
To:

Elements Green Trent Limited
National Gas Transmission
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
Network Rail
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers
Nottinghamshire County Council
RWE Generation Ltd

Our Ref: EN010162

27 August 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

Application by Elements Green Trent Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 28 April 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 28 July 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 requests that the parties identified below provides updates or information as appropriate.

Land Powers

3. The **Applicant** and **National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET)** are requested to provide updates regarding whether protective provisions have now been agreed and whether NGET has any outstanding objections [REP6-074].
4. The **Applicant** and **National Gas Transmission (NGT)** are requested to provide updates regarding whether agreement has been reached between the parties following NGT’s submission at close of examination [REP6-069]
5. The **Applicant** and **Network Rail** are requested to provide updates regarding whether protective provisions have been agreed [AS-090].

6. The **Applicant** and **RWE Generation Ltd** are requested to confirm whether agreement has now been reached and whether RWE Generation Ltd's objections (October and December 2025) no longer stand.

Discharge of Requirements

7. The **Applicant**, **Nottinghamshire County Council** and **Newark and Sherwood District Council** are requested to provide updates on whether timescales and fees for the discharge of DCO requirements, and written approvals related to them, have been agreed [REP6-066] [REP6-042].

Glint and glare

8. The **Applicant** and **Nottinghamshire County Council** are invited to comment on the following amendment to Requirement 22 concerning the glint and glare mitigation strategy, sought by National Highways [REP6-076], (shown as underlined):

No phase of the authorised development may commence until a glint and glare mitigation strategy for that phase has been submitted to and approved by the planning authority and National Highways in respect of matters which concern the strategic road network. ~~in consultation with National Highways.~~

Woodland planting on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land

9. Natural England raised concerns during the Examination [RR-154] regarding the potential permanent loss of BMV land arising from the proposed woodland creation as part of the mitigation and enhancement proposals for the proposed development. The **Applicant** is requested to provide further justification for the proposed woodland creation habitat and the rationale for selecting this habitat type in preference to alternative mitigation or enhancement measures.
10. The Secretary of State notes Natural England's suggestion that the proposed woodland creation could be located on land of lower agricultural quality [REP4-066], and the Applicant's response acknowledging this option [REP6-048]. The **Applicant** is also requested to provide further justification for the proposed location of the woodland creation habitat, including whether alternative locations on land of lower agricultural quality were explored and, if so, the reasons for selecting the proposed approach, along with the location plans of these alternative locations.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

11. The Secretary of State notes that the application documentation does not include the full BNG Metric. Whilst headline results have been provided within the BNG Assessment [Document reference 6.4.8.13D], the detailed metric calculations have not been supplied. The **Applicant** is therefore requested to provide the full statutory BNG metric calculation tool.

Ecological data sharing

12. The **Applicant** is invited to revise the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) and outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) to provide that pre-construction, construction and post-construction and operational survey and monitoring data is regularly shared in the appropriate formats with the relevant Local Environmental Records Centre(s) and relevant national and regional environmental recording schemes.

Public Rights of Way

13. The Secretary of State notes the request by the Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers for three historic cross-field Public Rights of Way to be restored to their original alignments during decommissioning [REP5-049]. **Nottinghamshire Area Ramblers** is requested to confirm if any of these Rights of Way constitute any part of the Robin Hood Way or Trent Valley Way. **Nottinghamshire County Council** and the **Applicant** are requested to provide further information regarding the Applicant's response that the significance of the historical alignments would not, in itself, necessitate their reinstatement, particularly where doing so could adversely affect the efficient use of agricultural land [REP6-064].

Site Selection

14. The **Applicant** is requested to provide details of the site selection process and consideration of alternatives for intermediate substations [PIR-003].

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

15. The deadline for response is **23:59 on 14 September 2026**.
16. Responses should be submitted **by email only** to **GreatNorthRoadSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk**.
17. Responses will be published on the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 14 September 2026:
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010162>
18. 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