
To:

Our Ref: EN010159

Bassetlaw District Council
Environment Agency
J G Pears Property Limited
Lincolnshire County Council
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
Network Rail
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc
Nottinghamshire County Council
One Earth Solar Farm Limited
P & L Farming Partnership Limited
Railway Paths Limited
The Crown Estate
Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
West Lindsey District Council

1st May 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Application by One Earth Solar Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed One Earth Solar Farm (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 8 January 2026, 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 April 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 Bassetlaw District Council, the Environment Agency, J G Pears Property Limited, Lincolnshire County Council, National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc, Network Rail, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc, Nottinghamshire County Council, One Earth Solar Farm Limited (“the Applicant”), P & L Farming Partnership Limited, Railway Paths Limited, The Crown Estate,

Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and West Lindsey District Council could provide updates or information as appropriate.

Biodiversity and ecology

3. The Secretary of State notes that as part of the 234 hectares (“ha”) of new species-rich grassland to be created, 81 ha will be managed specifically to benefit skylark with the provision of 243 skylark plots [REP6-009]. However, the Secretary of State notes that skylark plots are designed to be used within arable fields¹. The **Applicant** is requested to provide more detailed justification for their utility within species-rich grassland and comment on whether the use of skylark plots in this habitat may conflict with foraging opportunities for other species.
4. The Secretary of State welcomes the use of skylark plots within the ‘sacrificial crop areas’ as noted in [REP6-009]. The **Applicant** is requested to add further detail on their use in this context in the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (“oLEMP”) [REP7-018]. The **Applicant** is also requested to ensure that the oLEMP aligns with the Environmental Statement, including the assumed distance from boundary features, providing any updates as required.
5. The Secretary of State notes that for natural grasslands, skylark territories typically occur at a density of 0.27 per ha². The **Applicant** is requested to further justify and clarify that appropriate breeding opportunities can be provided to maintain the skylark population in the area (as reported in [REP6-009]), and comment on the breeding density used to design the mitigation areas. The **Applicant** is also requested to identify any opportunity to provide additional onsite habitat and, if none are available, comment on whether additional farmland bird compensation areas could be provided offsite.
6. The **Applicant** is requested to further justify the conclusions in the Environmental Statement that there would be a significant beneficial effect to other breeding birds across all phases of the Proposed Development [REP6-009], including consideration of the density of nesting expected within each habitat type and the predicted habitat loss.
7. The **Applicant** is requested to confirm how mitigation has been proposed specifically to support wintering birds such as lapwing and golden plover to justify the Environmental Statement conclusions.

Hydrology and hydrogeology

8. The **Applicant, Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and West Lindsey District Council** are requested to

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/find-funding-for-land-or-farms/ahw4-skyllark-plots>

² [https://www.clarksonwoods.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/PDF/HF from InPractice117_Sep2022-9.pdf](https://www.clarksonwoods.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/PDF/HF%20from%20InPractice117_Sep2022-9.pdf)

provide comments on the suitability of the following proposed amended wording for Requirement 7 of the DCO:

Battery safety management

7.—(1) Work Nos. 2 and 5(g) must not commence until a battery safety management plan has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority for that part, and such approval is to be in consultation with the relevant district authority for that part.

(2) The battery safety management plan must be in accordance with the outline battery safety management plan and demonstrate that all required access to the BESS and substation compounds is achievable and safe during the design flood event (as defined in the flood risk assessment and outline drainage strategy).

(3) The relevant planning authority must consult with the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Environment Agency before determining an application for approval of the battery safety management plan.

(4) The battery safety management plan must be implemented as approved and maintained throughout the operation of the relevant part of the authorised development to which the plan relates.

9. The **Applicant, Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and West Lindsey District Council** are requested to provide comments on the suitability of the following proposed amended wording for Requirement 22 of the DCO:

Flood risk mitigation

22.—(1) No part of the authorised development shall commence until, for that part, the flood risk mitigation detailed design has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority, in consultation with the Environment Agency.

(2) The flood risk mitigation detailed design pursuant to sub-paragraph (1) to include:

(a) the layout of the proposed development and any proposed flood risk mitigation.

(b) the layout of solar panel and power converter stations to be sited within areas at risk of flooding and associated updated volumetric loss calculations based on the flood mitigation detailed design; and

(c) details of the lowest point of all solar panels and power converter stations (excluding any mounting structure) and confirmation that these are above the design flood event (as defined in the flood risk assessment and outline drainage strategy).

(3) The flood risk mitigation detailed design must accord with the flood risk assessment and outline drainage strategy.

Protective provisions

10. The **Applicant** is requested to comment on Network Rail's final submission [AS-072] regarding its outstanding objection to the Applicant's proposed protective provisions [REP9-006]. The **Applicant** and **Network Rail** are requested to provide updates regarding whether protective provisions have been agreed, and whether Network Rail have any outstanding objections. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.
11. The **Applicant** is requested to comment on the final submission from Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc [AS-071] regarding its outstanding objection to the Applicant's proposed protective provisions [REP9-006]. The **Applicant** and **Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc** are requested to provide updates regarding whether protective provisions have been agreed, and whether Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc have any outstanding objections. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.
12. The **Applicant** and **Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board** are requested to provide updates regarding whether protective provisions have been agreed and if any further progress has been made with regards to obtaining consent under section 150 of the Planning Act 2008 to disapply section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.
13. The **Applicant** and **National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc** are requested to provide updates regarding whether protective provisions have been agreed. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.

Land rights

14. The **Applicant** is requested to provide an update on its position in respect of the rights sought over land plot number 11-008 [REP9-014 Affected Party Reference No. 250550] and if further progress has been made to engage with Lincolnshire County Council to determine if it is the relevant Affected Party.
15. The **Applicant** and **J G Pears Property Limited** are requested to provide an update on their positions in respect of the rights sought by the Applicant over land plot numbers 05-011, 05-011a, 06-003, 06-003a, 07-011, 07-015, 08-001, 08-002, 08-003, 08-004, 08-005, 08-006, 08-007, 08-008, 08-009, 08-010 and 08-011 [REP9-014 Affected Party Reference No. 250326]. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.
16. The **Applicant** and **P & L Farming Partnership Ltd** are requested to provide an update on their positions in respect of the rights sought by the Applicant over land

plot numbers 03-005 and 04-002 [REP9-014 Affected Party Reference No. 250339]. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.

17. The **Applicant** and **Railway Paths Limited** are requested to provide an update on their positions in respect of the rights sought by the Applicant over land plot numbers 14-017, 14-018, 14-019, 15-012, 15-013, 15-015, 15-016 and 15-017 [REP9-014 Affected Party Reference No. 250342]. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.

18. The **Applicant** is requested to provide any further updates regarding any other land rights agreements.

Crown land

19. The **Applicant** and **The Crown Estate** are requested to provide an update on their positions in respect of the rights sought by the Applicant over land plot number 04-009 [REP9-014 Affected Party Reference No. 250347] with regards to Heads of Terms and consent under section 135 of the Planning Act 2008. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

20. The deadline for responses is **23:59 on Friday 15 May 2026**.

21. Responses should be submitted **by email only** to:

oneearthsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

22. Responses will be published on the One Earth Solar Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website **as soon as possible after the 15 May 2026**:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010159>

23. 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,

John Wheadon

John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation

Department of Energy Security & Net Zero