



Examination Procedure Meeting note

Application: Light Valley Solar
Reference: EN0110012
Time and date: 10:00am Wednesday 21 October 2026
Venue: Virtual

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the examination procedure meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Matt Tandy (MT) welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) to examine the Light Valley Solar application. Marc Willis (MW) then introduced himself as a panel member and explained that Jonathan Medlin, the third member of the ExA, was not unable to attend the meeting .

MT explained the appointments were made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero.

MT explained the purpose of the Examination Procedure Meeting (EPM).

2. Audio recording

The video recording of this EPM is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#)

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained how personal data is handled in accordance with the principles set out in General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further info relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's '[Privacy Note](#)'.

4. Examining Authorities remarks about the change request

The ExA summarised the nine proposed changes as set out in the [applicant's change application and consultation report](#), and explained that the purpose of the discussion was to consider the procedural implications of the change request rather than the planning merits of the proposed changes.

The ExA outlined the statutory timescales for determining whether the change request should be accepted and highlighted that proposed Changes 2, 4 and 9 involved additional land and engagement of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010.

The ExA expressed concerns regarding the applicant's approach to consultation on the proposed changes and the practicality of the proposed timetable for examining the change request, including its consistency with the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010.

The ExA invited Interested Parties to provide views on these matters.

North Yorkshire Council advised that its specialists had capacity to review the change application but considered that the limited time available to assess the proposed changes could present difficulties.

The Environment Agency advised that it had undertaken an initial review of the change request and noted that proposed Changes 1 and 9 interact with watercourses, on which it may wish to provide further comments.

Monk Fryston Parish Council stated that it could only make decisions through formal Parish Council meetings and requested that these arrangements be taken into account by the ExA. It also considered that the proposed timetable was largely driven by the applicant and requested that the requirements of the relevant regulations be adhered to. Monk Fryston Parish Council further emphasised the importance of pre-submission consultation in allowing Interested Parties to make informed representations, requested that each proposed change be considered on its own merits and suggested that any hearings relating to the changes should be held as hybrid events.

Dr Romans expressed concern that the proposed timescales did not allow sufficient time for individuals with other professional commitments to respond.

Annette Exley noted the number of Parish Councils affected by the application and considered that insufficient time had been provided for Interested Parties, particularly affected landowners, to respond to the proposed changes.

The applicant submitted that the proposed timetable would provide Interested Parties with multiple opportunities to comment on the change request and suggested that any hearings held in January 2027, could be held a week later to allow additional time for submissions. The applicant stated that its proposed timetable was consistent with the flexibility available within the relevant regulations and that it was not seeking to reduce any statutory periods. The applicant advised that it had engaged proactively with affected landowners and Interested Parties and considered that a proportionate approach had been taken throughout the preparation of the change application.

In response to questions regarding Changes 2, 4 and 9, the applicant advised that discussions with affected parties were ongoing and expressed confidence that agreements could be reached before the close of the examination. The applicant further advised that, if Changes 2, 4 and 9 were not accepted for examination, it would need to review its approach and seek to secure the necessary rights through voluntary agreement rather than compulsory acquisition powers.

5. Amendments to the examination timetable

The ExA explained that, as a result of the change request and the time required to consider it, amendments to the examination timetable may be necessary regardless of any future decision on whether to accept the proposed changes for examination.

The ExA sought views from the applicant and Interested Parties on the potential deferral of the second round of hearings currently scheduled for the week commencing 2 November 2026, including whether any rescheduled hearings could be held virtually.

The ExA also sought views on the potential amendment of subsequent deadlines and examination milestones, including revised dates for post-hearing submissions, responses to the ExA's second written questions, comments on a schedule of proposed changes to the draft DCO, and any hearings required in relation to the change request.

The examination timetable can be found in the [rule 8](#) letter published on 4 August 2026.

In response to the ExA's questions regarding potential changes to hearing dates and formats, the applicant and North Yorkshire Council raised no concerns. Monk Fryston Parish Council supported revised hearing dates but expressed a preference for hybrid hearings rather than fully virtual hearings. Dr Romans stated that virtual or hybrid hearings would assist participation. Mr Grant raised no concerns regarding the revised hearing dates.

In response to the ExA's questions regarding potential amendments to examination deadlines, Monk Fryston Parish Council requested that deadlines falling during the Christmas period be avoided where possible. The applicant advised that the proposed deadline changes were acceptable.

In response to the ExA's questions regarding potential deadlines in early January 2027, North Yorkshire Council advised that its offices would be closed for a week from 28 December 2026. The Environment Agency advised that, whilst it did not have a formal Christmas shutdown period, staff leave over the Christmas period could affect availability and that issuing questions either before or after the Christmas period would be beneficial.

In response to the ExA's questions regarding potential hearings in January 2027, the applicant raised no concerns.

The applicant also raised no concerns regarding a potential deadline of 22 January 2027 for post-hearing submissions, closing submissions and final documents. No other parties commented on this matter.

Following the discussion, the applicant outlined a potential revised timetable that had been prepared having regard to the views expressed during the meeting.