Club, London Road, Peterborough, PE2 8AN 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
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Interested Parties wishing to speak at the Preliminary Meeting and/or Hearings listed above should notify the Planning Inspectorate by completing the Event Participation Form by 23:59 on Monday 24 August 2026. A link to the form is available within the Rule 6 letter. The letter can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's project webpage and is available using the following link: <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010169-000446-Rule%206%20letter.pdf>

If you simply wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting and/or Hearings virtually, then you do not need to register as you will be able to 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, the Examining Authority requests that you register your attendance to observe only by 24 August 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 24 August 2026.

If you require assistance to register your attendance either virtually or in person, please contact the Planning Inspectorate by calling 0303 444 5000 or by email MeridianSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk and quote the Application's reference number: EN010169.

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online livestream of the event and the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage. A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the venue. Please contact the Planning Inspectorate's 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 page of our website after the event.

Cancellation of Hearings

If the Preliminary Meeting or Hearings are no longer required, then notification that a particular date is no longer required will be published as soon as practicable on the Planning Inspectorate's project webpage, providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel them.

Notification of Additional Hearings

Any Hearings further to those listed above will be advertised by one or more further notices. In accordance with Rule 13(3) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, as amended, the Planning Inspectorate will also notify interested parties (and where relevant, affected persons) of the date, time and place fixed for each Hearing.

For more information on the Hearings, the examination of the Application and full timetable, including how and when to make written submissions, will also be available on The Meridian Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate's website (link above), or by contacting the Planning Inspectorate (details above).

Summary of the Scheme

The key components of the Scheme include:

- The 'Solar Development Area', comprising land parcels A, B, C and D, which would host the ground-mounted solar PV generation facilities (and associated supporting infrastructure), BESS and On-Site Substation Compounds (including one 400 kilovolt (kV) substation and BESS compound at Land Parcel B, facilitating connection to the 400kV overhead electric line, and three 132kV substations compounds at the other land parcels);
- The 'Inter-Array Connections', comprising underground cabling with an operating voltage of 132kV between Land Parcels A and B and a 132kV overhead line between Land Parcels C and D; and
- The 'Grid Connection', predominantly a 400kV overhead electric line (via steel lattice style pylons), with one section of underground cable and associated cable sealing end compounds, to the National Grid Electricity Transmission planned Weston Marsh B Substation, east of Spalding.

The Application includes the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the infrastructure listed above.

The Site constitutes the total land area under consideration for the Scheme, including the Solar Development Areas, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route. The total area of the Site within the Order Limits is approximately 1,616ha.

The Scheme is proposed to be located on land to the north of Crowland and east of Spalding, and is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council.

A map showing the location of the Scheme can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link: <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010169-000101-2.1%20Overall%20Location%20Plan.pdf>

Development consent is required to the extent that development is or forms part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to sections 14(1)(a), 14(1)(b), 15(2) and 16 of the Planning Act 2008. As an onshore generating station in England with a capacity greater than 100 MW (AC), and the installation of above ground electric lines greater than two kilometres in length and a nominal voltage of 132 kV or greater, the Scheme falls within the remit of the Secretary of State's decision-making powers.

The DCO, if granted, would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily. The DCO would also authorise alterations to the layout of streets, the construction of accesses to the Scheme, the

temporary stopping up or management of the public rights of way, street works, removal of hedgerows and the application and disapplication of legislation.

Application form and accompanying documents

The Application form and its accompanying documents (including accompanying plans, maps, the Environmental Statement, and the draft Development Consent Order (the “Application Documents”)) can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on the Meridian Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website (<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010169>) until at least the Secretary of State makes their decision on whether or not to grant the DCO. This link will also be available on the Scheme website: <https://meridiansolarfarm.co.uk/>

The locations listed below have public internet access, through which the Application Documents can be accessed on the Planning Inspectorate’s website free of charge. Please check directly with the facilities to confirm their opening hours, as well as any bookings or registrations that might be required to access the documents digitally through the computers available at the respective locations.

Location	Address	Opening Times
Crowland Library	Hall Street, Crowland PE6 0EW	Tuesday and Thursday: 09:30am to 12:30pm and 14:00pm to 17:00pm Saturday: 10:00am to 13:00pm
Spalding Library	Victoria Street, Spalding PE11 1EA	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 09:00am to 17:00pm Thursday: 09:00am to 18:00pm Saturday: 09:00am to 13:00pm

The Application documents will be available to view online at least until the Secretary of State makes their decision whether or not to grant the Development Consent Order.

An electronic copy of the Application documents can be supplied free of charge on a USB memory stick. To request a USB, please email enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk, write to FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN (free of charge; no need for a stamp) or telephone 0800 652 6120 (free of charge).

Application documents can be made available in hard copy format on request to the Applicant. Document requests can be made using the contact details at the bottom of this notice. Please note that reasonable printing costs may apply. Requests may be made for documents in bespoke or alternative formats or specific individual documents. Given the size and format of the Application documents, a full suite of documents to publication specifications will cost £5,000.

Further information

Further information about the Application, the Preliminary Meeting, Hearings, how to take part in the examination and any other matters covered in this notice may be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate or the Applicant using the following contact details:

The Planning Inspectorate	The Applicant
The Planning Inspectorate should be contacted in written form via the following email address: MeridianSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk Telephone: 0303 444 5000 Website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010169 Please quote the Application reference number EN010169 in any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate about this DCO. Correspondence about this DCO should be marked: FAO Meridian Solar Farm	The Applicant would request that written correspondence should be directed to the following email address: enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk Telephone: 0800 652 6120 (free of charge, open 09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday, except bank holidays. A voicemail service operates outside these hours) Post: FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN (no stamp or further details required) Any details you provide to the Applicant via telephone, email or post will be subject to its privacy policy and will be treated confidentially and processed and handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. The information may be disclosed to or shared with the Applicant's connected companies, agents, contractors and advisors who provide services to the Applicant in connection with the Application.