

Application by Meridian Solar Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Meridian Solar Farm project.

Agenda for Open Floor Hearing 1

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	Tuesday 08 September 2026 Hearing starts at 02:30pm Registration and seating available at venue from 02:00pm and virtual registration process from 02:00pm	Allia Future Business Centre Peterborough, Peterborough Conference Room, Peterborough United Football Club, London Road, Peterborough, PE2 8AN and by virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Agenda items

Please note that the following agenda is indicative and may be amended by the Examining Authority (ExA) at the start of the hearing.

- 1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the hearing**
- 2. Purpose of the open floor hearing**
- 3. Representations by interested parties and others**
- 4. ExA's closing remarks**

Purpose of Open Floor Hearing 1

The main purpose of OFH1 is to provide an opportunity for parties to put their views forward verbally to the ExA. Oral representations should provide further detail and explanation of matters previously made in written submissions and not simply repeat matters already covered.

Attendees

Each interested party (IP) who has indicated a wish to speak will be invited in turn by the ExA to speak. Following each submission, the ExA may wish to ask the speaker questions.

Speakers will be heard in the order shown under the list of speakers in annex A and will be allocated the following maximum speaking times:

- 3 minutes for individual IPs, including businesses
- 5 minutes for those representing groups, membership organisations or councils

Persons without IP status, as defined by section 102 of the Planning Act 2008, are referred to as non-interested parties (non-IP); however, this is not intended to suggest a lack of interest in the application. Any non-IPs that are being heard at the discretion of the ExA are included in the list of speakers in **annex A**. The same maximum speaking times and procedure will apply as for IPs.

The ExA may ask questions of IPs and non-IPs about matters arising from written and oral submissions. If they do so during a timed oral submission, the time taken by the ExA will not count against the speaking time.

Those who have not previously registered to participate in this hearing and have not been allocated a slot in the speaking list at **annex A**, if time permits, may be able to speak on the day but this will be at the discretion of the ExA. Any request to participate in a future OFH must be made by **deadline 1 Tuesday 22 September 2026**.

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 **02:30pm** those attending virtually should join promptly at **02:00pm** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

Procedure at Open Floor Hearing 1

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 or non-IP has had a fair chance to put its case.

Annex A

Open Floor Hearing 1 08 September 2026 at 2:30pm			
Order	Name/organisation	Time limit	Attendance Physical (P) or Virtual (V)
1	Paul Marshall	3 minutes	P
2	Andrew Malkin on behalf of Meridian Action Group (MAG)	5 minutes	P
3	Councillor Ingrid Sheard	3 minutes	P
4	Jane Thompson	3 minutes	P
5	Councillor Paul Lock	3 minutes	V
6	Cat Makinson on behalf of Lincolnshire Against Needless Destruction (LAND)	5 minutes	V
Close			