



The Planning Inspectorate

Summary Note following pre Inquiry case management meeting on 3 September 2025, 14.00, Microsoft Teams

**The National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (VIP Cotswolds)
Compulsory Purchase Order 2025**

Inquiry opening date: 4 November 2025 at 10am

**Venue: Hatherley Manor Hotel, Down Hatherley Lane, Gloucester,
Gloucestershire, GL2 9QA**

**Documents should be sent to the PINS case officer -
stephen.waterfield@planninginspectorate.gov.uk**

1. Parties Present

The Acquiring Authority (AA):

- Alexander Booth KC
- Amardeep Malhi (National Grid)
- Juan Murray (The Environment Partnership)
- Rebecca Greatrix (Land Use Consultants)
- Dominic Rees (Dalcour Maclaren)
- Dave Rogerson (National Grid)
- Nicky Lear (Arcadis)

The Statutory Objectors

	In attendance/ Spokesperson	
1		National Gas
2		Mr & Mrs Drake
3		Cllr Paul Hodgkinson
4	Sylvia Barchus	Jonathan Morton Stanley and Corinium Construction Limited
5	Tim Broomhead	RH Barnes and Sons
6	Sylvia Barchus	Dunkerton Properties Projects Limited and Dowdeswell Conservation
7	Carter Jonas (George Tiley)	Tom Howard Nicholas & Jack Thomas, Westlands Farm Withdrawn 7 August 2025

2. It would assist the Inquiry if National Gas could provide the AA with the headlines/an outline of the content they are seeking for the Asset Protection Agreement.

Inquiry dates and times

3. The Inquiry will open at 10am on Tuesday 4 November 2025.
4. The Inquiry is currently programmed for 7 days:
 - 4/5/6 November

- 11/12/13 November
 - Reserve day online to be confirmed in writing by the parties.
5. Mr Booth confirmed that he has one witness who would not be available on 13 November but that this could be accommodated. I was not made aware of any other availability issues.
 6. The AA confirmed the venue (see heading). They must ensure that it is fully accessible to all with wi-fi and if necessary, a microphone system. The AA also confirmed that a retiring room would be booked for me, break out rooms for objectors and that there is adequate parking available on site.

Inquiry Procedure

7. On the first morning of the Inquiry, I will expect the promoter of the scheme (AA) to confirm all statutory requirements have been complied with, to advise me of any changes to the Protected Assets Certificate and General Certificate (or to confirm they are as I have them).
8. At this stage no specific legal submissions are expected. No modifications were suggested to me either. Parties must check the Order before the event and notify me via the case officer if the position on modification changes. Ideally this would be before the Inquiry opens.

Site Inspections

9. Prior to the Inquiry opening I will undertake an unaccompanied site inspection. The AA will produce a suggested itinerary for this and consult with the remaining objectors before sending the final version to me no later than **24 October 2025**.
10. An accompanied site inspection will be incorporated into the programme for week 2. Again the AA will consider the itinerary for this in liaison with the remaining objectors.

Evidence

11. The AA's opening statement and closing submissions should be produced in writing. An electronic copy of the submissions should also be submitted to the case officer, as this may form the basis of the reporting of the case. Other parties' representations should be in writing, with electronic copies wherever possible. The parties' documents should include copies of any handwritten notes that are read to the Inquiry.
12. All documents should have page and simple paragraph numbers and use metric units. Where proofs of evidence are more than 1500 words long, summaries are required. Summaries should not be more than 1500 words or 10% of the proof whichever is greater. They should contain the main points to be relied upon.

13. Material drawn from the internet should be submitted with the proofs, normally as an appendix, as website material may change or be removed. Proofs should also contain a clear statement that AI has not been used to produce them.
14. The AA confirmed that an Inquiry website will be put in place, and it will contain core documents and provision for Inquiry documents to be uploaded. The AA will add to this as required. Remaining objectors must advise the AA of any documents they require adding to the core document list no later than **29 September 2025**.

Inquiry Programme¹

Inspector Opening

Opening statement by advocate for the Acquiring Authority

Acquiring Authority Case:

For each witness

- Evidence in chief
- Cross examination by objectors
- Questions from Inspector
- Re examination
- [repeated for each witness]

The AA has indicated that it intends to call six/[seven] witnesses as follows:

- Scheme Witness – Amardeep Malhi (National Grid)
- Planning Witness – Juan Murray (The Environment Partnership)
- Landscape and Visual Impact Witness – Rebecca Greatrix (Land Use Consultants)
- Negotiations Witness – Dominic Rees (Dalcour Maclaren)
- Engineering Witness – Dave Rogerson (National Grid)
- Environmental Witness – Nicky Lear (Arcadis)
- [Stakeholder Advisory Group Witness – TBC]

First Objection

- Objectors Case:
- Evidence in chief by objectors first witness
- Cross examination by Acquiring Authority
- Inspector's questions (if not dealt with during evidence)
- re-examination
- procedure repeated for objector's second and subsequent witnesses (if appropriate)
- Objector's submissions (if appropriate)
- Acquiring authority's specific reply to objection (unless deferred to final submissions).

¹ I note Mr Booth requested the right to re call witnesses should the objector's witnesses raise new points.

[second and any subsequent objections – same process as for first objection]

Objections where no appearances made

- Questions from the Inspector and opposing advocate if appropriate

Further site inspection – to be arranged by the AA if necessary

Acquiring Authority's final submissions

Close of Inquiry

15.The AA intend to provide a proof of evidence for each witness.

16.The objectors who intend to attend the Inquiry should provide details of advocates, witnesses and/or appointed representatives and which of the AA witnesses they wish to cross examine. They should also confirm whether they intend to provide a statement of case and/or proofs or if they intend to rely on the existing objection documents. This information should be sent to my case officer by **22 September 2025**.

17.The normal sitting times of the Inquiry will be from 10.00 to 17.00 with a lunch break as well as mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks. Advocates will be required to assist me with managing that.

18.A draft timetable will be sent out once evidence has been exchanged. It would assist me if the AA could fill this out first, circulate it to other parties and then send a version back to the case officer before the Inquiry opens and ideally no later than **24 October 2025**.

19.A copy of this note should be placed on the Inquiry website.

D J Board

INSPECTOR

04/09/2025

Summary of timings

22 September 2025	• Response from objectors who intend to appear at the Inquiry • This should confirm: ○ intentions for calling of witnesses (who and on what topic) ○ Intentions for cross examination/questioning of AA witnesses (who) ○ Any availability issues.
29 September 2025	• Statements of case • Core document requests • Confirmation of reserve day
13 October 2025	• Proofs/Statements of Evidence
24 October 2025	• Site visit information • Timings & timetable