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To:

Our Ref: EN010149

Springwell Energy Farm Limited  
Blankney Estates Limited

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lincolnshire County Council  
North Kesteven District Council  
National Grid Electricity Transmission  
OpenReach Limited

5 February 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Application by Springwell Energy Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Springwell Solar Farm (“the Proposed Development”)**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 8 October 2025, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 8 January 2026. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. There are issues on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if **the Applicant, Blankney Estates Limited (“BEL”), Charles and Georgina Hayward, Ian and Pamela Leathley, Lincolnshire County Council (“LCC”), North Kesteven District Council (“NKDC”), National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (“NGET”), and OpenReach Limited (“OL”)** could provide updates or further information on.

**Land Rights and Related Matters**

3. The **Applicant** and **BEL** are requested to provide an update on the status of their negotiations in respect of the variation to the signed option agreement. If

agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected.

4. **The Applicant**, and **Charles and Georgina Hayward** are requested to provide an update on the status of their negotiations in respect of the voluntary agreement in relation to plot reference 11/1 in the Book of Reference<sup>1</sup>. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.
5. **The Applicant**, and **Ian and Pamela Leathley** should provide an update on the status of their negotiations in respect of the heads of terms in relation to the freehold rights for plot references 10/1, 10/6 and 15/4 and permanent rights over plots 10/2, 15/2 and 15/8 in the Book of Reference<sup>2</sup>. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.
6. **The Applicant** should provide an update on the **category 1 and 2 affected parties** for which the land interests and/or rights for plots identified in the Book of reference are still unknown<sup>3</sup>. The Applicant should provide details of the unknown affected persons (“UAP”) identified, those not identified, and the efforts made to identify them. If the UAP’s have not been identified, provide the reasons why.
7. **The Applicant** and **NGET** should provide an update on negotiations regarding protective provisions. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and/or when agreement is expected to be reached.
8. **The Applicant** and **OL** should provide an update on negotiations regarding protective provisions. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and/or when agreement is expected to be reached.
9. **The Applicant** should provide an update on the section 106 agreement with **NKDC and LCC**. If agreement has been reached, please provide an update on when the agreement is expected to be signed.

## **DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE**

10. The deadline for response is **23:59 on 19 February 2026**.

11. Responses should be submitted by email only to:  
[springwellsolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:springwellsolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk).

12. Responses will be published on the Springwell Solar Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 19 February 2026: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010149>

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<sup>1</sup> [EN010149-000911-Springwell Energy Farm Limited - Book of Reference \(Clean\).pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*

13. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Proposed Development or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of John Wheadon.

John Wheadon  
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation  
Department of Energy Security & Net Zero