

ROBERTSON WADE

APPLICATION BY RWE RENEWABLES UK SOLAR AND STORAGE LIMITED FOR AN ORDER
GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM ORDER 202[]
PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NUMBER: EN010157

REGISTRATION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: FF434A0A7

REPLY TO EXAMINING AUTHORITY WRITTEN QUESTION 2.4.1

Sir

The response by the Applicant does not alleviate my concerns.

It may be that the representations by NGET that there is no spare capacity at Creyke Beck has caused me some confusion. I accept that the Applicant has received an offer from Northern Power Grid on the 8th June 2021 and accepted that offer on the 15th July 2021 thus allowing connection to the existing 132kV Creyke Beck substation.

In answer to ExQ1 at 1.1.6 the Applicant states “When the Applicant secured its Grid Connection Offer, capacity existed within the existing NG Creke Beck Substation and the Applicant has had no indication from NGET that there is or will be insufficient capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development.”

The NGET representations appear to contradict this unless the Grid Connection Agreement is an absolute commitment. I believe a copy should be placed in the Examination Library. It is presumably dependant on the undertaking of material operations as defined by S.155 of the Planning Act 2008

The Agreement seems to specify the earliest start date for connection as 2033 and the backstop date of 2035.

The Applicant appears to have submitted a “Gate 2” application but has yet to state the outcome and states that it is able to deliver the project in advance of 2030. Whether it fully meets the criteria is a matter for NESO presumably but I am unsure that the option agreements or issues with Crown Land have been finalised.

I accept that it is a commercial risk to be considered by the Applicant as to whether a connection to the National Grid can be made, but irrational to allow the project to proceed if causes only planning blight and the sterilisation of useful agricultural resources over a number of years through a failure so to connect.

If the Applicant wishes to contact me directly with any documents it considers commercially sensitive, I shall, of course respect that confidentiality save as respect anything which I consider should be made known to the Examining Authority and then on notice.

Yours faithfully

Robertson Wade

6th October 2025