

Our Ref: NH/24/06391

Your Ref: F134EAFC0

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24 July 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

One Earth Solar Farm Development Consent Order (DCO) Application – Pre-examination Consultation

National Highways welcomes the opportunity to review and comment on relevant documentation received for the proposed development of One Earth Solar Farm in the pre-examination stage for Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.

National Highways (“we”) have been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

In this consultation, the following documents have been reviewed:

- Document Reference: EN010159/APP/6.12 (Revision 1): Chapter 12: Transport and Access
- Document Reference: EN010159/APP/6.21 (Revision 1): Appendix 12.2: Transport Assessment (TA)
- Document Reference: EN010159/APP/7.9 (Revision 1): Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP)

Based on the review of the above documents, we have the following comments:

Operational Traffic Impact

The nearest SRN junction to the proposed solar farm is the A1 / A57 Apleyhead junction approximately 11km travelling distance from the proposed solar farm.

We are content that the traffic to be generated during operation of the proposed solar farm will be minimal at the SRN.

Construction Traffic Impact

According to the submitted oCTMP, construction traffic will be split between the west and east development areas, separated by the River Trent. All construction access for the west area will be taken from the A57 to the west of Dunham while the eastern area will be accessed from the A1133 at a new access junction located to the south of Newton on Trent. Bulk materials will be delivered via the A1 and A57 for the western areas and via the A1133 for the eastern areas respectively. Also, it is forecast that most construction staff will access the site from the A57 and A1133.

For National Highways to understand potential impacts on the SRN during construction, we recommend the applicant provide the anticipated construction traffic volume (in cars and HGV) at the following SRN junctions (although impacts may not be limited to):

- A1 / A57 Junction
- A1 / A46 Junction

The anticipated construction traffic volume shall represent the forecasted traffic volume for April 2027 when the peak monthly construction traffic is planned, as shown in Appendix B: Construction Traffic Programme included in the TA.

Additionally, we request the applicant provides the following information:

1. The total number of staff;
2. The arrival and departure times for staff traffic; and
3. The capacity and occupancy assumptions for the staff minibus.

This information is necessary for us to review Appendix C: Daily Peak Traffic Profile included in the TA to ensure it accurately represents the anticipated staff traffic.

Once the above information has been provided, National Highways will be in a better position to comment on the overall construction traffic impact of the proposed solar farm.

Land Ownership

National highways has reviewed the Book of Reference published for the One Earth Solar Farm DCO application and has noted that temporary possession of National Highways' land is sought as per the table below:

Number on Land Plans	Extent of acquisition or use	Description of land	Owner or reputed owner	Occupier	Purpose (Work No.) (information obtained from Draft DCO)
01-002	Temporary Possession	547 square metres of verge and hedgerow (Broad Gate, A57)	National Highways	Nottinghamshire County Council (as highway authority)	Temporary use (including access) to carry out Work Nos. 5 and 7.
01-004	Temporary Possession	3517 square metres of public road, verges and access splay (Broad Gate, A57)	National Highways	Nottinghamshire County Council (as highway authority)	Temporary use (including access) to carry out Work Nos. 5 and 7.
01-005	Temporary possession	1034 square metres of verge, hedgerow and access splay (Broad Gate, A57)	National Highways	Nottinghamshire County Council (as highway authority)	Temporary use (including access) to carry out Work Nos. 5 and 7.

We have checked this and we can confirm that National Highways is shown as holding title to the land parcels in question as they were acquired for the construction of the A57 when the road was a part of the trunk road network.

However, by virtue of Section 265 of the Highways Act 1980, a de-trunking order transferred ownership of the highway and the subsoil of the A57 to the local highway authority (LHA): 'The A57 Trunk Road (Markham Moor to Lincoln) (Detrunking) Order 2003'.

Therefore, these land parcels are now in the ownership of Nottinghamshire County Council and it appears the ownership record has not been corrected / updated. As such, please update the Book of Reference to reflect the correct position. The applicant has been informed of this updated position.

I trust the above comments are helpful. Should you have any queries do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Assistant Spatial Planner

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