

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

Interested Party No. F64A3C45F

Our Ref IPP-210 D2

Wednesday 20 August 2025

Email: Oneearthsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: EN010159 – One Earth Solar Farm

Deadline 2 response to the Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information

We are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation.

Please find our response to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) written questions and requests for information (ExQ1), relevant to the Canal & River Trust ('the Trust'), in the table (Table 1) below:

Table 1: The Trust's response to the relevant questions in EXQ1

	Question:	Trust's response:
Q9.0.7	<p><i>Sections 127 and 138 of the PA2008</i></p> <p><i>Do the Statutory Undertakers have any concerns about whether the tests set out in s127(3), s127(6), and s138(4) of the PA2008 have been met?</i></p>	<p>The Trust's interests in the proposals relate to its undertaking as Navigation Authority for the River Trent, in particular Works 4 and 5 which cross the river. These works cover the installation of cables crossing the river and various ancillary works that could impact on the navigable river channel.</p> <p>However, measures are proposed that would avoid the navigable river channel, through buffers/standoffs from the riverbed and banks confirmed in the Outline Design Parameters [EN010159/APP/5.9.1], Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan EN010159/APP/7.5.1 and Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010159/APP/7.4.1] to be certified in Schedule 12 of the draft DCO. In addition, Protective Provisions for the Trust have been agreed that would protect the Trust's interest.</p> <p>The Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (including restoration) Document Reference: [EN010159/APP/7.6.1] also confirms:</p> <p><i>"the decommissioning of the grid connection cable will not directly impact the River Trent, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) / Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and their associated coastal and deciduous habitats. The cables would either be left in situ or removed by opening the ground (away from the ecological sites and habitats) and pulling the cable through to the extraction point."</i></p>

	Question:	Trust's response:
		<p>In terms of land interests, the Trust is a lessee of the foreshore and riverbed only, under a lease from The Crown Estate (title number NT472997). This area is identified as Sheet Number & Land Plot no. 04-009 on the Crown Land Plan [EN010159], with the latest iteration of the Book of Reference [EN010159/APP/4.3] confirming that the applicant seeks the Acquisition of Rights only, over this area that covers "57502 square metres of river (River Trent), bed and banks thereof (excluding all interests of the Crown)", rather than freehold acquisition.</p> <p>Rights for substation connection rights and rights for the purpose of Work No. 5 on the land are also identified in Schedule 8 of the draft DCO [EN010159/APP/3.1.1] identifying land in which only new rights etc. may be acquired.</p> <p>Considering the above, the Trust has no concerns about whether the tests set out in s127(3), s127(6), and s138(4) of the PA2008 have been met.</p>
Q9.0.10	<p><i>Protective Provisions</i></p> <p><i>The ExA understand that conversations are being undertaken between the Applicant and various parties</i></p>	By way of an update, since Issue Specific Hearing 1 there has been further engagement with the applicant's legal team. They have confirmed that they are intending to submit an updated version of the DCO, including the Protective Provisions that the Trust, and applicant has recently agreed, at Deadline 2.
Q9.0.11	<p><i>Can all statutory undertakers who do not have agreement on the wording of protective provisions, please provide their preferred wording and the justification for such wording where it differs from that proposed by the Applicant.</i></p>	As outlined above Protective Provisions have been agreed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Forbes MRTPI
Area Planner

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<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design>