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Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010147

**To the Applicant, Affected Persons
and Interested Parties**

Date: 23 September 2025

Dear Sir / Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rules 9 and 17**

**Application by Photovolt Development Partners on behalf of Solar Five Limited (the
applicant) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Botley West Solar
Farm Project**

Procedural Decision and Request for information

A Procedural Decision has been taken by the Examining Authority (ExA) following the Applicant's request of a formal change request submitted on 12 September 2025.

The applicant has proposed eleven (11) changes to the application, which are briefly summarised as follows:

1. Reduction in Order Limits boundary to reduce the solar installation area southwest of Bladon, and removal of solar arrays on land east of Bladon and north of Heath Lane.
2. Reduction in Order Limits boundary to reduce the solar installation area near to Oxford Airport.
3. Refinement of Project layout and design to reposition the Main Project substation and secondary substation as shown on Sheet 13b of the Works Plans [AS-005].
4. Reduction in Order Limits boundary to reduce the solar installation on land east of Lower Road.
5. Refinement of Project layout and design to remove solar installation areas overlapping with Flood Zones 2 and 3.
6. Refinement of Project layout and design to include an additional solar installation area within the Southern Site.
7. Reduction in Order Limits boundary to remove small parcels of land owned by Oxfordshire County Council (Estates).
8. Refinement of Project layout and design to reposition the Public Rights of Way proposed to be stopped up and diverted back to definitive alignment.

9. Reduction in Order Limits boundary to remove an area of land along Wharf Road.
10. Clarification of the role of the community educational facility.
11. Refinement of Project layout and design to secure the latest design parameters for the new National Grid substation.

The Applicant has provided updates to all necessary application documents along with a review of the Environmental Statement (ES). The Applicant has provided its own assessment on the materiality of the proposed change, concluding that the proposed changes would not result in any changes to the overall assessment or conclusions presented in the ES, nor within the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA).

The ExA has concluded that the proposed changes would not constitute a project that would be materially different to the project for which development consent was originally sought. It follows, the ExA considers that the proposed changes are non-material in nature and as such, no formal acceptance, notice, consultation, or related processes are required before the ExA can examine the application as amended. This decision is made on the basis that:

- The majority of changes result in the reduction of Order limits and/ or a reduction in the area of the solar installation as a whole;
- No additional land nor additional land rights are being sought for the project;
- Alterations to the project layout and parameters are considered within the scope of the Rochdale Envelope, and have been reasonably assessed as to the effects arising.

The ExA has decided to accept for Examination the Applicant's proposed changes. This decision by the ExA does not imply acceptance of the planning merits or evidence for the change, the effects of which will be examined with the same rigour as the original application.

The ExA recognises that in considering whether or not to accept both the proposed changes for Examination, it is required to act reasonably and in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The ExA is content that there will be sufficient opportunity during the remaining Examination process for all relevant Interested Parties to view the changes, for representations to be made in relation to the changes, and for any representations to be taken into account by the ExA.

Request for further information

Subsequent to the procedural decision above, we are writing under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) to invite Interested Parties and Affected Persons to comment, as necessary, upon any aspect of the Change Request accepted into the Examination.

Oral submissions may be heard at the Hearings being held week commencing 6 October 2025. Written submissions are invited by **Deadline 6 on 20 October 2025**.

Please contact us if you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully



David Wallis
Lead member of the panel of Examining Inspectors

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