



Preliminary meeting note

Application: Meridian Solar Farm
Reference: EN010169
Time and date: 08 September 2026 at 10:00am
Venue: Allia Future Business Centre Peterborough, Peterborough Conference Room, Peterborough United Football Club, London Road, Peterborough, PE2 8AN

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the preliminary meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Helen Cassini (HC) welcomed those present and introduced herself as the lead member of the panel of Examining Inspectors, the Examining Authority (ExA), and Beth Davies (BD) and Samantha Murphy (SM) as panel members to examine the Meridian Solar Farm application.

HC explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

HC explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by Meridian Solar Farm Limited ('the applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an order granting development consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

HC explained the purpose of the preliminary meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Audio recording

The video recording of this PM is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#)

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained The Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's '[Privacy Note](#)'.

4. Examination process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further info can be found:

- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event'](#)
- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, an event'](#)

5. Initial assessment of principal issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the initial assessment of principal issues (IAPi) (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in annex C of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 23 July 2026, and asked for any observations.

Meridian Action Group requested that the IAPi include an assessment of alternative sites and alternative methods of solar generation, including rooftop solar on factories, warehouses, car parks and dwellings.

South Holland District Council queried the absence of a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment within the matters identified under landscape and visual amenity.

Tim Henderson requested that the carbon budget be considered as a principal issue, stating that the project's carbon savings are a fundamental consideration.

6. Examination Timetable

The ExA noted requests already received in writing to amend the draft examination timetable contained in annex D of [Rule 6](#) letter and also welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance. All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the rule 8 Letter.

7. Hearings and site inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue specific hearings
- Compulsory acquisition hearings
- Open floor hearings
- Accompanied site inspections
- Unaccompanied site inspections

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. These were duly noted and considered by the ExA.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found:

- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event'](#)
- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, an event'](#)

8. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations. Procedural decisions can be found in annex F the [Rule 6](#) Letter.

Lincolnshire County Council advised that, consistent with its approach on other NSIP projects, matters relating to Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue would be incorporated within its wider Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with the applicant.

The applicant confirmed that it was progressing the requested SoCG and agreed with the inclusion of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue matters within Lincolnshire County Council's SoCG.