



# Planning Inspectorate

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All interested parties, statutory parties and any other person invited to the preliminary meeting

Our Ref: EN010169

Date: 15 September 2026

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 8 and 9**

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

#### **Examination timetable and procedure**

This letter (the Rule 8 Letter) provides important information about the examination of this application. The letter includes:

- The examination timetable
- An invitation to submit written representations
- Details of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) written questions
- A request for statements of common ground (SoCG)
- A request for local impact reports (LIR) from local authorities
- Other procedural decisions made by the ExA
- Information about hearings and site inspections
- Information about the availability of examination documents
- Guidance on the use of the 'Have your say' tab on the project webpage

All documentation associated with this examination, including a note of the preliminary meeting and the recording of that meeting, can be viewed on the [documents page](#) on the project webpage of the Find a National Infrastructure Project website ([project webpage](#)).

#### **The examination timetable**

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>



We have made a procedural decision about the way the application will be examined. The final examination timetable is attached at **annex A** to this letter.

The examination timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in our [Rule 6 Letter](#). In finalising the examination timetable, we have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the preliminary meeting. A list of the main changes we made to the draft examination timetable is set out at **annex B** to this letter.

Please note that the examination timetable contains a number of deadlines for receipt of information by The Planning Inspectorate. All deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, we may disregard them.

We request that all interested parties make their submissions using the '[Have your say](#)' page on the project webpage on or before the applicable deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the '[Have your say](#)' page.

If we consider it necessary to vary the examination timetable during the examination, notification will be sent to interested parties, statutory parties and other persons invited to the preliminary meeting. The changes will be published on the [project webpage](#).

## Written representations

All interested parties are now invited to submit written representations and any comments on the relevant representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **deadline 1 (Tuesday 22 September 2026)** in the examination timetable.

Written representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our [initial assessment of principal issues](#).

Any person, other than the applicant, who submits a written representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and disagree, explaining the reasons why. Interested parties should also provide any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the examination (see paragraph 009 of the [government's guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects](#) for further information about written representations).

We have requested further written submissions at various points in the examination (see **annex A**).

Any written representations and any further written submissions requested during the examination, of more than 1500 words should be accompanied by a summary which must not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and be representative of the submission made.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. See the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: Advice](#)

[for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions.

## **Examining Authority's written questions**

Our written questions (ExQ1) will be published on the project webpage on Tuesday 13 October 2026. Responses to ExQ1 must be provided by deadline 3 (Tuesday 27 October 2026) as set out in the examination timetable.

A second round of written questions (ExQ2) will be published on the project webpage on Friday 11 December 2026. Responses to ExQ2 must be provided by deadline 5 (Thursday 07 January 2027) as set out in the examination timetable. If considered necessary, a third round of written questions (ExQ3) will be published on 21 January 2027.

## **Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority**

**Annex B** to this letter contains important details and clarifications about other procedural decisions we made at, or following, the preliminary meeting. These include:

- Examination timetable
- Examining Authority written questions
- Statements of common ground (SoCG)
- Local impact reports (LIR)
- Changes to land interests
- Status of the Applicant's Examination Documents

## **Format of examination events**

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when we provide formal notification of each hearing.

## **Hearings and site inspections**

The examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See The Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for more information.

The Planning Inspectorate's advice for members of the public also provides important information about hearing procedures:

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

On this basis the examination timetable at **annex A** includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and we will notify all interested parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the examination in advance of them taking place. That notification will include a deadline for interested parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to participate at the notified hearing(s).

**Annex C** provides details about what interested parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings. It also provides important information about the accompanied site inspection and attendance at the inspection.

We will also undertake site inspections. Where we are able to view the site from public land we are likely to do this unaccompanied and a note of the site inspection will be published on the [project webpage](#). We will also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of an unaccompanied site inspection.

### **Managing examination correspondence**

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to interested parties during an examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the case team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the [project webpage](#).

A '[Have your say](#)' page is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the examination. Further information about the '[Have your say](#)' page is provided at **annex E** to this letter.

You can also use the 'Get updates' button on the project webpage to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the examination.

### **Your status in the examination**

You have received this letter because you are a person or organisation who is involved in the NSIP process. See The Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: National Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#) for further details.

If, having read the advice, you are still unsure about how you are involved in the process please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

## Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#).

## Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#).

Further information about the management of examination documents and communications is provided at **annex D** to this letter.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

We look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

*Helen Cassini*

**Lead Member of the Examining Authority**

## Annexes

- A** Examination timetable
- B** Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority
- C** Requests to be heard and procedure to be followed at hearings
- D** Examination documents
- E** Information about the 'Have your say' tab

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

## Examination Timetable

The examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

| Item | Matters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Date                                                            |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.   | <b>Procedural deadline A</b><br>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written submissions on the examination procedure, including any submissions about the use of virtual methods</li> <li>requests to be heard orally at the preliminary meeting</li> <li>requests to speak at open floor hearing 1 (OFH1)</li> <li>request to speak at issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1)</li> <li>suggested locations for site inspections (accompanied or unaccompanied), including justification, and whether the location(s) require access to private land, for consideration by the ExA</li> <li>notification of wish to have future correspondence delivered electronically, including confirmation of email address</li> </ul> | <b>Monday 24 August 2026</b>                                    |
| 2.   | <b>Preliminary meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Tuesday 08 September 2026 at 10:00am</b>                     |
| 3.   | <b>Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Tuesday 08 September 2026 at 02:30pm</b>                     |
| 4.   | <b>Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Strategic Matters</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Wednesday 09 September 2026 at 10:00am</b>                   |
| 5.   | <b>Issue by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the examination timetable (the Rule 8 letter)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting</b> |
| 6.   | <b>Deadline 1</b><br>For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>written representations (WR) from interested parties and summaries of any that exceed 1500 words</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Tuesday 22 September 2026</b>                                |

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comments on relevant representations (RR)</li> <li>• post-hearing submissions including written summaries of any oral case(s) as heard in OFH1 and ISH1</li> <li>• local impact reports (LIR) from local authorities</li> <li>• notification by any statutory parties who have not submitted an RR of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA</li> <li>• requests by interested parties to be heard at a further open floor hearing (OFH2)</li> <li>• requests by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH)</li> <li>• initial statements of common ground (SoCGs) as requested at annex F of the <a href="#">Rule 6 Letter</a></li> <li>• the applicant's updated documents if any revisions have been made, as set out in annex G of the <a href="#">Rule 6 Letter</a></li> <li>• any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>• comments on any further information/submissions accepted by the ExA</li> </ul> |                                |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Deadline 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comments on WRs</li> <li>• comments on LIRs</li> <li>• comments on any other information or submission received by deadline 1</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Tuesday 06 October 2026</b> |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Issue by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Tuesday 13 October 2026</b> |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>Deadline 3</b><br>For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• responses to ExA's first written questions</li> <li>• comments on oral submissions</li> <li>• comments on statements of common ground</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Tuesday 27 October 2026</b> |

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|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the applicant's updated documents if any revisions have been made, as set out in annex G the <a href="#">Rule 6 Letter</a></li> <li>any further information requested by ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 2</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                 |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Hearings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>compulsory acquisition hearing 1 (CAH1)</li> <li>any issue specific hearings</li> <li>any open floor hearings (if required)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>w/c 09 November 2026</b>     |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Deadline 4</b><br>For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>post-hearing submissions including written summaries of any oral cases as heard in hearings held w/c 09 November 2026</li> <li>comments on responses to ExA's first written questions</li> <li>the applicant's updated documents if any revisions have been made, as set out in annex G of the <a href="#">Rule 6 Letter</a></li> <li>any further information requested by ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 3</li> </ul> | <b>Friday 27 November 2026</b>  |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Publication by the ExA of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Friday 11 December 2026</b>  |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>Deadline 5</b><br>For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>responses to ExA's second written questions</li> <li>comments on post-hearing submissions</li> <li>the applicant's updated documents if any revisions have been made, as set out in annex G of the <a href="#">Rule 6 Letter</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Thursday 07 January 2027</b> |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
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|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any further information requested by ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 4</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                  |
| <b>14. Deadline 6</b>                 | <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>comments on responses to ExA's second written questions</li> <li>any further information requested by ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 5</li> </ul>                                                                                                 | <b>Thursday 14 January 2027</b>  |
| <b>15. Publication by the ExA of:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the ExA's third written questions (ExQ3) (if required)</li> <li>the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft development consent order (DCO) (if required)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Thursday 21 January 2027</b>  |
| <b>16. Deadline 7</b>                 | <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>responses to ExA's third written questions (if issued)</li> <li>comments on ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO (if required)</li> <li>any further information requested by ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by deadline 6</li> </ul> | <b>Thursday 04 February 2027</b> |
| <b>17. Deadline 8</b>                 | <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>comments on responses to ExA's third written questions (if issued)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Thursday 11 February 2027</b> |

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|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• closing summary statement from parties regarding matters that they have previously raised during the examination and that have not been resolved to their satisfaction</li> <li>• comments on responses to the Examining Authority's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>• any further information requested by ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> <li>• comments on any additional information/submissions received by deadline 7</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                |
| <b>18.</b> | <p><b>Deadline 9</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010</li> </ul> <p>For receipt by the ExA, from the applicant, of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final draft DCO to be submitted by the applicant in the SI template<br/>Applicant to provide the email notification from <a href="https://publishing.legislation.gov.uk/validation">https://publishing.legislation.gov.uk/validation</a> confirming the document has successfully passed validation, and the PDF version of the SI validation report obtained from the link in the notification email. The applicant should also provide a clean (all tracking removed) standalone MS Word version of the draft DCO, with no header or cover page</li> <li>• final Book of Reference (BoR) and schedule of changes to BoR</li> <li>• final SoCGs</li> <li>• final Statement of Commonality of SoCG</li> <li>• list of matters not agreed where SoCG could not be finalised</li> <li>• final Navigation Document/Guide to the Application</li> <li>• final Status of Negotiations CA Schedule</li> <li>• final Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers</li> </ul> | <b>Monday 22 February 2027</b> |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                 |
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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• final National Policy Statement Tracker</li> <li>• final signed and dated section 106 (if required)</li> <li>• applicant's closing summary statement</li> </ul> |                                 |
| <b>19.</b> | <b>Close of examination</b><br>See 'Note about the close of examination date'.                                                                                                                           | <b>Tuesday 23 February 2027</b> |

### **Note about the close of examination date**

The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the preliminary meeting. The ExA may however decide to close the examination earlier than on the date specified in the timetable if it considers that the application and relevant matters have been examined adequately.

### **Submission times for deadlines**

The time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

### **Publication dates**

All information received will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions.

## Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

We have made a number of procedural decisions following the preliminary meeting:

### 1. Examination timetable

The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting. In finalising the examination timetable, we have had regard to requests and suggestions made at the Preliminary Meeting and in representations submitted in advance of that meeting. Those requests have had to be balanced with the needs of the ExA to facilitate a timely and thorough examination. The main changes made to the timetable are as follows:

- Revised deadline 4 date – the date of deadline 4 has been brought forward to 27 November 2026 in order to accommodate the change in publication date of ExQ2.
- Publication of ExQ2 – the date for the publication of ExQ2 by the ExA has been moved from Friday 18 December 2026 to Friday 11 December 2026 to provide interested parties and the applicant with additional time in which to respond given the holiday period. The examination timetable in **annex A** above replaces the draft timetable that was included in our [Rule 6 Letter](#) and procedural decision [\[PD-007\]](#) on 31 July 2026.

### 2. Examining Authority's written questions

Our first round of written questions (ExQ1) will be published on Tuesday 13 October 2026, with the second round of written questions (ExQ2) being published on 11 December 2026. If considered necessary, a third round of written questions (ExQ3) will be published on 21 January 2027. Whilst most of our written questions will be directed at specific parties, no other party should feel restricted in responding to any question we ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

Some of our questions may be directed to specific statutory parties which have not, at the time of writing, confirmed that they wish to become interested parties for the purposes of the examination of the application. As such, all relevant statutory parties are requested to check the ExA's written questions carefully in order that they respond to any questions posed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, statutory parties are defined as the parties listed in schedule 1 to The Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015.

Statutory parties, including relevant local authorities, that have not already registered to become an interested party should consider notifying the ExA of their wish to be considered as an interested party, under Section 89(2A)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as soon as possible.

### 3. Statements of common ground (SoCG)

The applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it would aid the smooth running of the examination if all interested parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the applicant in respect of their production. We set

out in **annex F** of our [Rule 6 Letter](#) and procedural decision [[PD-007](#)] on 31 July 2026 the SoCGs we request are submitted during the examination of this application. Final signed versions of the SoCGs between the applicant and the below listed parties are requested to be submitted **by the applicant by deadline 9 (Monday 22 February 2027)**.

1. Lincolnshire County Council
2. South Holland District Council
3. The Environment Agency
4. Natural England
5. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
6. Historic England
7. All relevant Statutory Undertakers
8. National Grid Electricity Transmission
9. National Highways
10. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation
11. Peterborough and Spalding Gliding Club
12. South Holland Internal Drainage Board
13. Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service
14. The Water Management Alliance on behalf of South Holland Internal Drainage Board
15. The North Levels District Internal Drainage Board

**All of the SoCGs listed above should cover the articles and requirements in the draft DCO.** Any interested party seeking that an article or requirement is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought.

The content of SoCGs will help to inform us about the need to hold any issue specific hearings during the examination, and to enable us and the applicant to give notice of such hearings in advance of them taking place.

#### **4. Local impact reports (LIR)**

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a proposed development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see The Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for local authorities](#).

Local authorities, defined in section 56A of the Planning Act 2008, are invited to submit LIRs by **deadline 1 (Tuesday 22 September 2026)**.

## **5. Changes to land interests**

When the applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an interested party under section 102A of the PA2008. They should inform them that information about how to do this can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's advice for members of the public: [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#).

The examination timetable includes various deadlines for the submission of an updated book of reference and schedule of changes to the book of reference, which should include confirmation that relevant persons have been informed of their rights under section 102A.

## **6. Status of the Applicant's Examination Documents**

We request that the applicant provides, at each deadline, an updated 'Status of the Applicant's examination documents' document which provides a list of the most up-to-date status of the documents submitted, including which copies have been superseded in whole or in part. A final version must be submitted before the close of the examination. All examination documents submitted should include a version number and date.

## Arrangements for hearings

Our examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions. However, the examination timetable reserves periods of time for hearings to be held (if required).

### Requests to be heard at hearings in November 2026.

The draft examination timetable includes **deadline 1 (Tuesday 22 September 2026)** for requests to be heard at a further Open Floor Hearing and at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing in November 2026.

If no written requests to take part in an OFH or CAH are received by the above deadline, we are not required to hold such a hearing, although we may choose to do so nonetheless.

We may also choose to hold issue specific hearings (ISH) about topics that we think need to be explored orally. The decision to hold an ISH about a particular topic is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

### Hearing agendas

For ISHs and CAHs the ExA will publish a detailed draft agenda on the project website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For OFHs an agenda may not be published.

### Procedure at hearings

The examination of the application will principally be a written process supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. See the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for more information.

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

### Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the close of 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.

## Examination documents

The application documents and relevant representations can be inspected on the [project webpage](#).

## How to stay up to date

All further documents submitted in the course of the examination will also be published on the [documents](#) page of the project webpage.

You can also sign up to get [email updates](#).

If you have any questions about the process, examination events or how to access the documents, you can email [MeridianSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:MeridianSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) or contact us on 0303 444 5000.

## The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#) (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue link at the top of the documents page. The EL is updated regularly throughout the examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document
- each representation and submission made to the examination
- each procedural decision made by the Examining Authority

Each document is given a unique reference number which will be fixed for the duration of the examination. **Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any examination documents in any future submissions that you make.**

## Information about the 'Have your say' page

The '[Have your say' page](#) is available on the [project webpage](#).

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top of your letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate). If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered interested party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third party website, for example technical reports, media articles and so on. See the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: Advice for submitting representations or comments](#) for important information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate submission item as described in the examination timetable at **annex A** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the submission items, then please select the submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the '[Have your say' page](#) please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.