



The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000

Email: OaklandsFarmSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

To: All Interested Parties

Our Ref:

EN010122

Date:

10 September 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam

Application by Oaklands Farm Solar Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for Oaklands Farm Solar Park

Procedural Decisions about hearings and site inspections in October 2024

Rules 9, 13 and 16 of [The Infrastructure Planning \(Examination Procedure\) Rules 2010](#).

I am writing about the hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection reserved for October 2024 in the Examination Timetable in my [Rule 8 letter of 16 July 2024](#).

HEARINGS

I have decided to hold the following hearings in October 2024. These will be blended events with some people attending at the venue in person and others attending using Microsoft Teams.

Hearing	Dates	Times	Venue
Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Agriculture, soils, decommissioning Biodiversity Landscape, visual, glint, glare Traffic, transport Drainage, flooding Other topics Development Consent Order	Tuesday 22 October 2024 Wednesday 23 October 2024	Hearing start: 10:00am Seating available at venue for those attending in person: 9:30am Arrangements conference for those attending using Microsoft Teams: 9:30am	Branston Golf & Country Club, Burton Road, Branston, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 3DP and using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to attend using Microsoft Teams will be provided to those that have completed the Event Participation Form (see below).

Hearing	Dates	Times	Venue
Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)	Tuesday 22 October 2024	Hearing start: 6:00pm Seating available at venue for those attending in person: 5:30pm Arrangements conference for those attending using Microsoft Teams: 5:30pm	Branston Golf & Country Club, Burton Road, Branston, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 3DP and using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to attend using Microsoft Teams will be provided to those that have completed the Event Participation Form (see below).
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1)	Wednesday 23 October 2024	Hearing start: 2:00pm Seating available at venue for those attending in person: 1:30pm Arrangements conference for those attending using Microsoft Teams: 1:30pm	Branston Golf & Country Club, Burton Road, Branston, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 3DP and using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to attend using Microsoft Teams will be provided to those that have completed the Event Participation Form (see below).

If you would just like to **observe a hearing online**, then you can either:

1. watch a livestream of the hearing - 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 hearing or read the transcript - which will both be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

If, however, you would like to **speak at the hearing and/ or attend at the venue in person** then you are required to complete the [Event Participation Form](#) by **Tuesday 1 October 2024**, providing the following information:

- your title, name and unique reference number (found at the top of the Rule 6 letter) and, if applicable, the name of the organisation or person that you are representing;
- your email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- whether you will attend in person at the venue or using Microsoft Teams;
- the points you wish to make;
- the [Examination Library](#) references of any documents that you want to refer to; and
- any special requirements, including disabled access or a hearing loop.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of the Rule 6 letter if you require any support to complete the [Event Participation Form](#) or to observe, attend, or speak at a hearing.

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.

Applicant's notification duties

The Applicant is reminded of its duty to notify and publicise hearings under Rules 13(6) and 13(7) of [The Infrastructure Planning \(Examination Procedure\) Rules 2010](#).

The purpose of the hearings

Issue Specific Hearings provide an opportunity for me to examine specific issues relating to the application and to invite parties to make oral representations about those issues. They are held in accordance with Section 91 of the PA2008.

Compulsory Acquisition Hearings provide an opportunity for me to examine the Applicants' case for Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession and to invite Affected Persons and the Applicant to make oral representations about those matters. They are held in accordance with Section 92 of the PA2008.

Open Floor Hearings give parties an opportunity to make an oral representation about the application. They are held in accordance with Section 93 of the PA2008.

Opportunities to make oral representations are subject to my powers of control over the conduct of the hearings as the Examining Authority.

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 more information.

Attendees

It would be helpful if the following parties could please attend the following hearings, as a minimum:

- Applicant: ISH1, OFH2, CAH1
- South Derbyshire District Council: ISH1
- Derbyshire County Council: ISH1
- Environment Agency: ISH1
- Natural England: ISH1

Hearing agendas and procedure

The **agendas** will be published to the [project webpage](#) no later than **Tuesday 15 October 2024**, following my consideration of requests to participate. The agendas are subject to change at my discretion. There may not be an agenda for OFH2.

The procedure to be followed at the hearings is set out in [The Infrastructure Planning \(Examination Procedure\) Rules 2010](#). More information will be provided with the agendas.

By attending a hearing, you are agreeing to be filmed for the livestream and the recording of the hearings. Please let the case team know if you prefer not to be filmed.

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

SITE INSPECTIONS

I would like to thank South Derbyshire District Council [[REP1-028](#)] for suggesting locations for me to visit and points to note. This has helped me formulate the approach to site inspections for this Examination.

I note that most of the suggested locations are publicly accessible, and I therefore intend to view those locations on an unaccompanied basis.

I propose to seek access from relevant parties to the following locations that are not publicly accessible:

- private garden of Pennywort Cottage, Coton Road, Walton-on-Trent;
- Walton Hill Farm, Coton Road, Walton-on-Trent;
- Fairfields Farm, Rosliston Road, Walton-on-Trent; and
- the proposed locations of the battery energy storage system and new 132/33kV onsite substation, Work Nos. 2 and 3 on the Works Plan [[AS-003](#)].

A member of the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team will join me at those locations. I will not have any discussion with any other parties present - their role will be solely to grant access, open any locked gates and direct me to the relevant part of the site. This will therefore be an Unaccompanied Site Inspection in accordance with Rule 16(1) of [The Infrastructure Planning \(Examination Procedure\) Rules 2010](#).

I am satisfied that with the above Unaccompanied Site Inspection I will have sufficient access to the locations suggested by South Derbyshire District Council [[REP1-028](#)] for me to understand the "*impact of development on landscape*" at their suggested locations. I have therefore decided not to hold the Accompanied Site Inspection reserved for Thursday 24 October 2024 in the Examination Timetable in my [Rule 8 letter of 16 July 2024](#).

I look forward to continuing to work with all parties during the Examination.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Cowperthwaite

The Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

