

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

7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

## Springwell Solar Farm – Deadline 5 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<sup>th</sup> May 2025, we write to provide the Applicant's written submissions for Deadline 5 of the Springwell Solar Farm Development Consent Order (DCO) Examination.

### Submissions made at Deadline 5

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 5. These are provided in response to submissions made at Deadline 4, and following further engagement with Interested Parties. These are included within a new Part 8 – Examination Documents and are also identified in the **Guide to the Application** [\[EN010149/APP/1.2.7\]](#), 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.

### Final versions of documents

The **Rule 8 letter** [\[PD-006\]](#) requested submission of final versions of the following documents:

- Final DCO, in the Statutory Instrument template;
- Final Book of Reference;
- Final Statements of Common Ground;
- Final Explanatory Memorandum;
- Final Schedule of Changes to the draft DCO;



- Final Statement of Commonality (including the list of matters where SoCG could not be finalised);
- Final Guide to the Application;
- Final Status of Negotiations CA Schedule/with Statutory Undertakers;
- Final NPS tracker;
- Final signed and dated Section 106;
- Comments on responses to ExQ2;
- Comments on any further information received; and
- Any further information requested by the ExA.

Further information on specific submissions made as part of the above is set out below.

### Book of Reference

The **Book of Reference** [EN010149/APP/4.3.4] was updated at Deadline 4 [REP4-008] to reflect a change in landowner information. The **Rule 8 letter** [PD-006] requested submission of a final version at Deadline 5; however there have been no further changes following a refresh of land ownership so the Applicant has not re-submitted the existing version.

### Statements of Common Ground ('SoCGs')

The Applicant 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. The Applicant additionally submitted several draft SoCGs at Deadline 1, and several final SoCGs at Deadline 4. Final SoCGs are being submitted at Deadline 5 and final positions have been reached with all Parties regarding matters excluding some protective provisions and a Basic Asset Protection Agreement (BAPA) with Network Rail Infrastructure Limited. The SoCGs submitted for some Parties are therefore considered agreed and final, but final sign off of some protective provisions has not yet been received due to governance processes within the relevant organisations. The Applicant will submit a further update on the signing of these matters prior to the closure of Examination.

The status of these negotiations is also described in the **Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought** [EN01049/APP/4.4.7] which has been updated for this Deadline.

### Final NPS Tracker

An updated **Planning Statement Appendix 3** [EN01049/APP/7.2.4] is submitted at this Deadline. The policy content of this appendix has not changed since submission as the status of the draft consultation NPS has not changed – the document references however have been updated to refer to the up-to-date versions of submitted documents.

### Final signed and dated S106 agreement

Since Deadline 4 the section 106 agreement has been the subject of further detailed discussions with the local authorities. As a result of the submissions from NKDC at Deadline 4, the Applicant has now amended the section 106 agreement to include a total funding commitment for the Councils' involvement in the Ecological Steering Group of £130,500 (index linked) over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, with annual payment

triggers. The Councils have confirmed their support for this commitment. The Applicant understands that the Councils are also in agreement with the proposed drafting for the Skills and Education Contribution. The Applicant has also been engaging with the landowner on the draft agreement and addressing minor amendments to the draft as a result.

The Applicant has not included a BNG monitoring contribution in the draft section 106 agreement, for the reasons set out in its written submissions provided at this Deadline 5. The Applicant has revised the draft terms of reference in the oLEMP for the Ecological Steering Group in response to comments from the Councils and to make clear the role of that group in providing oversight and scrutiny of the BNG monitoring undertaken by the Applicant. The parties are continuing to engage in relation to the BNG monitoring, however the Councils are understood to be satisfied in principle that the amendments to the oLEMP enable BNG monitoring to be accommodated within the remit of the Ecological Steering Group.

The Applicant is expecting to be in a position to reach agreement on the section 106 agreement over the next 1-2 weeks, and will then proceed to engrossment and signature, and intends to provide a completed agreement to the Planning Inspectorate when available.

### Comments on Responses to ExQ2 and Comments on Any Further Information Received

The Applicant submits a **Response to Deadline 4 Submissions and ExQ2 Responses [EN010149/APP/8.28]** document at this deadline that contains comments on responses to ExQ2, where necessary, and on any further information received.

### Closing Statement

In addition to the documents requested by the ExA above, the Applicant is choosing to submit a Closing Statement at this final Deadline, the purpose of which is to set out the Applicant's position on matters of disagreement between the Applicant and the local authorities and/or statutory bodies, or matters which have drawn attention from the Examining Authority and/or Interested Parties during the examination. The Closing Statement summarises the case in favour of the Proposed Development and presents a high-level summary of the Applicant's position on key technical matters as presented during the Examination. The document does not introduce new material but provides clarity on the Applicant's final position on matters, by reference to the previous submissions it has made.

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

Yours sincerely,



Principal Development Manager

On behalf of Springwell Energyfarm Limited

## Appendix 1 – List of documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 4

Table 1 – Revised Documents

Doc Ref.	Rev No.	Document Name	Reason for Submission
1.2.7	7	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.
3.1.5	5	Draft Development Consent Order	Final version of the draft DCO. Updated in response to engagement with statutory consultees.
3.2.3	3	Explanatory Memorandum	Final version of the Explanatory Memorandum as requested by the ExA.
4.4.7	7	Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought	Updated to reflect the progressions of discussions with Affected Persons.
6.3.4	4	ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.14 – Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	Updated following further engagement with statutory consultees.
7.2.4	4	Planning Statement Appendix 3 – NPS Tracker	Updated at the ExA's request for submission of a final version at Deadline 5.
7.9.5	5	Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan	Updated following engagement with statutory consultees and to provide further information on the Ecological Steering Group.
7.21.2	2	Statement of Common Ground – Anglian Water Services Limited	Final signed version of the SoCG.
7.22.2	2	Statement of Common Ground – Cadent Gas Limited	Final signed version of the SoCG.
7.23.3	3	Statement of Common Ground – National Grid Electricity Transmission	Final signed version of the SoCG.
7.25.2	2	Statement of Common Ground – Exolum Pipeline System Ltd	Final signed version of the SoCG.

Doc Ref.	Rev No.	Document Name	Reason for Submission
7.26.5	5	Statement of Commonality	Updated to reflect the final status of the Statements of Common Ground at Deadline 5.
8.1.3	3	Statement of Common Ground – Lincolnshire County Council	Final signed version of the SoCG.
8.2.3	3	Statement of Common Ground – North Kesteven District Council	Final signed version of the SoCG.
8.3.4	4	Statement of Common Ground – Historic England	Final signed version of the SoCG. Resubmitted at Deadline 5 to include correct document references at the request of Historic England.
8.7.3	3	Statement of Common Ground – Ministry of Defence	Final signed version of the SoCG.
8.8.3	3	Statement of Common Ground – Network Rail Infrastructure Limited	Final version of the SoCG.
8.17.4	4	Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order	To provide a summary of the changes made up to Deadline 5 to the Draft DCO.

Table 2 – New Documents

Doc Ref.	Document Name	Reason for Submission
8.28	Response to Deadline 4 Submissions and ExQ2 Responses	To provide the Applicant's comments on responses to ExQ2 and responses to further submissions made at Deadline 4.
8.29	Draft Section 106 Agreement	To provide the Section 106 Agreement as requested by the ExA. As stated above this currently remains in draft format.
8.30	Closing Statement	To provide a summary of the Applicant's position on key matters at the closure of the Examination.
8.31	Draft DCO Validation Report	To provide confirmation that the Draft DCO has been successfully validated.