Planning Inspectorate

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

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2): the draft Development Consent Order

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)	**Tuesday** **10 November 2026** **Hearing starts at 10:00am** Registration and seating available at venue from 9:30am and virtual registration process from 9:30am	Orton Suite Orton Hall The Village, Orton Longueville, Peterborough, PE2 7DN and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Agenda items

Item 1	**Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the hearing**
Item 2	**Purpose of the issue specific hearing and examining authority's (ExA) opening remarks**
	Articles and Schedules of the draft Development Consent Order
Item 3	• The applicant will be asked to provide a brief overview of each part of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO). The applicant is asked to limit this to a maximum of 20 minutes. • The applicant will be asked to briefly highlight changes which have been made to the dDCO since the original submission version. • The applicant will be asked to explain how the dDCO secures mitigation. • The applicant and local authorities will be asked to confirm where agreement in relation to specific articles and schedules of the dDCO is unlikely to be reached by the close of the examination. • The applicant and local authorities will be asked questions about whether there is a need for a requirement restricting

	the commencement of construction of the proposed development until a grid connection has been secured. • The ExA may invite the applicant and local authorities to respond to questions concerning specific articles and schedules contained within the dDCO.
	Consents, licences and other agreements
Item 4	• The applicant will be asked to provide an overview of consents, licences and any other agreements that would be required in order to undertake the proposed development. • The ExA may ask questions on whether any planning obligations/ planning performance agreements/ side agreements/ other types of obligation/ agreements are proposed and any indicative timescales for finalising such documents.
	Other matters relating to the dDCO
Item 5	• The local authorities will be asked to confirm whether the dDCO accurately captures all the required maximum parameters of the proposed works. • The ExA will invite discussion from interested parties (IP) on whether there are any other outstanding matters in respect of the dDCO not already covered. • The ExA may ask questions of the applicant in relation to the above and other matters relating to the dDCO.
Item 6	**Any other matters**
Item 7	**Review of actions and close**

Purpose of ISH

The main purpose of this part of the ISH is to undertake an examination of the dDCO. This is the Order which the Secretary of State (SoS) would make if she decided to grant consent for the application. The discussion will principally be informed by the dDCO submitted by the applicant at deadline 3 on 27 October 2026.

Discussion on this aspect of the hearing is ‘without prejudice’; this means that parties may make contributions to improve the quality of the dDCO without invalidating their own positions of support or opposition to the proposed development as a whole.

Irrespective of its recommendation, the ExA is required to present a dDCO to the Secretary of State. Discussion about the specifics of the dDCO does not indicate that the ExA has made up its mind about the application. The hearing into the dDCO is likely to be of a technical nature and will be based on the specific wording of the Order.

Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing:

- Applicant
- Lincolnshire County Council
- South Holland District Council
- Any statutory undertaker that wishes to discuss its position

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All affected persons and 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.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

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 10:00am those attending virtually should join promptly at 09:30am to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

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 puts its case.