

Application by Light Valley Solar Limited for an order granting development consent for Light Valley Solar

Agenda for issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1) - Scope of the proposed development, environmental matters and the draft Development Consent Order:

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue specific hearing 1 - Scope of the proposed development, environmental matters and the draft Development Consent Order	Thursday 30 July 2026 Hearing starts at 10.00am Registration and seating available at venue from 9.30am and virtual registration process from 9.30am	The Parsonage Hotel & Spa, Escrick, York YO19 6LF and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Agenda

- 1. Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing**
- 2. Purpose of the issue specific hearing**
- 3. Draft Development Consent Order matters**
- 4. Scope of the proposed development and environmental matters**

4.1	Proposed development The applicant will be asked questions in relation to the: • site selection and alternatives • design parameters, including good design • construction period • grid connection offer, capacity and overplanting
4.2	Green Belt The applicant and North Yorkshire Council will be asked for their comments and position regarding the Green Belt, including: • whether the land that would be affected constitutes 'grey belt' • whether the proposals represent 'inappropriate development' • any updates as to whether a Green Belt assessment has commenced

4.3	Noise and vibration The applicant will be asked questions relating to: • impacts associated with horizontal directional drilling and construction during the construction phase • the experience of residents and users of public rights of way during both the construction and operation phases
4.4	Traffic and transport The Examining Authority will seek clarification on matters including: • updates in relation to the A63/ A162 roundabout improvements and potential Traffic Regulation Order including through Chapel Haddlesey • baseline assumptions and traffic survey timings • clarification and potential discrepancies in relation to proposed construction traffic movements • construction routes including abnormal indivisible loads • site access locations in particular Solar Development Sites 2 and 8
4.5	Ecology and biodiversity
(a)	Surveys and methodology The applicant will be asked to explain: • how the proposed Order Limit was informed, evolved and influenced by the habitat survey work • how its approach aligns with relevant guidance, including the use of a single year of non-breeding bird surveys, and whether the fish habitat assessment justifies scoping certain drains out of the eDNA survey
(b)	Habitats and species The Examining Authority will explore the applicant's approach to: • habitats including how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied and what efforts for avoiding harm have been considered. This will include whether the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan identifies all reasonable ecological receptors, and the approach to culverts and culvert replacement at watercourse crossings. • noise disturbance impacts to birds using functionally linked land. This will include questions on whether there is sufficient detail provided regarding the possible impact of electromagnetic fields on fish.
4.6	Water environment
(a)	Flood risk mapping and data The Examining Authority will explore: • the current progress of obtaining flood zone mapping • how the application demonstrates policy compliance with the submitted flood risk mapping and data • whether the recent publication of the Environment Agency's updated flood risk mapping has an implication for the proposed development
(b)	Flood risk assessment The Examining Authority will explore:

	- the risk of flooding to the proposed development including flood sensitive equipment - the assessment of the risk of pluvial flooding to the proposed development
(c)	Water supply The Examining Authority will explore: - the identification, assessment and mitigation of abstractions - the supply of water for all phases of the proposed development
(d)	Fire water management The Examining Authority will explore the proposed approach to firefighting, containment and disposal of water at the proposed battery energy storage system.
4.7	Landscape and visual impact
(a)	Landscape character The applicant and North Yorkshire Council will be asked questions including: - how landscape character effects, including mitigation during and beyond the operational phase, have been assessed. - cumulative landscape effects, including the influence of other projects and Local Character Assessments on the proposed development
(b)	Visual impact The applicant will be asked to provide further detail on the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) including: - its approach and the adequacy of the assessment and screening - further detail on the visual impact of the proposed solar development sites and cable route corridor during construction and from concurrent multi-site working - the assessment of sequential visual effects of the proposed development alone and cumulatively The Examining Authority will explore the impact of the proposed development on private residential receptors including: - whether there is a need for a full residential visual amenity assessment - the assessment of effects on specific receptors including, but not limited to Milford Grange, Milford Lodge Cottage and Siddle House
4.8	Glint and Glare and Battery Energy Storage System The applicant will be asked questions relating to: - the glint and glare assessment and proposed mitigation - the battery energy storage system modelling assessment
4.9	Cultural Heritage The Examining Authority will explore:

	• the archaeological mitigation strategy • post-consent archaeological investigations, and the wording of requirement 11 in the draft development consent order • the level of detail in the analysis of above ground heritage assets including conservation areas
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5. Review of actions arising

6. Closing

Purpose of ISH

To consider the scope of the proposed development and for the Examining Authority (ExA) to ask questions and invite comments from the applicant and interested parties about environmental matters and aspects of the proposed development. The hearing will also include a high level review and questions about the applicant's proposed draft development consent order.

Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing in addition to those who have already registered. It is the ExA's preference that these parties attend the hearing in-person where able.

- The applicant
- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- North Yorkshire Council (representatives relevant to the agenda items)
- Sherburn Aero Club
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

This does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All interested parties 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. 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 applicant is requested to have people attend with relevant subject-matter expertise who should hold professional accreditation (chartered or equivalent) where relevant to the topics listed in the agenda. Attendees should be capable of providing informed input, answering technical questions where appropriate, and contributing effectively to decision-making.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The ExA requests participants to have familiarity with the examination documents relevant to the agenda items prior to 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. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.

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. Interested parties 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 an email with joining instructions before the hearing. For those attending virtually, this will include a link to the virtual event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they need to participate by telephone.

The event will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start at **10.00am**. Those attending virtually should join promptly at **9.30am** 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 interested party has had a fair chance to put its case.