

To:
Oaklands Farm Solar Limited
DHA Planning Ltd.
Environment Agency

Our Ref: EN010122

26 August 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Application by Oaklands Farm Solar Limited (“the Applicant”) for a non- material change (“NMC”) to the Oaklands Farm Solar Park Order 2025 as corrected by the Oaklands Farm Solar Park (Correction) Order 2025

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. The Secretary of State has considered the Application documents, the responses received to the Applicant’s consultation and the reply from the Applicant to the Environment Agency’s consultation response.
2. The Secretary of State notes the revised Works Plan (EN010122/NMC/2.3), revised Environmental Statement - Chapter 4 Project Description (EN010122/D6/6.1) and the revised Appendix I of the Design Statement (EN010122/NMC/7.2) submitted with the Application. There are matters on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the Applicant and the Environment Agency could provide updates or information as appropriate regarding the changes being proposed and their likely environmental effects.

Changes No.1 and No.2 - Design Flood Extent and Design Flood Level

3. The Secretary of State notes the Applicant’s response dated 20 August 2026. The **Environment Agency** is invited to confirm if the information provided by the Applicant addresses its concerns regarding the location of the additional and amended panels in relation to the design flood extent. The Environment Agency is invited to advise whether the proposed changes would remain resilient to flooding for the lifetime of the development.

Change No. 2 – Glint and Glare

4. **The Applicant** is requested to confirm if the original glint and glare assessments remain valid for both the proposed increase and decrease to heights of the solar panels.
5. **The Applicant** is requested to confirm if the use of the 2.1m glint and glare screens will remain the same or if the height of these screens will increase to mitigate the proposed changes to the solar panels.

Changes No. 3 and No. 7- Operational Noise

6. Regarding the proposed change to taller and louder transformers and with consideration of any resulting changes to operational noise outputs, **the Applicant** is requested to confirm whether the mitigation proposed remains appropriate.
7. **The Applicant** is requested to comment on the potential for increased noise pollution that may arise from proposed change seven, both during construction and operation.

Change No.1 - Best Most Versatile Land

8. **The Applicant** is requested to provide an updated assessment of impact to each class of agricultural land grade (“ALC”) due to the proposed adjustment to the solar panels, so that the impact (if any) on best most versatile (“BMV”) land can be fully understood.

Change No.1 - Hedgerows and Trees

9. **The Applicant** is requested to comment on whether the proposed amendment of the solar array layout will impact the ability to adhere to the existing 5m hedgerow and the 15m tree root protection zone buffers.

Change 2- Impacts of increased piling depth

10. **The Applicant** is requested to comment on the potential impacts of the increased piling depth (from 2m to 3m) on soil quality, ground water, geology and agricultural drainage.

Changes No. 1 – No.7 - LEMP, CEMP and CTMP

11. The Secretary of State notes that the proposed changes in this application would require amendments to the LEMP, CEMP and CTMP which have been partially discharged by the discharging authority. **The Applicant** is asked to confirm if they will be requesting amendments to these documents through the discharging authority, or if the proposed changes in this application do not affect the elements of those plans that have already been discharged.

Changes No. 1 – No.7 - Cumulative Effects of All Proposed Changes

12. **The Applicant** is requested to provide an assessment of the potential for intra-project cumulative impacts from the proposed changes in relation to all relevant topics.

Changes No. 1, No.2, No.5, No.6 and No.7 - Effects on Equestrianism

13. **The Applicant** is requested to confirm if they have given consideration to the British Horse Society guidance in relation to Solar Farms and if the changes proposed in this Application would impact equestrian activities.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

14. The deadline for response is **23:59 on 16 September 2026**.
15. Responses should be submitted **by email only** to OaklandsFarmSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk copied to energyinfrastructureplanning@energysecurity.gov.uk.
16. Responses will be published on the Oaklands Farm Solar Park project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 16 September 2026.
17. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to authorise consent for the non-material change application. 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