



To:
Oaklands Farm Solar Limited

Our Ref: EN010122

Date: 10/04/2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Application by Oaklands Farm Solar Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Oaklands Farm Solar Park (“the Oaklands Farm Solar Park project”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 19 December 2024, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 19 March 2025. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. There are matters on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the Applicant could provide updates or information as appropriate.

Updated National Flood Risk Assessment

3. The Secretary of State notes that the Environment Agency has published new data following an updated National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA)¹. The Flood Map for Planning and flood zones were updated on 25 March 2025². The Applicant is invited to explain whether the updates have any implications for Environmental Statement Chapter 8, the Flood Risk Assessment and the Sequential Assessment for the proposed development.

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

4. The Secretary of State notes that at Deadline 4 of the examination the Applicant submitted REP4-040: [Deadline 4 Submission - 6.1 Environmental Statement Appendix 5.6 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan \(Clean\) \(PDF\)](#).

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-assessment-of-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-in-england-2024/national-assessment-of-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-in-england-2024>

² <https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/04532375-a198-476e-985e-0579a0a11b47>

[2MB](#)) and that Appendix A of this document is blank. The Applicant is requested to clarify if the plans and figures in REP4-040 Appendix A are identical to Appendix A of REP3-025: [Deadline 3 - 6.1 Environmental Statement - Chapter 5 - Appendix 5.6: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan \(Clean\) \(PDF, 44MB\)](#). The Applicant is also requested to provide an updated copy of REP4-040 that includes Appendix A.

Draft Development Consent Order

5. The Secretary of State notes that at Deadline 5 of the examination the Applicant submitted REP5-026: [13.4 The Written Summary of the Applicant's Oral Submissions at Issue Specific Hearing 1 \(PDF, 1MB\)](#). The Secretary of State notes that in relation to securing funding for decommissioning of the proposed development, in paragraph 1.72 the Applicant states "The controls between the landowner and the Applicant are going to be strongly enforced". The Applicant is requested to provide evidence of this (for instance by providing any relevant agreements). The Applicant is also requested to provide updates on any outstanding land agreement(s) and negotiations for easement(s).
6. **Responses to the requested information should be submitted to OaklandsFarmSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 23.59 on 25 April 2025.**
7. Responses will be published on the Oaklands Farm Solar Park project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010122> as soon as possible after 23:59 on 25 April 2025.
8. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Oaklands Farm Solar Park or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

John Wheadon

John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation

Department of Energy Security & Net Zero