

Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Via email

Date
15th September 2026

Dear Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation

SECTION 153 AND SCHEDULE 6 THE PLANNING ACT 2008

APPLICATION TO MAKE A NON-MATERIAL CHANGE TO THE OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR PARK ORDER 2025 (SI 2025/739) AS CORRECTED BY THE OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR PARK (CORRECTION) ORDER 2025 (SI 2025/1070)

Oaklands Farm Solar Limited (the “Applicant”) has submitted an application for a non-material change (“NMC”) to The Oaklands Farm Solar Park Order 2025 (SI 2025/739) as corrected by The Oaklands Farm Solar Park (Correction) Order 2025 (SI 2025/1070) (the “DCO”). The NMC application was submitted on 03 June 2026 and published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website on 05 June 2026.

Following the end of the consultation period and the submission of additional information by the Applicant as requested by the Environment Agency, the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero (“SoS”) has issued a Request for Information (“RfI”) dated 26 August 2026 requesting additional detail, information and clarity on the NMC application. This letter provides a response by the Applicant to the RfI following the structure set out in the RfI from the SoS. Appendix A includes statements from the relevant consultants in response to the RfI which have informed the Applicant’s response to the RfI.

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.

Applicant’s response:

The proposed change does not increase the maximum elevation of the solar panels when measured against Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). Rather, it provides some flexibility in the 2.7 m height parameter where the existing ground level dips or falls away beneath the panels. This is necessary because the solar panels are installed on level mounting frames, or ‘tables’, which can extend across areas where ground levels vary. In these locations, the distance

between the ground and the top of the panels may exceed 2.7 m, even though the overall height of the panels remains unchanged.

Without this flexibility, the solar tables would need to be unnecessarily broken up or stepped to follow relatively minor changes in ground level simply to maintain the 2.7 m height at every point. This would result in a more fragmented and less efficient layout.

The change therefore allows the mounting tables to remain level across the natural variations in the site's topography. Importantly, it does not result in the panels being installed at a greater overall elevation; any increase above 2.7 m from ground level occurs where the land falls away beneath the panels. The technical consultant's response from PagerPower at Appendix A includes a visual representation for additional clarity.

Both the changes in the minimum and maximum parameter heights for the solar panels ensures the overall panel heights and the tables remain a consistent height as assessed in the Environmental Statement ("ES"). Therefore, the assessed height of the panels and the assessed horizontal tilting angle have not changed and the original Glint and Glare Assessment remains valid as set out in ES Chapter 14 – Glint and Glare [REP04-047]. This is confirmed in the statement by the technical consultants at Appendix A.

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.

Applicant's response:

The glint and glare screens in the form of opaque netting attached to Site fencing are proposed up to a height of 3m as set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ("LEMP") [REP4-040] (see paras 5.42 – 5.44). The glint and glare screens are attached to the proposed 2.1m deer fencing which comprise wire mesh and wooden posts. The height of the fencing is not intended to change but rather the glint and glare screening would be installed up to 3m in height for a temporary period while the new hedgerow is established. Therefore, the glint and glare screens will remain the same (up to 3m in height) and no additional mitigation is required. This is confirmed in the statement by the technical consultants at Appendix A.

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.

Applicant's response:

The inclusion of a new Option 2 'SKID' MV transformer station ('Skid') does not introduce a taller transformer station than already allowed for within the existing parameters. The existing parameters allow for transformer stations of up to 3m in height, and the proposed Skids would also have a maximum height of 3m. There is therefore no change to the maximum height of the transformer stations. The main difference relates to the footprint of the equipment. The proposed Skids would measure approximately 7.5m in length and 3m in width, compared with the larger transformer station currently provided for within the DCO parameters, which

measures 4.1m in length and 3m in width. The proposed change therefore does not introduce a taller transformer, with the maximum 3 m height parameter remaining same.

As set out in the EIA Addendum submitted with the NMC application [EN010122/NMC/1.1], the parameters only allow one of the two MV Transformer Station options to be installed either Option 1: smaller or larger MV transformers or Option 2: Skids. As the Skids are larger and more powerful, fewer units are required; up to 30 rather than up to 70 Option 1 MV transformers. The previous assumption used for the Noise Assessment undertaken was that each MV transformer had a sound power level (Lw) of 64 dBA. The manufacturers noise data provided for the Skids confirms a sound power level between 67 and 69 dBA. However, a decrease from 70 MV transformers to 30 Skids results in a reduction of 3.7 dB, which balances against the Skid sound power level increase of approximately 4 dB (a difference of 0.3dB). In the noise model, the MV transformers had the lowest contribution to noise levels at receptors; consequently, a relatively small increase in the sound power level from using the Skids (0.3dB) would have no effect on the predicted noise levels at receptors and would not be a perceptible change.

The actual contribution to noise level at receptors will depend on the placement of units within the site and proximity to receptors, for both the previous and proposed design parameters. It remains the case that this will be subject to the requirement to submit an operational noise assessment to the local planning authority prior to the start of works on site (DCO requirement 15). No additional mitigation has been identified as being required specifically for the MV transformers other than that embedded as part of the scheme, including a standoff distance of 100m between solar plant and residential properties. Therefore, the existing mitigation remains appropriate. This is confirmed in the statement by the technical consultants at Appendix A.

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.

Applicant's response:

The proposed permanent access tracks will be increased in thickness by 200mm. The Noise Chapter of the ES [REP4-045] concluded that the construction vehicles using the access tracks would result in a minimal impact that has a negligible effect on noise on all receptors. Therefore, the increased thickness of the access tracks will not result in any change in the magnitude of the impact (predicted noise level) at any receptor to that assessed to inform the ES and there is no potential for any increased noise pollution than already assessed in the ES. For operational use of the access tracks, this was not assessed given the number of vehicles accessing the site is minimal and was scoped out of the ES as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate. Therefore, the increased thickness of the access tracks would not result in the potential for increased noise pollution.

With regard to the construction of the access tracks the only potential property that might be affected by the construction of a permanent access track is Ladsgrave Cottage. The ES [REP4-045] identified a minimal to low magnitude of impact with an access road build at this receptor, resulting in a negligible to minor significant effect; the significance of the effect being dependent on both the magnitude and timescale of the construction. The timescale parameters to become a (minor) significant effect is a) there being (low) magnitude of construction noise for b) 10 days in 15 consecutive days, or 40 days in any 6-month period. The increase in thickness/depth of this access road will stay within the magnitude and timescale parameters for construction at this receptor and therefore does not change the

significant effect already assessed in the ES. This is confirmed in the statement by the technical consultants at Appendix A.

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.

Applicant's Response

The solar PV array (work no. 1) comprises a mix of very high (Grade 2), high (Subgrade 3a) and medium (Subgrade 3b). The Agricultural and Soils Chapter of the ES assessed the impact of the construction of the solar PV array as being of negligible magnitude **[REP6-033]** on land of very high (Grade 2), high (Subgrade 3a) and medium (Subgrade 3b) sensitivity, which results in a negligible effect that is not significant. The same conclusions were reached with the operational effects.

This change does not affect the agricultural land assessment because the works to install solar PV arrays will not result in the loss or diminution of land quality of the land as a result of the change. Accordingly, there is no change to the overall assessment.

The parameter area of Work no. 1 has increased by 3.4%. Taking a worse-case scenario that the entirety of the additional land would comprise soil classified as BMV land (grade 1, 2 and 3a), it would represent an approximate additional 3.876 ha of an approximate total of 117.9ha BMV land within Oakland Farm where work no. 1 is located. Therefore, given the ES concludes that the Proposed Development would have a negligible effect on BMV land during construction and operation as it represents an overall 0.0003% of the national resource, an increase of 3.4% or 3.876ha would not change the significance of this impact on BMV land. Furthermore, the existing mitigation measures in the Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan and Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan remain appropriate and valid in managing soils and soil quality. Therefore, the Applicant considers that an updated assessment is not required as the proposed change would not alter the overall effect set out in the ES based on a worse-case scenario. The overall conclusion is supported in the statement by the technical consultants at Appendix A.

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.

Applicant's Response

It is confirmed that the existing 5m hedgerow buffer and the 15m ancient woodland buffer would be retained and adhered to with the amended solar array layout. The tree root protection zone is specific to each tree based on the tree stem and therefore a standard buffer is not applied. The appropriate buffers (a radius of 15 times the stem diameter) for ancient and veteran trees will be retained. It remains the case that the impact on hedgerows and trees will be subject to the approval of the local planning authority prior to the start of works on site for

each phase through DCO requirement 7 and the submission of a Arboricultural method statement (AMS).

Change 2 – Impact 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.

Applicant's Response

A detailed Geotechnical Investigation (P24022_R2_REV2) was undertaken across the Site between January and March 2026 to discharge Requirement 13 of the DCO. The Investigation has been approved by South Derbyshire District Council under reference DMOT/2026/0620. This Investigation confirmed the geological sequence below the Site in which across nearly 100 locations only two agricultural land drains were identified and avoided. Therefore, the presence of land drains across the Site is considered to be limited and, where present, are also likely to be shallow, with the two identified agricultural land drains being between 1m and 1.1m depth. Therefore, these will not be impacted any further by increasing the piling depth from 2m to 3m.

With regards to soil quality and groundwater, the proposed piles are of the same design (rammed 'H' type) and therefore remain discrete and isolated structures which displace rather than disturb or remove the soil. Furthermore, agricultural land quality is assessed to a depth (maximum) of 1.2m, which is the deepest agricultural plant roots are known to reach. The increased pile depth is therefore below the depth that would influence agricultural plant growth.

Overall, there will be no additional potential effects from increasing the proposed pile depth from 2m to 3m. This is confirmed in the statement by the technical consultants at Appendix A.

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.*

Applicant's Response

The LEMP has been partially discharged for Phases 1, 2 and 3 and the CEMP and CTMP have been fully discharged for the whole site with the exception of the Construction Surface Water Management Plan element of the CEMP in which further Construction Surface Water Management Plans will be submitted for future Phases. The proposed changes within the NMC do not affect the plans which have been partially or fully discharged. The principles, mitigation measures and approaches set out in those plans remain applicable to the proposed changes as no additional mitigation is required.

As such, the Applicant does not propose to request amendments to the relevant parts of LEMP, CEMP or CTMP which 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.

Applicant's Response

The intra-project cumulative effects of the Proposed Development primarily related to impacts on users of the Public Right of Way ("PRoW") network through a combination of effects associated with noise, traffic, dust and visual impact during construction as set out in ES Chapter 12 - Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation [APP-163]. The proposed changes do not significantly alter the proposed construction processes and do not require additional mitigation, therefore the intra-project cumulative effects on the PRoW network remain the same as summarised in table 12.12 [APP-163] in which none are significant. For the operational intra-project cumulative effects on the PRoW network, noise and dust effects remain negligible and the landscape and visual effects remain the same for the Cross Britain Way and the wider PRoW network as the existing mitigation remains appropriate.

For operational intra-project cumulative effects on tourism, the ES concluded there would be no visual impact on the local tourist attractions resulting in a negligible effect. This conclusion remains valid for the proposed changes as the Proposed Development would be no more visible from the assessed tourist attractions in the ES.

Intra-project cumulative effects were also considered between water resources, ground conditions, agricultural land and soil and archaeology but the embedded and additional mitigation for each topic were considered sufficient to address any such combined effects, such that they remain of a similar significance to those posed individually. The proposed changes do not change these conclusions set out summarised in table 8.11 of ES Chapter 8 - Water Resources and Flood Risk [APP-143] and table 9.11 of ES Chapter 9 – Ground Conditions [APP-146] which range from negligible to minor beneficial.

New intra-project cumulative effects arising from the NMC are unlikely as the proposed changes would not result in any new, or materially different, likely significant effects and are the changes are minor in scale. Furthermore, none of the proposed changes require any additional mitigation with all mitigation measures as set out in the ES remaining appropriate. Given that the proposed changes have been assessed as having a negligible difference on the potential effects of the Proposed Development itself, it can be concluded that there are no identified changes to the intra-project cumulative effects or significance of effects as presented in the original ES.

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.

Applicant's Response

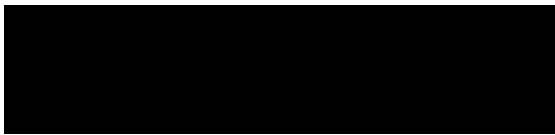
The British Horse Society ("BHS") Advice on Solar Farms Near Routes Used By Equestrians was published in August 2025, two months after the DCO was made for The Oaklands Farm Solar Park. Therefore, the advice issued in August was not considered during the

determination of the DCO. However, matters relating to effects on equestrian users were considered as part of the assessment in the ES and discussed during the examination. In addition, the Project has maintained ongoing engagement with the local BHS chapter since the DCO was granted. Representatives of the BHS have participated in the Oaklands Farm Solar Park Traffic Management Group ("TMG") meetings, and the Project team has worked directly with the BHS to facilitate site visits, enabling local BHS representatives to provide guidance on the risks that construction traffic may pose to equestrian users and the measures that can be implemented to mitigate those risks.

All the potential effects arising from the proposed changes were considered including those on equestrians. The BHS advice considers matters specific to construction traffic, use of bridleways and byways for access, cabling across or along bridleways and byways, construction noise, drainage, fencing along bridleways and byways, access to byways and bridleways and battery storage and glint and glare. As set out in the information already submitted as part of the NMC application, the proposed changes are minor and will have a negligible impact on all receptors including equestrians and therefore no further assessment is required, with the BHS continuing to be a key stakeholder in TMG. Therefore, consideration has been given to equestrians and the advice issued by the BHS.

We trust this additional information provides clarity for the SoS. Should any further information or clarification be required we would welcome the opportunity to provide this.

Yours sincerely



Lead Renewables Developer - Oaklands Farm Solar Limited

 [@baywa-re.co.uk](mailto:_____@baywa-re.co.uk)

APPENDIX A – TECHNICAL CONSULTANT STATEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE SoS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

11th September 2026

OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR PROJECT DCO - NON-MATERIAL CHANGE APPLICATION – RESPONSES TO SOS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

This document provides the responses to the Secretary of State's (SoS) request for further information on the points related to glint and glare. The requests are presented below:

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.

Number 4

The proposed change (change 2) does not increase the maximum elevation of the solar panels Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). Rather, it provides some flexibility in the 2.7m height parameter where the existing ground level dips or falls away beneath the panels. This is necessary because the solar panels are installed on level mounting frames, or 'tables', which can extend across areas where ground levels vary. In these locations, the distance between the ground and the top of the panels may exceed 2.7m, even though the overall elevation of the panels remains unchanged. To account for greater topography variation, whilst ensuring the panel elevation remains the same and the maximum height above ground does not exceed 3m, the distance between the ground and the bottom of the panels may be less than 0.8m above ground level but no lower than 0.5m above ground level.

Without this flexibility, the solar tables would need to be unnecessarily broken up or stepped to follow relatively minor changes in ground level simply to maintain the minimum and maximum panel heights at every point. This would result in a more fragmented and less efficient layout. The change therefore allows the mounting tables to remain level across the natural variations in the site's topography. Importantly, it does not result in the panels being installed at a greater overall elevation; any increase above 2.7m from ground level occurs where the land falls away beneath the panels. The difference between the two approaches is shown through a pronounced¹ visual representation in Figure 1 on the following page. The figure shows that the panels keep a consistent maximum elevation AOD (black dashed line) and only the height relative to dip in terrain will increase.

¹ The topography in the figure is far more pronounced to show how the terrain variation will change the maximum panel height above ground level. In practice, the variation will be far less severe and the difference is capped at 0.3m.



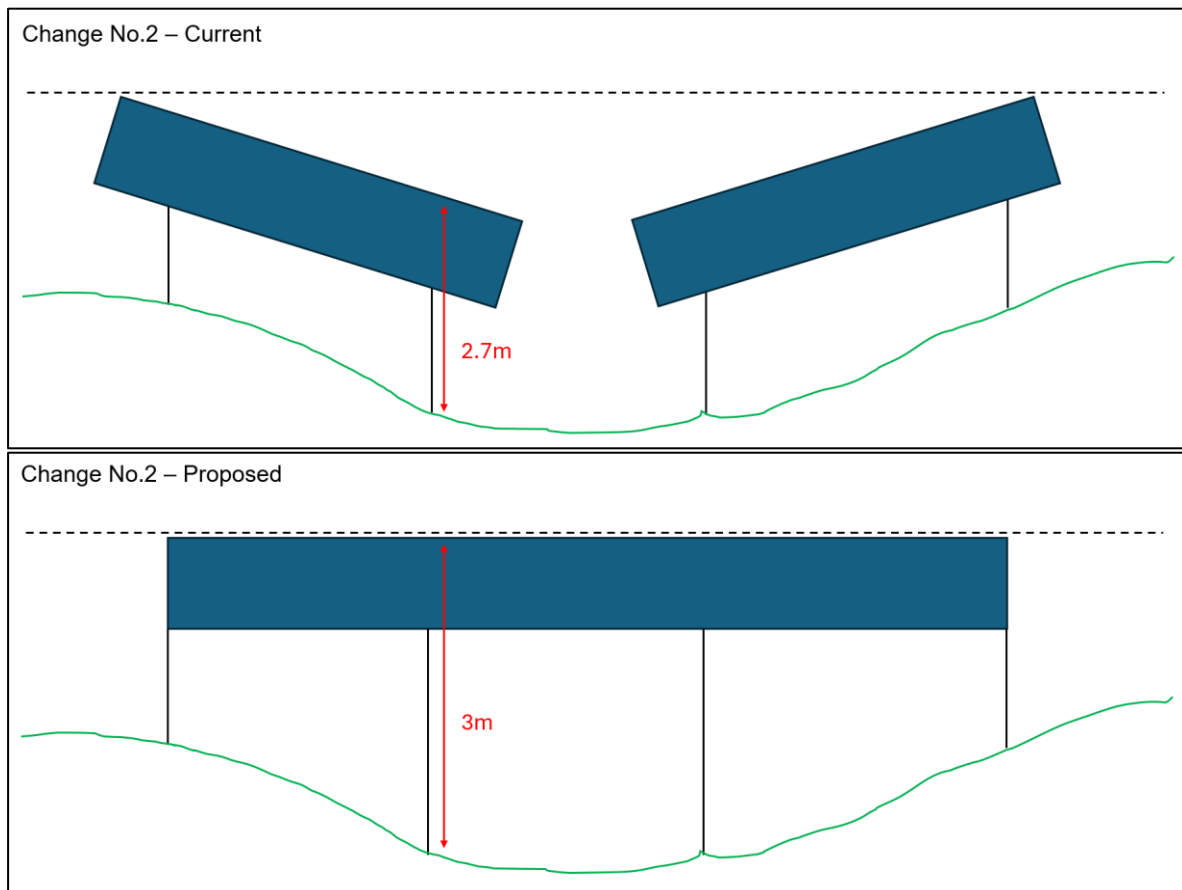


Figure 1 Visual representation of Change No.2 on panel heights

Both the changes in the minimum and maximum parameter heights for the solar panels therefore ensures the overall panel heights and the tables remain a consistent height as assessed in the Environmental Statement (“ES”). Therefore, the assessed height of the panels and the maximum elevation of the panels on which the glint and glare screening heights have been determined have not changed.

Overall, the original Glint and Glare Assessment remains valid as set out in ES Chapter 14 – Glint and Glare [REP04-047].

Number 5

The glint and glare screens in the form of opaque netting attached to Site fencing are proposed up to a height of 3m as set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (“LEMP”) [REP4-040] (see paras 5.42 – 5.44). The glint and glare screens are attached to the proposed 2.1m deer fencing comprising wire mesh and wooden posts. The height of the fencing is not intended to change, but rather the glint and glare screening would be installed up to 3m in height for a temporary period while the new hedgerow is establishing.

Therefore, the glint and glare screens will remain the same (up to 3m in height) and no additional mitigation is required.



Title: Technical Operations Director



Unit G
Meadowview Business Park
Winchester Road
Upham
SO32 1HJ

T +44 (0)1962 858800
F +44 (0)1962 858809
E sa@sustainableacoustics.co.uk

www.sustainableacoustics.co.uk

Ref: 20-0102-2 L03a CH

14 September 2026

██████████
DHP

By email to ██████████@dhaplanning.co.uk

Dear ██████████

Oaklands Farm Solar Project DCO – Non-Material Change No.3 MV Transformer Stations and No. 7 Permanent Internal Access Tracks

This letter is with respect of the proposed Non-Material Amendment request for information received from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero dated 26th August 2026. This letter specifically seeks to address the questions raised under Points 6 and 7 as follows:

Change No. 3 - MV Transformers Stations

For the MV transformers, the principal changes are: a reduction from a maximum of 70 MV transformers to a maximum of 30 'SKID' MV transformers and an increase in size of each transformer from (H,L,W) 3m x 4.1m x 2.9m to (H,L,W) 3m x 7.5m x 3m for the SKID transformers. The nominal power for the transformers increases from a maximum of 3150kVA to between 4480 and 8960kVA.

The previous assumption used for the noise assessment undertaken was that each MV transformer had a sound power level (L_w) of 64 dBA. The manufacturers noise data provided from Mingyang Electric indicates that the sound power level for the proposed 4480-8960kVA SKID transformers is between 67 and 69 dBA. In simple terms a decrease from 70 to 30 units is a reduction of 3.7 dB, which balances against the sound power level increase of approximately 4 dB (a difference of 0.3dB). In the noise model, the MV transformers had the lowest contribution to noise levels at receptors; consequently, a relatively small increase in the overall sound power from using the SKID transformers would have no effect on the predicted noise levels at receptors.

No additional mitigation has been identified as being required specifically for the MV transformers other than that embedded as part of the scheme, including a standoff distance of 100m between solar plant and residential properties. It therefore follows that the proposed scheme mitigation remains appropriate.

The actual contribution to noise level at receptors will depend on the placement of units within the site and proximity to receptors, for both the previous and proposed design parameters; It remains the case that this will be subject to the requirement to submit an operational noise assessment to the local planning authority prior to the start of works on site (DCO requirement 15).

Based on the above, I am confident that the proposed change would have no material impact on the noise assessment for the scheme.

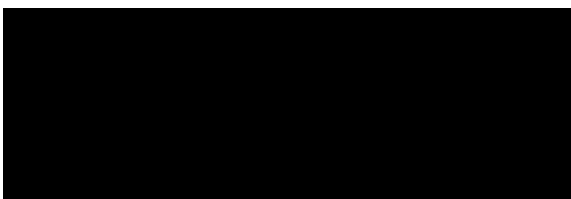
Change No. 7 - Permanent Internal Access Tracks

The proposed change to the permanent access tracks is an increase in thickness/depth by 200mm to 400mm. Of the access tracks identified in the Noise chapter of the Environmental Statement, it is understood that only the access track nearest to Ladsgrave Cottage will be retained as a permanent track.

With respect to the access tracks' usage by construction vehicles and by operational vehicles, the following is appropriate: The Noise Chapter of the Environmental Statement concluded that there would be minimal impact from construction vehicles using the access tracks, that has a negligible significance effect on noise, at all receptors. An increase in the thickness of the access tracks will not result in any change in the magnitude of the impact (predicted noise level) at any receptor, and therefore this would not change the negligible effect assessed. For operational use of the access tracks, this was not assessed given the number of vehicles accessing the site is minimal and was scoped out of the ES as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate.

With respect to the access tracks' construction, the ES identified a minimal to low magnitude of impact at Ladsgrave Cottage, resulting in a negligible to minor significant effect; the significance of the effect being dependent on both the magnitude and timescale of the construction. With increased depth the construction noise level is likely to be similar, but could potentially take longer to build. For the purposes of the construction noise assessment, it was previously assumed that the construction could take up to 3 weeks per 300m, however it is understood that in practice this can be undertaken in less than a week. The timescale parameters to become a (minor) significant effect is a) there being (low) magnitude of construction noise for b) 10 days in 15 consecutive days, or 40 days in any 6-month period. The increase in thickness/depth of this access track will therefore stay within the magnitude and timescale parameters at this receptor and does not change the significance effect already assessed in the ES.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Consultant

██████████
DHA Planning Ltd

Our Ref. P24022_L2
Your Ref. EN010122
Date: 11th September 2026

Oaklands Solar Farm: Proposed Non-Material Change: Ground Conditions and Water Resources

This letter is submitted in support of the proposed Non-Material Amendment request for information received from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero dated 26th August 2026. This letter specifically seeks to address the questions raised under Points 10, 11 & 12 as follows:

Point	Request	Response
10: Impacts of piling depth	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	A detailed geotechnical investigation was undertaken across the Site (ref: P24022_R2_REV2, June 2026) which was submitted to discharge Requirement 13 (South Derbyshire District Council ref: DMOT/2026/0620) which confirmed the geological sequence below the Site. Importantly across nearly 100No. locations only 2No. agricultural land drains were identified and avoided. Therefore, the presence of land drains across the Site is considered to be limited and, where present, are also likely to be shallow. For reference, the 2No. identified were between 1m and 1.1m depth. Therefore, these will not be impacted any further by increasing the depth from 2m to 3m. With regards to soil quality and groundwater, the proposed piles are of the same design (rammed 'H' type) and therefore remain discrete and isolated structures which displace rather than disturb/ remove the soil. Therefore there will be no impact due to a change in depth. Overall, there are considered to be no additional potential effects from increasing the proposed pile depth from 2m to 3m.
11: LEMP, CEMP and CTMP	The Secretary of State notes that the proposed changes in this application would require amendments to the	We can confirm that the proposed changes in this application do not affect the approved Site wide CEMP which has



	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.	already been discharged and the proposed mitigation therein remains valid. Furthermore, the construction phase surface water management plans (SWMPs) are being discharged on a phase specific basis. Thus far a partial planning condition discharge (for SWMPs) has only been completed for Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the proposed development which includes the main haul road, internal access tracks, construction compound and cable route which are not affected by the proposed NMA. Further SWMPs will be submitted for the remaining phases. Therefore, there are considered to be no additional effects as a result of the proposed NMA.
12: Cumulative Effects of All Proposed Changes	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.	The potential intra-project effects considered include those between receptors identified in the Ground Conditions, Water Resources, Agricultural Land Use and Archaeology Chapters of the original ES. With respect to deeper piled foundations, no additional intra-effects are considered to exist as the overall footprints will remain the same and between 2m and 3m will not affect potential land drains as noted above.

In conclusion, with reference to the request for information and having reviewed the existing ES Chapters 8 and 9 and the approved technical appendices, it is concluded that:

- The proposed changes do not materially change the assessment; and,
- The proposed and committed mitigation continues to ensure the Proposed Development will not cause harm through potential significant effects.

Accordingly, the Non-Material Amendment conforms to and remains consistent with the assessment undertaken as part of the Environmental Statement.



AQUA TERRA

CONSULTING

Yours sincerely,



Managing Director



@aquaterraconsulting.co.uk

helpme@aquaterraconsulting.co.uk | aquaterraconsulting.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales with Company No. 15820480 at 14 Museum Place, 4th Floor, Cardiff CF10 3BH.



Oaklands Solar Farm: Proposed Non-Material Change: SoS Request for Information

September 2026

This statement is submitted in support of the proposed Non-Material Amendment request for information received from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero dated 26th August 2026. This statement specifically seeks to address the questions raised under Points 8 and 10 as follows.

Q8

The Applicant is asked to provide an updated assessment to the impact on agricultural land by ALC grade.

The proposed amendments vary slightly the area that is proposed to be within the solar PV array areas. This change does not affect the agricultural land assessment because the works to install solar PV arrays will not result in the loss or diminution of land quality of the land as a result of the change. Accordingly there is no change to the overall assessment, because the works do not involve the disruption to soils or land quality from physical works, except for the installation of connecting cabling (which is a temporary and reversible impact and which is of low magnitude).

Q10

The Applicant is asked to comment on the potential impacts on soil quality and agricultural drainage.

The increase in piling depth will not alter the agricultural land quality. The panel piles are inserted into the ground with minimal disruption to soils and an increase in depth to 3m from 2m will have no adverse effects. Agricultural land quality is assessed to a depth (maximum) of 1.2m, which is the deepest agricultural plant roots are known to reach, so the increased pile depth is below the depth that would influence agricultural plant growth.

*Greenacres Barn, Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke, Swindon SN5 4LL
T: 01793 771333 Email: info@kernon.co.uk Website: www.kernon.co.uk*

Directors - [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

The key determinants of land quality are the topsoils, to a depth of about 30cm, and the upper subsoils and depth of a slowly permeable layer, usually within the top 60 – 70cm of the soil profile. The increased pile depth will not alter the ALC grade and is below ALC methodology assessment depth.

With respect to agricultural land drainage, there is limited underfield drainage across the Site and this will mostly be at depths of 1m to 1.2m. Increases in piling depth from 2m to 3m will not adversely affect the natural drainage of the land. There will be no consequent impact on agricultural land quality or soils.