Planning Inspectorate

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To: All Interested Parties

Our Ref: EN0110014

Date: 16 November 2026

Dear Sir / Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 13

Application by East Pye Solar Ltd for an order granting development consent for the East Pye Solar project

Notification of hearings

The examination timetable at annex A of the Examining Authority's (ExA) rule 8 letter, dated 23 September 2026, includes dates reserved for hearings in week commencing 14 December 2026.

We are now writing to advise you that the following hearings will be held under section 91 of the Planning Act 2008. The hearing(s) will be blended events, with participants attending either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Hearing	Date	Start time	Location
Issue specific hearing 2 (ISH2) **Environmental matters** (See note below on potential agenda items)	**Tuesday 15 December 2026** And continuing on **Wednesday 16 December 2026**	Registration and seating available from: **09.15am** Virtual registration process from: **09.30am** **Event start: 10.00am on Tuesday 15th** **Hearing resumes on Wednesday 16th at 10.00am**	All hearings will be blended events at: Dunston Hall, Ipswich Road, Norwich, NR14 8PQ and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on

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			how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
Issue specific hearing 3 (ISH3) **Environmental matters and the draft development consent order** (See note below on potential agenda items)	**Thursday 17 December 2026** And continuing on (if required) **Friday 18 December 2026**	Registration and seating available from: 09.15am Virtual registration process from: 09.30am **Event start: 10.00am on Thursday 17th** **Hearing resumes (if required) on Friday 18th at 9.30am (registration from 9.00am)** The hearing will close no later than 1.00pm on Friday 18 December	All hearings will be blended events at: Dunston Hall, Ipswich Road, Norwich, NR14 8PQ and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
NOTE: If any of the above hearings are no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website, providing reasonable notice to interested parties of the decision to cancel.			

Purpose, participation and management of issue specific hearings

The examination of applications is principally on the basis of written submissions supplemented where necessary by hearings. Issue specific hearings (ISH) are held at the discretion of the ExA where we consider it necessary to find out more about an issue we have already read about in the application documents, representations and responses to the ExA's written questions. Consequently, matters to be discussed at an ISH will be limited to the matters identified in the agenda or otherwise raised by the ExA. ISH's are not an opportunity for general submissions to be made about the application.

If an issue specific hearing is held about an issue it is not necessarily because that issue is more important than other issues, but because the ExA thinks it is necessary to have a discussion and clarify a specific issue.

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Oral submissions must address the matters and questions identified on the hearing agenda or raised by the ExA at the hearing. Oral submissions on other subject matters or from persons who have not been invited to speak by the ExA may only be heard at the discretion of the ExA, who may decide that such matters are not heard in the interests of relevance, efficiency or fairness. There will be an opportunity for interested parties to comment in writing on any matter discussed at an ISH at **deadline 4 (6 January 2027)**.

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

All hearings are recorded. The recordings and transcripts will be made available on the project webpage as soon as practicable following 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 at a hearing.

Please refer to The Planning Inspectorate's Advice for members of the public: The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say for further information about the examination process including issue specific hearings.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies. Please refer to our 'Privacy Notice' for further information. Participants must do their best to avoid making public any information which they would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the case team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and transcripts and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the development consent order (DCO). If you actively participate in the hearing, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording and transcript will be made available in the public domain.

The evidence presented orally at hearings should be included in post hearing submissions and submitted at **deadline 4 (6 January 2027)**.

Hearing agendas and attendees

The agendas and any detailed arrangements for the hearings will be published on the project webpage at least five working days before the hearings. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the ExA's discretion.

Subject to written submissions made at deadline 3 at oral submissions at open floor hearing 3, it is anticipated that the matters to be discussed at the issue specific hearings may include, but not be limited to specific issues in connection with:

- ISH2: Scope (including National Grid substation), aviation, ecology, landscape and visual, noise and vibration, transport and access (including public rights of way)

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- ISH3: Cultural heritage, water environment, soils and agricultural land, in-combination effects, draft development consent order.

It is important to note that this list may change and there also may be changes to the hearings (ISH2 or 3) in which a particular issue will be discussed. Certain matters, including cumulative effects may be considered across more than one hearing where they are relevant to the topics under discussion. It is not possible at this stage to determine which day a particular issue will be discussed.

The agendas will also include a list of those parties the ExA would find it particularly helpful to attend the hearings. This is likely to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The applicant
- Norfolk County Council (including planning representative(s), Highway Authority and Local Lead Flood Authority)
- South Norfolk Council
- Block East Pye Solar
- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- General Aviation Awareness Council
- National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
- Norfolk Gliding Club
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Registration and requests to participate in hearings

Please register using the event participation form (click here) by 07 December 2026 if you intend to participate in the hearings and provide all the information requested.
If you have any difficulty completing the form, please contact the case team.

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online live stream of the event and the recording of the event which will get published on the project webpage. A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the event. Please contact the case team to notify them if you prefer not to be filmed at the event. A transcript of the event will also be published on the project webpage after the event.

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);
- confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person;
- confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in.

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Joining instructions for hearings will be issued by the case team via email shortly before the hearing dates.

Please contact the case team if you require any support or assistance to attend any hearing, either virtually or in person.

If you simply wish to observe any of the hearings, then you can either:

1. Watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the project webpage shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. Watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to observe only by **07 December 2026** using the **event participation form (click here).** Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **07 December 2026.**

Applicant's notification duties

The applicant is reminded of its duty to notify and publicise hearings under rule 13(6) and 13(7) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case team eastpyesolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

David Cliff

David Cliff
Lead member of the panel of examining Inspectors

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our 'Privacy Notice' before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.

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