



Preliminary meeting note

Application: East Pye Solar
Reference: EN0110014
Time and date: 10:00am Tuesday 15 September 2026
Venue: Dunston Hall Hotel, Ipswich Road, Norwich, NR14 8PQ

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

1. Welcome and Introduction

David Cliff (DC) welcomed those present and introduced himself as the lead member of the panel of Examining Inspectors. John McEvoy and Clare Taylor introduced themselves as panel members to examine the East Pye Solar application.

DC explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoSESNZ) on 19 June 2026.

DC explained that the Examining Authority (ExA) would be examining the application made by East Pye Solar Limited ('the applicant') before making a recommendation to the SoSESNZ who will decide whether an order granting development consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

DC explained the purpose of the preliminary meeting (PM) and noted that the examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Audio recording

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

3. General Data Protection Regulation

The ExA explained The Planning Inspectorate's duties under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

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

4. Examination process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further info can be found:

- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event'](#)
- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, an event'](#)

Suitable venues for potential hearings in November 2026 were discussed.

5. Initial assessment of principal issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the initial assessment of principal issues (IAP) (section 88 of PA2008), which can be found in annex C of the [rule 6](#) letter of 15 July 2026 and asked for any observations on them.

The ExA were asked to consider a number of additional principal issues by interested parties both in attendance in the meeting room and those attending virtually. These included some detailed matters that would fall under the principal issues identified by the ExA. Requests for additional principal issues included:

- Finances
- Business case
- Socio-economic effects

The ExA noted that matters not included within its IAP may still be the subject of representations by interested parties during the examination.

6. Examination timetable

The ExA noted comments, already received in writing, on the draft examination timetable contained in annex D of the rule 6 letter and also welcomed further comments and suggestions from the parties in attendance.

There was a discussion around future issue specific hearings.

It was agreed that Hempnall Parish Council would provide their written representation by deadline 1 but would provide additional supporting information including maps and photographs at deadline 2.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations will be reflected in the rule 8 letter, as appropriate.

The examination timetable can be found in the [Rule 8](#) letter published on 23 September 2026.

7. Hearings and site inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue specific hearings
- Compulsory acquisition hearings
- Open floor hearings
- Accompanied site inspections
- Unaccompanied site inspections

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. These were duly noted and considered by the ExA.

Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found:

- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: What to expect at a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project event'](#)
- ['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Registering to speak at, or attend, an event'](#)

8. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations. Procedural decisions already made can be found in [annex F](#) of its rule 6 letter. The ExA also set out its intended arrangements for its future site inspections.

9. Other matters

Several comments were made in relation to the accessibility of the application documents. In particular, concerns were raised that the size of documents prevent local residents from being able to easily download and view them. The applicant agreed to review this matter, including providing documents with smaller file sizes, provision of an indicative set of works plans, and further information on works plans to aid residents wishing to download and view the current proposals. The applicant was also asked to consider how documents could be made available to those without internet access at home, such as provision through local libraries.

10. Close of meeting

The ExA thanked all parties for their attendance and contributions, confirming that its rule 8 letter, containing the examination timetable and other procedural matters, will be published as soon as practicable following the meeting.