

**From:** Wootton, Jolyon  
**Sent:** 17 March 2025 19:03  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** NI Enquiries <[NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Consolidation of Solar Farm Applications

**Good afternoon, Ms Heard**

**Thank you for your enquiry to the Planning Inspectorate of 13 March 2025, asking for the examination of Solar nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) in the North Kesteven area to be joined together in examination. Your correspondence has been escalated to me to review and answer, as I am the Operations Manager overseeing the pre-application process for the Fosse Green Energy project and other Solar NSIPs progressing through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process.**

**I am afraid that there is no statutory power in the Planning Act 2008 to join DCO examinations together or simply compel different applicants to merge their separate DCO projects. The proposed Springwell Solar Farm, Fosse Green Energy and Leoda Solar Farm are being sponsored by different applicants, form different Order Limits and grid connection corridors, and are being submitted for examination at different times. These applications will involve their own planning considerations, including the individual assessment and proposed mitigation of any effects from each of the proposed developments on ecology and cultural heritage assets, and will involve different land parcels and compulsory acquisition powers to be sought (amongst other provisions and requirements in the draft DCOs) to enable each project to be built, operated and decommissioned if consented. These matters are likely to be more detailed and unique to these NSIPs than might appear and are irrespective of whether these proposed developments fall within the same district or share any grid connection infrastructure.**

**We appreciate that you and other members of the public may be concerned about how separate examinations might proceed and especially how cumulative effects from these NSIPs will be considered. The same situation occurred in Lincolnshire when the Gate Burton Energy Park, Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project, and Heckington Fen Solar Park were being examined in 2023 and 2024. At the time, each of the Examining Authorities appointed to examine those projects explained in their procedural (Rule 6) letters to interested parties and others, how overlapping issues would be examined (with evidence sought on matters such as the management of ecology and nature, loss of arable land, in-combination cumulative effects at common noise sensitive receptors, long distance landscape and visual effects, impacts from construction on local services and roads, the management of construction dust and road emissions, on the level of detail provided and considered for other plans and projects, the consideration of works within grid connection corridors and any potentially shared works, and the consideration**

of whether the mitigation measures shared with other NSIPs would be adequately secured). These Examining Authorities duly asked for reports and evidence on the interrelationship with the other NSIPs in the area during their respective examinations as well as Statements of Common Ground between the applicants and relevant statutory consultees, in relation to any overlapping issues caused by the developments (helping to identify where commonality had been agreed between the parties on relevant topics subject to examination and what areas remained in contention).

The Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 require the submission of cumulative impact assessments from applicants in the respect of their NSIP applications subject to examination and in relation to other NSIPs depending on the proximity of projects and the issues caused by the developments. The Planning Inspectorate's published [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment](#) provides information on the legal context and obligations placed on applicants as well as an overview of the cumulative effects assessment process. The Examining Authorities appointed to examine these separate applications will be aware of other DCO examinations taking place in the local area and will explain in their respective letters and examination timetables, how and when interested parties can submit their views and evidence on matters such as cumulative effects.

On a practical level, it is likely that interested parties can submit the same evidence or relevant parts of their representations across these Solar projects during the examinations, where the same issues arise and where it is practical to do so. It is also not necessary for interested parties to attend examination hearings, if it is difficult or unnecessary for them to do so, as they can rely on their submitted written evidence.

I appreciate this is not the response you were wanting, but I trust that I have explained the position clearly.

Yours sincerely

Jolyon



Planning  
Inspectorate

Jolyon Wootton (He/His)

Operations Manager, National Infrastructure

Planning Inspectorate

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From: Anne Heard <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: 13 March 2025 09:06  
To: NI Enquiries <[NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Fwd: Consolidation of Solar Farm Applications

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I refer to my email of 7 March 2025. I have received replies from two case officers dealing with Springwell and Fosse Green, both of whom are advising that I raise this matter as a representation on the individual projects. I do consider that this is an issue about the planning merits or otherwise of any one project, but an administrative matter about the joint programming of the projects that surely can only be dealt with by an officer at the planning inspectorate.

Regards,

Anne Heard

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Heard <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: 07 March 2025 08:05  
To: NI Enquiries <[NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Consolidation of Solar Farm Applications

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Dear Sirs,

Springwell Solar is at the pre-examination stage (I have registered as an Interested Party) and Fosse Green is at the pre-application stage of the DCO process. There is a further proposal for Leoda solar which is at the initial public consultation stage but will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for a DCO in due course.

These large solar farms are all within a 10 km radius of each other, all within North Kesteven District Council and all are dependent on a connection to the National Grid via a proposed National Grid substation which will be subject to a planning application to North Kesteven District Council possibly in July this year.

Apart from the common need for these projects to connect into the proposed substation, there are other planning and environmental issues that will overlap in the consideration of these proposals:- 1. The cumulative impact of the loss of BMV agricultural land 2. The cumulative impact on the landscape character of the area.

3 The cumulative impact on traffic of these projects during the construction phases which will overlap.

4. The cumulative visual impact of the associated infrastructure such as the BESS which will be predominately be centred to the west of the A15.

For these reasons, I would request that these applications (and any future applications which depend on a connection into the proposed National Grid substation) should be consolidated rather than considered on a piece-meal basis.

Regards,

Anne Heard

Sent from my iPad

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