



Application by Springwell Energy Farm Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Springwell Solar Farm

The Examining Authority's schedule of proposed changes to the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) Issued on 2 September 2025

This document sets out the Examining Authority's (ExA) proposed changes to the latest version of the applicant's dDCO submitted at Deadline 3 of the examination [REP3-004]. Suggested deletions of text are shown using double strike through, eg ~~abcd~~, while any changes to or insertions of text are should in bold black text, eg **abcd**.

The numbering for Articles and Requirements etc used below follows that used in the Deadline 3 version of the dDCO. The Applicant **MUST** renumber the Articles and Requirements, as necessary, when it issues its final version of the dDCO and thus remove any 'holding' numbers that have been retained to date only to assist with maintaining consistency of numbering between the various versions of the dDCo that have been submitted.

Schedule 2 - Requirements	ExA's Proposed Changes	ExA's Reasoning
Additional Requirement	Replacement solar PV panels 21. The number of solar PV panels replaced over the lifetime of the authorised development shall not exceed 5%. Details of the number of solar PV panels replaced, including an overall percentage figure that includes all previous years, shall be submitted to the relevant planning authority on a yearly basis.	To ensure that impacts above those assessed in the Environmental Statement [APP-048] do not occur the ExA propose an additional requirement to restrict the replacement of solar PV panels to 5% across the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Notwithstanding the Applicant's view in terms of Article 5 and Schedule 16 of the dDCO [REP3-004], in the absence of any requirement to keep the relevant planning authority informed of the



		number of panels being replaced, it is difficult to see how it could monitor whether the extent of replacement is likely to have materially new or different significant effects from those assessed in the ES.
Additional Requirement	Restriction of solar PV panels in flood zone 3b 22. Notwithstanding the Work Plans and Illustrative Layout Plans and Sections, no development shall be located in areas of Flood Zone 3b, as identified in the Environmental Agency's flood maps.	The ExA remain unconvinced that there is an operational need to locate solar PV panels in areas of Flood Zone 3b, contrary to Paragraph 5.8.41 of National Policy Statement EN-1.
Additional Requirement	Procedure in cases of unexpected contamination 23.-(1) At any time during construction, in the event that unexpected contamination is found to be present work in that location must cease immediately and no further development in that location shall be carried out until a remediation strategy detailing how this contamination will be dealt with has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the relevant planning authority, following consultation with the Environment Agency. (2) The remediation strategy shall be implemented as approved under sub-paragraph (1).	Given the vicinity of areas of groundwater sensitivity and abstraction, the ExA are of the view that the procedure in cases of unexpected contamination should be set out within a requirement in the dDCO rather than in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [REP3-032].



	<p>(3) Within three months of the implementation of the remediation strategy a verification report demonstrating the completion of works set out in the approved remediation strategy and the effectiveness of the remediation shall be submitted to, and approved in writing, by the relevant planning authority following consultation with the Environment Agency. The verification report shall include results of sampling and monitoring carried out in accordance with the approved remediation strategy to demonstrate that the site remediation criteria have been met.</p>	
Additional Requirement	<p>Grid connection</p> <p>24. No part of the authorised development, including any permitted preliminary works, shall commence until planning permission has been granted for the National Grid Navenby Substation.</p>	<p>The ExA acknowledge the Applicant's view in terms of commercial reality and the unlikelihood that it would proceed with the construction of the Proposed Development until there was certainty that the Proposed National Grid Navenby Substation (NGNS) would be delivered.</p> <p>However, the ExA are mindful that it would be possible for the Applicant to undertake site preparation works (such as hedgerow and tree removal) prior to planning permission being granted for the NGNS that would be at limited commercial cost, but which could result in adverse environmental effects.</p>