



Planning Inspectorate

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All interested parties and statutory parties
invited to the preliminary meeting

Our Ref: EN0110012

Date: 4 August 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam

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

Application by Light Valley Solar Limited for an order granting development consent for the Light Valley Solar 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
- other procedural decisions made by the ExA
- information about hearings and accompanied 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

The ExA has 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 the [Rule 6 letter](#). In finalising the examination timetable, the ExA has considered requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the preliminary meeting.

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, the ExA may disregard them.

All interested parties should 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 the ExA consider it necessary to vary the examination timetable during the examination, notification will be sent to interested parties and statutory parties 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 11 August 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 those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested parties should also provide with their written representations 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).

The ExA have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the examination (see **annex A**).

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

The ExA will prepare written questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received following receipt of submissions at deadline 2. These questions will be published on **Tuesday 22 September 2026** on the [project webpage](#).

Responses to ExQ1 must be provided by **deadline 3, Tuesday 6 October 2026** in the examination timetable.

Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority

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

- statements of common ground
- local impact reports
- changes to land interests
- report on the interrelationships with other nationally significant infrastructure projects
- accompanied site inspections
- additional submissions

Format of examination events

Both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the operating model. The ExA remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings when providing formal notification of each hearing in advance of it taking place.

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** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and the ExA 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).

The ExA may also undertake site inspections. Where the ExA is able to view the site from public land it is likely to do this unaccompanied and a note of the site inspection will be published on the project webpage. The examination timetable also reserves time for the ExA to undertake an accompanied site inspection on **week commencing 2 November 2026**. **Annex B** of this letter provides further information on the ExA's procedural decision in relation to an accompanied site inspection.

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.

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](#).

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 the Planning Inspectorate handles your personal information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

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

Yours faithfully

Matt Tandy

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

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

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.	Procedural deadline A Deadline for receipt by the ExA of any further information or submissions requested by the ExA in its letter dated 20 April 2026 [PD-003], under section 89(3) of The Planning Act 2008, including: • updated, amended or expanded application documentation as detailed in the letter • comments from the applicant on relevant representations	Thursday 4 June 2026
2.	Procedural deadline B Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: • written submissions on the examination procedure, including any submissions about the use of virtual methods • requests to be heard orally at the preliminary meeting and/ or attend at the venue in person including which agenda items you wish to speak on, points you wish to make and why these need to be made orally rather than in writing • requests to speak at compulsory acquisition hearing 1 and/ or attend at the venue in person on Tuesday 28 July 2026 • requests to speak at open floor hearing 1 and/ or attend at the venue in person on Wednesday 29 July 2026 • requests to speak at issue specific hearing 1 and/or attend at the venue in person on Thursday 30 July 2026 • suggested locations for site inspections (accompanied or unaccompanied), including justification, and whether such locations can be seen from public land or require private access, for consideration by the ExA • any further information requested by the ExA – refer to annex F of the Rule 6 letter [PD-004]	Tuesday 7 July 2026

3.	Preliminary meeting (PM)	Tuesday 28 July 2026
4.	Compulsory acquisition hearing 1 (CAH1)	Tuesday 28 July 2026
5.	Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1)	Wednesday 29 July 2026
6.	Continuation of open floor hearing 1 (OFH1) (if required)	Wednesday 29 July 2026
7.	Issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1)	Thursday 30 July 2026
8.	Issue by the ExA of: the examination timetable (Rule 8 Letter)	As soon as practicable following the preliminary meeting
9.	Deadline 1 For receipt by the Examining Authority (ExA) of: post hearing submissions any specific responses to actions or points raised in oral submissions at the hearings during week commencing 27 July 2026 written representations (WR) to include those parts of the application with which they agree and do not agree supported by evidence comments from interested parties on: - relevant representations - the applicant's responses to relevant representations comments on any further information or submissions accepted by the ExA summaries of all RR and WR that exceed 1500 words (summaries should not exceed 10% of the original text) local impact reports from local authorities any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (the Examination Procedure Rules)	Tuesday 11 August 2026

	• requests to be heard at any further open floor hearing (OFH) requests by interested parties to be heard at a further open floor hearing, if not heard from at OFH1 • requests to be heard at any further compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) requests by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a CAH • notification by statutory parties of their wish to be considered as an interested party by the ExA	
10.	Deadline 2 For receipt by the ExA of: • the applicant's summary of matters raised in oral submissions at OFH1 and the applicant's responses • comments on the local impact reports • comments on written representations (WRs) • applicant's revised documentation updates to documents that reflect representations, including, but only as required: • guide to the application • the draft DCO (dDCO) and a schedule of changes to dDCO • the explanatory memorandum • the outline control documents • the policy compliance document • drafts of any planning agreements and obligations if necessary • progress regarding protective provisions • progress on securing other consents • the land and rights negotiations tracker • the Book of Reference (BoR), schedule of changes to the BoR, Statement of Reasons and land plans • any further information requested by the ExA as set out under annex B of this letter or under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (the Examination Procedure Rules)	Tuesday 1 September 2026
11.	Publication by the ExA of: • the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1) including questions on the Implications for European Sites	Tuesday 22 September 2026

12.	Deadline 3 For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1) • comments on any information received at deadlines 1 and 2 and accepted by the ExA • comments from affected persons on the applicant's updated land and rights negotiations tracker • statements of common ground between the applicant and interested parties and a list of matters not agreed – see annex B of this letter • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	Tuesday 6 October 2026
13.	Dates reserved (if required) for: • any compulsory acquisition hearing • any issue specific hearing • any open floor hearing • accompanied site inspection	Week commencing 2 November 2026
14.	Deadline 4 For receipt by the ExA of: • post hearing submissions (if held) any specific responses to actions or points raised in oral submissions at the hearings held week commencing 2 November 2026 • comments on responses to the ExA's first written questions and any further information received and accepted by the ExA at deadline 3 • the applicant's revised documentation Updates to documents that reflect representations, including, but only as required: • guide to the application • the draft DCO (dDCO) and a schedule of changes to dDCO • the explanatory memorandum • the outline control documents • the policy compliance document • drafts of any planning agreements and obligations if necessary • progress regarding protective provisions	Tuesday 17 November 2026

	• progress on securing other consents • the land and rights negotiations tracker • the Book of Reference (BoR), schedule of changes to the BoR, Statement of Reasons and land plans • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	
15.	Publication by the ExA of: • the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) including questions on the Implications for European Sites (if required) • a summary table setting out the ExA's understanding of the applicant's HRA conclusions and the position of the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body (if required – refer to annex D of the Rule 6 letter [PD-004]) • the ExA's schedule of proposed changes to the draft Development Consent Order (if required)	Tuesday 1 December 2026
16.	Deadline 5 For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) • comments on the ExA's understanding of HRA matters • responses to ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (if issued) • comments on the applicant's revised documentation and any further information received and accepted at deadline 4 • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	Tuesday 15 December 2026
17.	Deadline 6 For receipt by the ExA of: • closing summary statements to signpost and summarise matters that have previously been raised during the examination and are considered to have not been resolved	Thursday 7 January 2027

	• comments on any additional information or submissions received at deadline 5 and comments on responses to the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 • Final updated documents from the applicant (in clean and tracked versions): • the final draft DCO to be submitted by the applicant in the SI template The 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 standalone MS Word version of the draft DCO, with no header or cover page • Book of Reference (BoR) and a schedule of changes to the BoR • Land rights and negotiations tracker • final statements of common ground and a list of matters not agreed (if significant progress has been made since deadline 3) • any signed and dated planning agreements and obligations (if required) • guide to the application • Environmental Statement and other documents including management plans and control documents (if required)	
18.	Close of examination The ExA intends to close the examination on this date. See 'Note about the close of examination date'.	Thursday 14 January 2027

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 and 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.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

For examinations commencing in June 2026 or later, Reports on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) will be discontinued and will no longer be produced by Examining Authorities. In place of a RIES, the ExA may include Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) related questions within its written questions. These questions will be included in a dedicated section titled 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', to clearly distinguish HRA matters from other environmental assessment regimes.

Where relevant, the written questions will also include a summary table setting out the ExA's understanding of the applicant's HRA conclusions and the position of the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body or Bodies (SNCB(s)) as at the date of issue. A Microsoft Word version of the table will be provided to applicants and SNCB(s) to enable them to propose amendments using tracked changes and to return the amended table within their responses to written questions, supporting a clear and efficient understanding of their respective positions.

For the avoidance of doubt, the ExA may continue to use issue specific hearings, requests for further information under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, and any other appropriate examination procedures to address HRA-related matters.

Other procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

The ExA has made a number of procedural decisions following the preliminary meeting:

1. Examining Authority's written questions

Our written questions (ExQ1) will be published after **deadline 2** on **Tuesday 22 September 2026**.

Second written questions (ExQ2) may be published after **deadline 4** on **Tuesday 1 December 2026**, if required.

Whilst most of our written questions are directed at specific parties, no other party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question asked, even if it is directed elsewhere.

Some of our questions are directed to specific statutory parties and all relevant statutory parties are requested to check our written questions carefully in order that they may identify and 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.

2. Statements of common ground (SoCG)

The applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it will 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. The ExA set out in **annex F** of our [Rule 6 Letter](#), and repeated below, the SoCGs requested to be submitted during the examination of this application. The examination timetable establishes deadline 3 (Tuesday 6 October 2026) for submission of the SoCGs by the applicant.

- a) SoCG between the applicant and **Environment Agency**
- b) SoCG between the applicant and **Historic England**
- c) SoCG between the applicant and **National Highways**
- d) SoCG between the applicant and **National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC**
- e) SoCG between the applicant and **National Gas Transmission PLC**
- f) SoCG between the applicant and **Natural England**
- g) SoCG between the applicant and **Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd**
- h) SoCG between the applicant and **North Yorkshire Council**
- i) SoCG between the applicant and **Sherburn Aero Club**

j) SoCG between the applicant and **SSE Hydrogen Developments Ltd**

SoCGs should cover the following matters, to the extent that they are relevant to the particular interests of the party:

- as appropriate for its area of responsibility, the matters listed under the relevant headings in the principal issues (see **annex C** of the [Rule 6 Letter](#))
- all matters raised in its relevant representation
- relevant policy, legislation and guidance including methodology and assumptions used in environmental statement relevant to the matters of interest to the party
- relevant mitigation, monitoring and management plans
- the articles and requirements of the draft DCO. Any interested party seeking an article or requirement to be reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought
- a summary of matters agreed and matters not agreed or outstanding
- details of any supplementary agreements, such as draft Section 106 agreements or commercial side agreements
- any other matters upon which agreement might aid the running of the examination and assist the ExA's recommendation to the SoS

The suggested content of the SoCGs is indicative and does not preclude the inclusion of other matters considered to be important and relevant to either of the parties.

Where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed between the parties by **deadline 3 (Tuesday 6 October 2026)**, or if any local authority position needs to be signed off at a higher level, draft versions of that SoCG are requested to be submitted **by the applicant at deadline 3**. The position of the relevant interested parties should then be confirmed in the course of the examination. The examination timetable makes provision for updated SoCGs to be submitted at **deadline 6 (Thursday 7 January 2027)** if significant progress has been made to resolve matters not agreed at deadline 3, or to obtain local authority sign off.

3. 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**.

4. 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.

5. Report on the interrelationships with other nationally significant infrastructure projects

The ExA requests that the applicant prepares a report on the interrelationships with other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects to be submitted at **deadline 2**. The ExA has made the procedural decision to extend the submission date beyond deadline 1 to provide the applicant with the opportunity to prepare a comprehensive report that should include the following:

- An overview of the proposed development and the other nationally significant infrastructure projects. This should correspond to those projects identified on the Locations of Short List Cumulative Schemes figure [\[APP-142\]](#).
- The timings, construction phasing, grid connection and start of operation of each of the projects.
- A plan showing the order limits for the proposed development and, where applicable, where this overlaps with other nationally significant infrastructure projects how these interrelate with the approved layouts of those other schemes. This should also include other relevant major planning applications (whether consented or not), where they adjoin or overlap the proposed Light Valley Solar development, for example the Noventum Power Limited application for the erection of a solar farm in proximity to the proposed solar development sites 3 and 4.
- The plan should include the locations of the main features of each project such as including any solar arrays, energy storage facilities, substations, electrical cable routes, grid connection, environmental mitigation areas, temporary construction and decommissioning areas, and construction haulage routes.
- How the applicant has coordinated the proposed development with the other projects up to and including during the examination and, if applicable, how this would continue.
- Any development consent order provisions required for the proposed development to be implemented satisfactorily in relation to other projects should be identified, and commentary provided.
- Any mitigation measures shared with other projects should be identified. This should cover the specific measures included in those for the proposed development, and how they are secured.
- Any other information on the other projects relied on for the cumulative impact assessment. This should summarise any changes made since application.
- A summary of the relevant matters coordinated with the other projects, setting out matters that have been agreed, any inconsistencies or outstanding matters, and next steps to be taken to resolve them.

6. Accompanied site inspection

Time has been reserved in the examination timetable to undertake an accompanied site inspection during the week commencing **Monday 2 November 2026**.

As requested in **annex F** of our [Rule 6 Letter](#), suggestions, including justification, for locations to be included in the accompanied site inspection were submitted by procedural deadline B and have been published on the [project webpage](#).

The ExA has reviewed the suggested locations including justification and finds the majority of the suggested locations have been visited during the unaccompanied site inspection on 23 to 24 June 2026 or could be visited on an unaccompanied basis at a future inspection. The ExA will also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of an unaccompanied site inspection on an access required basis. Furthermore, the ExA is satisfied that the property for which an internal inspection was requested was adequately inspected during the unaccompanied site inspection and that the inspection was sufficient for the purposes of examining the application.

The ExA has therefore made a procedural decision to not request a draft itinerary for an accompanied site inspection. Time will remain reserved during the week commencing **Monday 2 November 2026** should the ExA decide an accompanied site inspection is necessary.

7. Additional submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted by procedural deadlines A and B, the ExA has exercised its discretion and made a procedural decision to accept the following additional submissions:

- a. The Applicant's Response to Relevant Representations (Part 2) Additional Supplementary Submission

Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings

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 participate at hearings

Interested parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in any further open floor hearing (OFH) or compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) on or before **Tuesday 11 August 2026** (see **deadline 1**).

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 CAHs, the plot number(s) of the relevant land provided in the [Book of Reference](#) and the [Land Plans](#)
- The [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/ page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to

The ExA will provide reasonable notice of the time, date and place of any hearings to all interested parties.

Requests to participate should be made using an **event participation form** which will be provided with the notification of the hearing.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend an event, either virtually or in person.

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

The ExA may also choose to hold issue specific hearings (ISH) about topics that it thinks need to be explored orally. The decision to hold an ISH about a particular topic is not connected to how relevant or important the ExA considers 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 lightvalleysolar@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 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.