

**BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM  
SECRETARY OF STATE – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC**

1. This submission is made on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“**NGET**”) following the Request for Information issued by the Secretary of State on 20 April 2026 (and corrected on 28 April 2026) (the “**Request for Information**”).
2. There were four paragraphs within the Request for Information for which NGET has been asked to provide a response, these are:
  - (a) Paragraph 9;
  - (b) Paragraph 11;
  - (c) Paragraph 13; and
  - (d) Paragraph 60.
3. Paragraphs 11, 13 and 60 were requests directed **jointly** at NGET and the Applicant. NGET has supported the Applicant in preparing these joint responses, which have been submitted by the Applicant.
4. This submission therefore focuses solely on paragraph 9, which was a request to NGET alone.
5. NGET’s response to paragraph 9 is as follows:

<p><b>Paragraph 9:</b></p> <p>The Secretary of State is aware that further to the screening request report prepared by WSP on behalf of NGET (ref. UK0028121.4284-003), the Vale of White Horse District Council (“VoWHDC”) and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (“DESNZ”) have issued screening opinions for the proposed 400 kV substation and other associated development under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 in respect of NGET’s preferred site.</p> <p>NGET is requested to provide an update on the status of the planning application for the new NGET substation and associated development, to be submitted to the VoWHDC under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 on its preferred</p>	<p><b>NGET Response:</b></p> <p>NGET intend to submit a planning application for the substation in its preferred location to the Vale of White Horse District Council (the “Council”) in Q1-2 2027. The key programme milestones, from the submission of the screening request, are set out below. NGET wishes to emphasise that this programme is at an early stage and is therefore indicative/subject to change. The dates below should all be read as anticipated or ‘target’ dates.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>VOWHDC screening request submission</td> <td>August 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VOWHDC screening request decision</td> <td>September 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oxfordshire County Council Highways Pre-application submission</td> <td>November 2025</td> </tr> </table>	VOWHDC screening request submission	August 2025	VOWHDC screening request decision	September 2025	Oxfordshire County Council Highways Pre-application submission	November 2025
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<p>site. The update should include, as a minimum, an updated timetable from the point of submission of any scoping request to the VoWHDC through to the completion of works and availability for connection for the proposed solar farm, including any public and statutory consultation proposed, and application milestones reached prior to submission of the screening request report to the VoWHDC.</p>	Oxfordshire County Council Highways Pre-application decision	Dec 2025
	Secretary of State Screening Direction Request	March 2026
	Secretary of State Screening Direction Decision	May 2026
	VOWHDC pre-application submission	Q2 2026
	Submission of scoping request to VOWHDC (if required)	Q3 2026
	Public consultation and engagement	Q4 2026
	Submission of planning application to VOWHDC	Q1-2 2027
	Submission of S37 application to DESNZ	Q1-2 2027
	Planning Application Determination	Q3-4 2027
	S37 determination	Q4 2027
	Discharge of pre-commencement planning conditions	Q4 2027 - Q1 2028
	Discharge of pre-commencement S37 conditions (if applicable)	Q1 2028
	Mobilisation for commencement of construction works	Q1 - Q2 2028
Completion of the works and availability for connection for solar farm	Q4 2031	

CMS

9 JUNE 2026