

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

12 August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Springwell Solar Farm – Deadline 3 Submissions

On behalf of Springwell Energyfarm Limited (the 'Applicant') and further to the publication of the **Rule 6 letter** [\[PD-005\]](#) on 9 April 2025 and the **Rule 8 letter** [\[PD-006\]](#) on 13 May 2025, we write to provide the Applicant's written submissions for Deadline 3 of the Springwell Solar Farm Development Consent Order (DCO) Examination.

Submissions made at Deadline 3

Appendix 1 of this letter provides an overview of the documents submitted by the Applicant at this Deadline. Table 1 comprises the application documents for which updated versions are being submitted, and summarises how and why each document has been updated. Each updated document has been submitted with both clean and tracked change versions to aid the Examining Authority (the 'ExA') in identifying the changes made.

Table 2 comprises new documents being submitted which were requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter to be provided by the Applicant at Deadline 3. These are provided in response to submissions made at Deadline 2, and following further engagement with Interested Parties. These are included within Part 8 – Examination Documents and are also identified in the **Guide to the Application** [\[EN010149/APP/1.2.4\]](#), which sets out the current status of documents.

Revised documents are submitted with both tracked change and clean versions to aid signposting to where changes are made. The exclusions to this are the ES Figures packages (ES Volume 2) and the Plans submitted as Part 2 of the DCO application, where a Revisions Schedule has been provided as part of those documents.



Cumulative Assessment

At Deadline 1, a revised version of **ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Cumulative Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.1.2]** was submitted to take account of Leoda Solar Farm (EN0110016) for which the EIA Scoping Report was submitted in January 2025. This ES Chapter was then submitted again at Deadline 2 following a full update of the inter-project long and short lists **[EN010149/APP/6.1.3]**.

A further update to this ES Chapter **[EN010149/APP/6.1.4]** is being submitted at Deadline 3 to respond to Action Points arising from Issue Specific Hearing 4 held on 17 July 2025 and to consider the recently-issued Scoping Report for the National Grid Navenby Substation. A full update of the chapter will be submitted at Deadline 4, with an assessment cut-off date of 29 August 2025.

Statements of Common Ground ('SoCGs')

The Applicant has worked with key stakeholders throughout the pre-submission and pre-examination stages to draft SoCGs, and a summary of the status of discussions was set out in the Statement of Commonality submitted as part of the DCO Application.

The **Rule 8 letter [PD-006]** requests submissions of SoCGs by the Applicant at Deadlines 2, 3 and 5. SoCGs are being submitted for a number of parties at Deadline 3; with the Environment Agency and National Highways SoCGs as signed 'draft' versions. Final signed versions will be submitted at Deadline 4.

In the cases of Anglian Water, Exolum, Cadent and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service, there have been no changes to agreed matters and protective provisions are being finalised by the Applicant's legal team. The final SoCGs will be submitted when available by Deadline 5.

We trust this information is useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further details.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Rory Carmichael.

Rory Carmichael

Principal Development Manager

On behalf of Springwell Energyfarm Limited

Appendix 1 – List of documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 3

Table 1 – Revised Documents

Doc Ref.	Rev No.	Document Name	Reason for Submission
1.2.5	5	Guide to the Application	Updated to provide an up-to-date list of the status of application documents and to identify where any have been superseded.
3.1.3	3	Draft Development Consent Order	Updated to reflect the progression of discussions with statutory consultees.
4.4.4	4	Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought	Updated to reflect the progressions of discussions with Affected Persons, and to respond to Action Points from Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) 1.
		Appendix 1 – Section 135 Consent	New appendix to the Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought to provide confirmation of S.135 consent, as requested by the ExA.
6.1.3	3	ES Volume 1, Chapter 7 - Biodiversity	Updated to provide clarifications regarding the approach to hedgerow surveys.
6.1.2	2	ES Volume 1, Chapter 8 - Climate	Updated to respond to Action Points from the Issue Specific Hearings.
6.1.2	2	ES Volume 1, Chapter 12 – Noise	Updated to respond to Action Points from the Issue Specific Hearings.
6.1.2	2	ES Volume 1, Chapter 16 – Cumulative Effects	Updated to respond to Action Points from the Issue Specific Hearings, including consideration of the National Grid Navenby Substation Scoping Report.
6.2.3	3	ES Volume 2, Proposed Development Description Figures 3.1 -	Updated Figures 3.3a-f to include areas of farmland bird mitigation.
6.3.3.	3	ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.1 – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal	Update to correct species name.
6.3.2	2	ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.11 – Important Hedgerow Survey	Updated to provide clarifications regarding the approach to hedgerow surveys.

Doc Ref.	Rev No.	Document Name	Reason for Submission
6.3.3	3	ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.14 – Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	Updated to reflect changes made to the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, and to address comments from statutory consultees.
6.3.4	4	ES Volume 3, Appendix 9.1 – Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Stage 1 Setting Assessment	Updated following engagement with statutory consultees.
6.3.2	2	ES Volume 3, Appendix 16.1 – Long List of Other Approved and or Existing Developments	Updated to include refreshed long and short lists within the cumulative assessment.
6.4.2	2	ES Volume 4, Landscape Visualisations Part 6	Updated to respond to Action Points from the Issue Specific Hearings.
7.3.3	3	Design Approach Document	Updated to reflect previous changes to the Illustrative Masterplan.
7.4.2	2	Design Commitments	Updated to respond to Action Points from the Issue Specific Hearings.
7.7.4	3	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	Updated following engagement with statutory consultees.
7.8.3	3	Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan	Updated following engagement with statutory consultees.
7.9.3	3	Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan	Updated following engagement with statutory consultees and to provide further information on the Ecology Steering Group.
7.10.4	4	Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan	Updated following engagement with statutory consultees.
7.11.2	2	Outline Soil Management Plan	Updated following engagement with statutory consultees.
7.12.3	3	Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan	Updated following further engagement with the highways authority.
7.13.4	4	Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan	Updated following engagement with statutory consultees.

Doc Ref.	Rev No.	Document Name	Reason for Submission
7.15.2	2	Outline Written Scheme of Investigation	Updated following engagement with statutory consultees.
7.18.2	2	Equality Impact Assessment	Updated to reflect up-to-date NPS policy.
7.23.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – National Grid Electricity Transmission	Update provided, as requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
7.26.2	2	Statement of Commonality	Updated to reflect the agreement of matters between the Applicant and statutory consultees.
8.1.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – Lincolnshire County Council	Update provided, as requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
8.2.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – North Kesteven District Council	Update provided, as requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
8.3.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – Historic England	Update provided, as requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
8.4.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – Natural England	Update provided, as requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
8.5.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – Environment Agency	As requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
8.6.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – Health Security Agency	Update provided, as requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
8.7.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – Ministry of Defence	Update provided, as requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
8.8.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	Update provided, as requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
8.9.2	2	Draft Statement of Common Ground – National Highways	Update provided, as requested by the ExA in the Rule 8 letter [PD-006] .
8.17.2	2	Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order	To provide a summary of the changes made up to Deadline 3 to the Draft DCO.

Table 2 – New Documents

Doc Ref.	Document Name	Reason for Submission
8.21	Response to Deadline 2 Submissions	Provides the Applicant's response to further submissions made at Deadline 2.
8.22	Written Summary of Oral Submissions made at Issue Specific Hearings 2, 3, and 4	To summarise the Applicant's oral submissions made at the Issue Specific Hearings held in July 2025.
	Appendix 1 – Response to Action Points	To provide the Applicant's responses to Action Points arising from the Issue Specific Hearings.
	Appendix 2 – Updated Plans from Response to ExQ1	To provide an updated set of plans as requested by the ExA.
	Appendix 3 – Cumulative Transport Note	To provide further consideration of cumulative transport impacts.
8.23	Written Summary of Oral Submissions at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1	To summarise the Applicant's oral submissions made at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1.
	Appendix 1 – Summary of Land Interest Questionnaire Response Status	To provide the Applicant's response to Action Point 2 arising from Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1.
	Appendix 2 – Response to Action Point 3	To provide the Applicant's response to Action Point 3 arising from Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1.
8.24	Plume Assessment Addendum: Air Quality Assessment	To provide the ExA with the further Plume Assessment requested under Action Point 2 of Issue Specific Hearing 3.