



Application by East Pye Solar Limited for East Pye Solar project

The Examining Authority's initial written questions and requests for information (ExQ1): Issued on 23 September 2026.

Responses are due by deadline 1: 6 October 2026

The following table sets out the Examining Authority's (ExA's) initial written questions and requests for information - ExQ1. The examination timetable enables the ExA to issue further rounds of written questions in due course. The further rounds of questions will be referred to as ExQ2 and ExQ3.

The following questions represent the ExA's initial set of questions on mostly general and strategic matters arising from our reading of the application documents, relevant representations and matters arising from submissions made at open floor hearings 1 and 2, and issue specific hearing 1. A further, more detailed, set of ExA questions, including on all matters arising in relation to the principal issues will follow later in the examination on 10 November 2026. This will follow the receipt of written representations (deadline 1) and comments on these (deadline 2).

Questions are set out using an issues-based framework generally derived from the initial assessment of principal issues provided as **annex C** to the [Rule 6](#) Letter dated 15 July 2026.

Column 2 of the table indicates which interested parties and other persons each question is directed to. The ExA would be grateful if all persons named could answer all questions directed to them, providing a substantive response, or indicating that the question is not relevant to them for a reason. This does not prevent an answer being provided to a question by a person to whom it is not directed, should the question be relevant to their interests.

Each question has a unique reference number which starts with 1 (indicating that it is from ExQ1) and then has an issue number and a question number. For example, the first question on general and cross topic issues is identified as Q1.1.1. When you are answering a question, please start your answer by quoting the unique reference number.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) in casework evidence



If you use AI to create your submission, you should tell us that you have done this. You should specify which systems or tools you have used, the source of the information that the AI system has based its content on, and what information the AI has been used to create or alter. Further information can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [guidance](#). By following this guidance, you will help the ExA to understand the origin and accuracy of the information submitted, thereby supporting fair and impartial decision-making. **If you do not declare the use of AI in any evidence submission where it has been used or remove evidence such as watermarks, we reserve the right to reject the submission.**

You should respond to the questions by using the **Have your say** function on the [project page of the National Infrastructure website](#) and selecting 'Responses to Examining Authority's first written questions (ExQ1)' when asked.

If you are responding to a small number of questions, you can submit your answers by choosing 'Make a comment' and entering your answers in the 'Your comments' box. If you are answering a larger number of questions you should download a copy of the Microsoft Word version of the document, enter your answers and save the document using an appropriate file name. You can then submit the completed document by selecting 'Upload files'.

Microsoft Word version: [Examining Authority's Written Questions 1 \(ExQ1\) \(Word Version\)](#)

Abbreviations used:

BESS	battery energy storage system	NCC	Norfolk County Council
BNG	biodiversity net gain	NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
CLG	community liaison group	NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
dDCO	draft Development Consent Order	NPS	National Policy Statement
EIA	environmental impact assessment	oCEMP	outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
ES	Environmental Statement	oOEMP	outline Operational Environmental Management Plan
ExA	Examining Authority	oCTMP	outline Construction Traffic Management Plan



ExQ	Examining Authority's written questions	PRoW	public rights of way
EN-1	Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy, 2025	PV	photovoltaic
EN-5	NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure, 2025	R	requirement
FP	Footpath	RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
kgCO₂e	kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent	RR	relevant representation
kV	kilovolt	SF6	sulphur hexafluoride
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	SNDC	South Norfolk District Council
m	metres	tCO₂e	tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

The Examination Library

References in these questions set out in square brackets (for example [[APP-010](#)]) are to documents catalogued in the Examination Library. The Examination Library can be obtained from the following link: [EL web link](#). It will be updated as the examination progresses.

Citation of questions

Questions in this table should be cited as follows:

Question reference: issue reference: question number, for example ExQ1 1.1.1 – refers to question 1 in this table.



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ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
1. General and cross-topic questions		
Q1.1.2	The applicant, South Norfolk District Council (SNDC), Block East Pye Solar, any Parish Council	Community Liaison Group Section 5.7 of the Planning Statement [APP-209] provides a general description of proposals for a community liaison group (CLG) with some limited further detail in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [APP-196]. Requirement (R) 4 of the dDCO [AS-032] provides for the establishment of the CLG, including approval of the terms of reference. Notwithstanding the above, further details/ suggestions are now requested of the roles, responsibilities, participants and draft terms of reference of the proposed CLG in order to maximise its effectiveness during the construction process. This should also address how the CLG would effectively operate across the entirety of the area potentially affected by the proposed development. SNDC Response SNDC have no comments to make at this time.
2. Design, parameters and other details of the proposed development		
Q1.2.14	The applicant, Norfolk County Council (NCC) and SNDC	Design Approach Document [APP-212] and Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP-213] The applicant and local authorities are requested to engage with the aim of ensuring that the design principles, parameters and commitments are appropriately worded so that there can be appropriate certainty regarding the future submission of detailed design proposals and the achievement of good design. An update on this engagement is requested at deadline 1. SNDC Response SNDC, NCC, and the applicant held a meeting together 28/09/2026 and discussed the Design Principles, Parameters, and Commitments document and agreed that there will be ongoing discussions and that this will be subject to review as the examination progresses.
10. Ecology and biodiversity		
Q1.10.2	The applicant (a, b, c) and SNDC (a)	Great crested newt surveys In light of SNDC's concerns [RR-1795] regarding further great crested newt survey work at additional water bodies created as part of the Long Stratton Bypass landscaping scheme, and the applicant's response [PDA-008] that access to these ponds has previously been requested but not provided, can the applicant and SNDC discuss this matter and provide an update at deadline 1 confirming: a) Whether access has been agreed. b) Whether any further survey or assessment work has been or will be undertaken and when this would be. c) How and when the outcome of any further survey/ assessment work would be submitted. SNDC Response SNDC previously advised the applicant that the land containing the ponds for additional surveys is not under Council ownership and encouraged discussions with NCC.
11. Landscape and visual		
Q1.11.6	The applicant, SNDC and NCC	Proposed substations SNDC has raised concerns [RR-1795] regarding the landscaping of the three proposed 400kV substations. a) The applicant is requested to provide further explanation for its proposed landscaping strategy in proximity of all the proposed substations (including National Grid, 400kV and 132kV substations), including how the proposals would effectively reduce and mitigate potential landscape and visual effects. b) The applicant is requested to engage with SNDC and NCC with the aim of ensuring that the proposed landscaping near to the proposed substations and other infrastructure is optimised taking account of potential landscape, visual and heritage effects. An update on this

		engagement is requested at deadline 1. This should also include ensuring the adequacy of measures contained in the relevant outline management plans. SNDC Response SNDC, NCC, and the applicant held a meeting together 28/09/2026 and discussed the landscaping proposals with further technical specialist meetings are being scheduled to discuss this topic matter further.
Q1.11.7	The applicant, NCC, SNDC	Advanced planting The applicant's response [PDA-008] to NCC's RR [RR-1451], seeking further clarification on the advance planting and phasing of landscape mitigation, states that it will explore proposals for advanced planting and review opportunities for additional commitments. The applicant, NCC and SNDC are requested to continue discussions on this and provide an update at deadline 1, including locations and components of the development where advanced planting would be beneficial in reducing and mitigating landscape and visual effects and how proposals for advanced planting would be secured through the DCO. SNDC Response SNDC, NCC, and the applicant held a meeting together 28/09/2026 and discussed advanced planting with further technical specialist meetings are being scheduled to discuss this topic matter further.