Application by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited for Tween Bridge Solar Farm Project
The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ3): Issued on 11 August 2026
Responses are due by deadline 6: 22 September 2026
Please find below answers to the Examining Authority's written questions ExQ3 from the Environment Agency (EA) [ref no. F1C2DDF91].

Ref No.	Question	EA response
1. General and cross-topic questions		
Q3.1.3	**Changes to layout** The applicants Deadline 4 covering letter [REP4-001] noted a number of design amendments, which are summarised as follows: • Removal of solar panels from fields E19 and E20. • Spatial refinement of 132 kilovolt (kV) substation and 100 megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) within Flood Zone 3b. • Reconfiguration of solar panels within field E15. All parties are invited to provide representations in relation to these amendments. The ExA accepted the	The EA welcomes the spatial refinements in respect of the 132kV substation and the 100MW BESS in relation to FZ3b. As confirmed in its Deadline 2 representation [REP2-102], the EA is satisfied that the Applicant has adequately demonstrated that there will be no increase in flood risk to third parties as a result of the proposed development. The design amendments do not alter the EA's view on this matter.

Ref No.	Question	EA response
	amendments in its procedural decision dated 11 August 2026.	
7. Flood Risk, hydrology and water resources		
Q3.7.1	**Flood Plain Storage and Sequential/Exceptions Test** It is noted that the applicant has revised the indicative layout of the proposed development such that a reduced part of one BESS unit would be located in Flood Zone 3b. However, could the applicant please respond to the following queries: 1) Please could the applicant clearly set out the effect of the proposed development on floodplain storage, taking into account the revisions to the indicative layout? 2) Please could the applicant update the sequential and exceptions tests to take account of the revised layout and representations from NLC at deadline 3 [REP3-079] (including references to proposed overplanting). Please could the CDC, NLC and the EA provide representations on the revised layout and the extent to which any previous objections or concerns have been addressed?	The EA notes the revised layout and welcomes the removal of the 132kV substation from FZ3b. The EA has no objections or concerns relating to the revised layouts.
14. Other matters		

Ref No.	Question	EA response
Q3.14.1	**Piling Method Statement** The applicant's response to EXQ2 Q2.14.1 [REP4-062] suggests that a piling method statement and piling risk assessment are the same thing. However, this is not the case, the piling risk assessment sets out theoretical risks associated with piling but a method statement is a more technical and precise document which forms the basis for piling operations in practice. The applicant should address this and explain how the dDCO secures a piling method statement. If it is the applicant's contention that these matters should all be addressed in the CEMP [REP4-046] then the CEMP should be amended to address the concerns raised by the EA. The EA should provide suggested wording for the relevant requirement.	The Environment Agency's original recommended wording for a separate requirement to secure a piling risk assessment and piling method statement is contained in our Relevant Representation [RR-009] at paragraph 3.9. We have since reviewed our recommended requirement and wish to update our suggested wording to the following: **Piling and penetrative foundation design** (1) No phase of the authorised development involving piling or penetrative foundation methods shall commence until a piling risk assessment and method statement has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, following consultation with the Environment Agency. (2) The piling risk assessment must be informed by the contamination investigation and assessment report, and relevant hydrogeological information, and demonstrate that the proposed works will not give rise to an unacceptable risk to groundwater or other controlled waters. (3) All authorised piling and penetrative foundation works must be carried out in accordance with the approved method statement.