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To: All interested parties, statutory parties
and affected persons

Our Ref: EN010170

Date: 15 January 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 8(3) and 13

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

Notice of variation to the examination timetable, notification of hearings, and initial assessment of issues

The Examining Authority (ExA) has previously accepted for examination the applicant's request to change the submitted application [\[PD-009\]](#). The re-opened period for submitting relevant representations on the change application closed on 14 January 2026. Relevant representations received that have commented specifically on the changes will be published and added to the examination library shortly.

The ExA has made an initial assessment of the issues arising in connection with the accepted change, having regard to the relevant representations, and concludes that the issues remain as set out in annex C to the ExA's Rule 6 letter of 23 September 2025 [\[PD-005\]](#). As such the ExA has decided that it is not necessary to hold a further preliminary meeting to discuss how the proposed provisions, as per the accepted change to the application, should be examined.

Variation to the examination timetable

The extant examination timetable previously set out in our Rule 8 letter [\[PD-006\]](#) requires some variations as a result of the ExA accepting the applicant's request to change the submitted application.

The changes to the examination timetable resulting from the applicant's change application are as follows and have been highlighted in red text in annex A to this letter:

- The final set of hearings have been moved from the week commencing 9 February 2026 to the week commencing 9 March 2026. Given that the closing date for

submission of any relevant representations or written representations on the applicant's change application was 14 January 2026, it would have left insufficient time for notification to any new affected persons (APs) or interested parties (IPs) of the hearings should they have remained during the week of 9 February 2026. In its notification to the ExA of the change application [\[AS-016\]](#), the applicant suggested the week commencing 23 February 2026 for the rescheduled hearings. However, due to availability of the ExA the first opportunity to hold hearings is the week of 9 March 2026.

- As a result of the hearings moving back to the week of 9 March 2026, the ExA has decided to bring forward the date of publication of its third round of written questions (ExQ3) to avoid a clash. ExQ3 will now be published during the week commencing 16 February 2026 rather than the week commencing 2 March 2026.
- Publication by the ExA of the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the (DCO) has been moved from the week commencing 19 January 2026 to the week commencing 26 January 2026. This provides sufficient time to take into account any issues that might arise from the consultation that closed on 14 January 2026.
- Deadline 5 has accordingly been moved from 12 February 2026 to 26 February 2026 to allow sufficient time for parties to respond to the RIES and the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the DCO.
- Deadline 6 has been moved from 17 March 2026 to 24 March 2026 to allow sufficient time for parties to prepare and submit any post-hearing submissions, following the hearings during the week of 9 March 2026.
- Deadline 7 has accordingly had to be moved back from 24 March 2026. The revised date for deadline 7 is now 8 April, taking into account the bank holidays of the Easter weekend.
- The date for the close of the examination has accordingly been moved from 27 March 2026 to 10 April 2026. With the final round of hearings not taking place until the week of 9 March 2026 it would have been unrealistic to maintain the previous date of 27 March 2026 for closure of the examination.

Whilst the examination timetable has been extended and now closes on 10 April 2026, this is still within the required six-month period for conducting an examination.

Notification of hearings

In accordance with the CA Regulations, any additional IPs and/or additional APs should be afforded the opportunity to make oral representations in relation to any open floor hearings (OFH) and issue specific hearings (ISH) that have already been held. Relevant hearings already held are as follows:

- ISH1 on various environmental matters on 22 October 2025

- ISH2 on various environmental matters on 9 December 2025
- OFH1 on 9 December 2025
- ISH3 on the draft Development Consent Order on 10 December 2025
- OFH2 on 12 December 2025

Whilst a compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH1) was held on 10 December 2025, the CA Regulations also make provision for additional APs to request to be heard at a further CAH.

Therefore, based on the above, the ExA provides notification of its intention to hold during the week of 9 March 2026 an ISH offering the opportunity for any additional IPs and/or APs to make oral representations in relation to any of the above previously held hearings, together with further OFH, CAH and ISH. More detail can be found in annex B to this letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact the case team using the contact details in the heading of this letter should you have any queries on any of the matters set out above.

Yours faithfully

Mark Harrison

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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Annexes:

Annex A – revised examination timetable

Annex B – notification of hearings

Annex A

Updated Green Hill examination timetable, with variations highlighted in red.

Note: Wednesday 14 January 2026 was also the closing date for submission of any relevant representations or written representations on the applicant's change application.

Item	Matters	Date
10.	Deadline 4 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• comments on responses to ExQ2• the applicant's updated documents – see annex F of the Rule 6 Letter [PD-005]• any further information requested by ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules• comments on any further information and submissions received at deadline 3	Wednesday 14 January 2026
11.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required)• ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the DCO	Week commencing 26 January 2026
12.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the ExA's further written questions (ExQ3)	Week commencing 16 February 2026
13.	Deadline 5 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• responses to the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the DCO• responses to the RIES• the applicant's updated documents – see annex F of the Rule 6 Letter• any further information requested by ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules• comments on any further information and submissions received at deadline 4	Thursday 26 February 2026

14.	<p>Hearings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further ISHs (if required) • CAH (if required) • OFH (if required) 	<p>Week commencing 9 March 2026</p>
15.	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA, from any IP, of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions, including written summaries of oral submissions and any documents requested by the ExA • responses to ExQ3 • comments on responses to the RIES (if issued) • any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules • comments on any further information and submissions received at deadline 5 	<p>Tuesday 24 March 2026</p>
16.	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA, from the applicant, of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the final draft DCO, to be submitted by the applicant in the SI template. Applicant to provide the email notification from https://publishing.legislation.gov.uk/validation 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 • the final Explanatory Memorandum (EM) and schedule of changes to the EM • the final BoR and schedule of changes to BoR • final SoCGs • final Statement of Commonality of SoCG • list of matters not agreed where SoCG could not be finalised (if required) • final Guide to the Application • final Status of Negotiations CA Schedule • final Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers <p>For receipt by the ExA, from any IP, of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on responses to ExQ3 	<p>Wednesday 8 April 2026</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules comments on any further information and submissions received at deadline 6 	
17.	Close of examination The ExA intends to close the examination on this date. See 'Note about the close of examination date'.	Friday 10 April 2026

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 proposed close of examination date is noted above. The ExA can decide to close the examination earlier than six months and on the date specified in the timetable if it considers that the application and relevant matters have been examined adequately.

Annex B

Notification of hearings

The revised examination timetable at annex A of this letter includes reserved dates for hearings during the week of 9 March 2026.

We are now writing to advise you that the following hearings will be held under sections 91, 92 and 93 of the Planning Act 2008. The hearing(s) will be blended events, with participants attending either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 4 For any new AP or IP arising from the applicant's change request only to make oral representations in relation to previously held ISH1, ISH2 or ISH3	Tuesday 10 March 2026	Registration and seating available from: 09.30am Virtual registration process from: 09.30am Event start: 10.00am	All hearings will be blended events at: Hilton Northampton, 100 Watering Lane, Collingtree, Northampton NN4 0XW 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
Open Floor Hearing 3	Tuesday 10 March 2026	Registration and seating available from: 1.30pm Virtual registration process from: 1.30pm Event start: 2.00pm	All hearings will be blended events at: Hilton Northampton, 100 Watering Lane, Collingtree, Northampton NN4 0XW 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
Issue Specific Hearing 5 – Environmental Matters	Wednesday 11 March 2026	Registration and seating available from: 09.30am Virtual registration process from: 09.30am Event start: 10.00am	All hearings will be blended events at: Hilton Northampton, 100 Watering Lane, Collingtree, Northampton NN4 0XW 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
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2	Thursday 12 March 2026	Registration and seating available from: 09.30am Virtual registration process from: 09.30am Event start: 10.00am	All hearings will be blended events at: Hilton Northampton, 100 Watering Lane, Collingtree, Northampton NN4 0XW 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
Issue Specific Hearing 6 – Draft Development Consent Order	Thursday 12 March 2026	Registration and seating available from: 1.30pm Virtual registration process from: 1.30pm Event start: 2.00pm	All hearings will be blended events at: Hilton Northampton, 100 Watering Lane, Collingtree, Northampton NN4 0XW 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
NOTE: If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website, providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel.			

Applicant's notification duties

The applicant is reminded of its duty to notify and publicise hearings under rule 13(6) and 13(7) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Purpose of hearings

Please refer to The Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: [The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) for information about the purpose of open floor, issue specific and compulsory acquisition hearings.

Registration and requests to participate in hearings

Please register using the [event participation form](#) by 26 February 2026 if you intend to participate in the hearings and provide all the information requested. If you have any difficulty completing the form please contact the case team.

Please be aware that attendance at ISH4 on 10 March 2026 is only for any new AP or IP arising from the applicant's change request to make oral representations in relation to previously held ISH1, ISH2 or ISH3.

While it will be necessary for the applicant to be represented at ISH4, other IPs and APs who already participated in ISH1 to ISH3 should not feel compelled to attend ISH4.

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online live stream of the event and the recording of the event which will get published on the [project webpage](#). A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the event. Please contact the 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 webpage](#) after the event.

Any request to participate in a hearing should include the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from The Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise;
- for compulsory acquisition hearings, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the book of reference and the land plans; and
- the examination library reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Joining instructions for hearings will be issued by the case team via email shortly before the hearing dates.

Please contact the case team if you require any support or assistance to attend any hearing, either virtually or in person.

If you simply wish to observe any of the hearings then you can 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 we request that you register your attendance to observe only by **26 February 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 **26 February 2026**.

Hearing agendas

The agendas and any detailed arrangements for the hearings will be published on the [project webpage](#) at least five working days before the hearings. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at our discretion. There may not be an agenda for an open floor hearing.

Attendees at hearings

The agendas that will be published at least five days prior to the Issue Specific Hearings will set out the parties that the ExA would find it helpful to attend each event.

Procedure at hearings and post hearing submissions

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Participation in a hearing will be subject to the ExA's powers of control. It is for the ExA to determine how the hearing will be conducted, including the time allowed at the hearing for the making of a person's representations. The hearing will be managed in the interests of ensuring fair access to the hearing for all parties, and to ensure that the submissions of all invited persons are fully heard within the allotted time. For issue specific hearings interested parties (IPs) may be invited to make oral representations at the hearing on the specific issues being examined at the hearing as set out in the agenda.

All hearings are recorded. The recordings and transcripts will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following 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 at a hearing. It is therefore important to note that anyone speaking at the hearing will need to introduce themselves, including any organisation or groups that they represent, **each time they speak** to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the hearing is clear who was speaking.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies. Please refer to our '[Privacy Notice](#)' for further information. Participants must do their best to avoid making public any information which they would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the case team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain. The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and transcripts and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the development consent order (DCO). If you actively participate in the hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording and transcript will be made available in the public domain.

The evidence presented orally at hearings should be included in post hearing submissions and submitted at the relevant deadline in the [examination timetable](#).