

9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Janine Laver  
Lead Member of the Examining Authority (Lime  
Down Solar Park)  
Planning Inspectorate  
c/o QUADIENT  
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Your Ref: EN010168  
Our Ref: XXXXXXXXXX

[limedown@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:limedown@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Laver,

## **RE: Rule 6 Letter – Procedural Deadline A Response**

Thank you for the Rule 6 letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 relating to the Lime Down Solar Park project (EN010168) containing the Examining Authority's (ExA) initial assessment of principal issues, the draft examination timetable and notification of the Preliminary Meeting and initial hearings, amongst other matters.

Wiltshire Council has reviewed the Rule 6 letter and wishes to make the following submissions as its response to Procedural Deadline A.

### Examination Procedure and Draft Examination Timetable

Wiltshire Council notes that the ExA has identified 11 grouped principal issues for examination (Annex C of the Rule 6 Letter). In addition to the Issue Specific Hearing 1, two-five-day periods are identified in the draft examination timetable (Annex D of the Rule 6 Letter) for hearings being week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> June and week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026. Whilst it is recognised that the examination is primarily based on the consideration of written submissions, the council considers that additional hearings may be required, especially as some topics may require more than one hearing during the six-month examination period. The council urges the ExA to schedule a further five-day block for hearings as soon as possible, bearing in mind that they may be required over the peak holiday period.

The council notes the inclusion of comments on Written Representations at Deadline 2 within the draft examination timetable. Wiltshire Council is extremely concerned with its ability to complete this in-time, due to the number of responses anticipated and the need to complete the other activities required for this deadline. The council strongly urges the ExA to extend the deadline for this activity so that a minimum of 6 weeks is available from the point of publication of the Written Representations on the PINS website to the deadline for submission of comments, to ensure that the council can adequately consider them and respond.

Furthermore, the council notes that the responses to the ExA's first written questions are requested 9 working days following their publication at Deadline 3 and responses to the ExA's second written questions are requested 9 working days following their publication at Deadline 5. The council considers that these timeframes are manifestly unreasonable, given the number of questions which could be posed. Wiltshire Council strongly requests that the ExA extends the deadlines for this activity so that parties have a minimum of 15-working days following publication of the ExA's written questions to respond.

Wiltshire Council notes that the draft examination timetable identifies that signed Statements of Common Ground (SoCG), signed and dated section 106 agreements together with CIL compliance statement and any Closing Statements are required for submission at Deadline 7. Given that Deadline 7 is also the point at which the Applicant would submit its final Draft DCO (dDCO), Environmental Statement and other documents including management plans / control documents, the council considers that it would be more useful to the ExA if the signed SoCG, signed and dated section 106 agreement and Closing Statements were submitted at Deadline 8, after the council and other parties had had a chance to review the final submissions from the Applicant. The council requests that the deadline for the aforementioned submissions is delayed until Deadline 8.

With respect to the procedural decisions made by the ExA (Annex F of the Rule 6 Letter), it is noted that the ExA has requested that SoCGs are prepared between the Applicant and a number of parties. The council is mindful that a number of town and parish councils and the Stop Lime Down community action group have expressed their desire to have a SoCG with the Applicant. Wiltshire Council urges the ExA to consider any additional requests for SoCGs favourably.

### Preliminary Meeting

Wiltshire Council notes the Preliminary Meeting will be held in the morning of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at the Neeld Community & Arts Centre in Chippenham.

██████████ (Landmark Chambers) will be representing Wiltshire Council as the primary Host Authority at the Preliminary Meeting and will be speaking on the council's behalf. He will be supported by either Nic Thomas (Director of Planning, Economy and Regeneration) or a planning consultant who the council is in the process of appointing. Additionally, the following council officers will be attending the Preliminary Meeting in an observational and support capacity: ██████████ (Consultant – Legal Services) and ██████████ (Strategic Planning Projects Lead). Wiltshire Council's attendance at the Preliminary Meeting will be in person.

The council may wish to speak on Item 3 – Initial assessment of principal issues, Item 4 – Draft examination timetable and Item 5 – Procedural decisions made by the ExA at the Preliminary Meeting.

## Open Floor Hearing 1

Wiltshire Council notes that the first Open Floor Hearing will be held in the afternoon of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 also at the Neeld Community & Arts Centre in Chippenham.

Wiltshire Council will be represented by [REDACTED], Nic Thomas or a planning consultant who the council is in the process of appointing, [REDACTED] at the Open Floor Hearing 1 and all will attend in person.

At present, the council wishes to attend the Hearing in an observational and listening capacity. However, the council would wish to reserve the right to speak should the need arise.

## Issue Specific Hearing 1

Wiltshire Council will attend the Issue Specific Hearing 1 in person on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The council notes the meeting will be held at the Neeld Community & Arts Centre in Chippenham.

The council will be represented by [REDACTED], Nic Thomas or a planning consultant who the council is in the process of appointing, [REDACTED]. Additional representatives may be required to attend on behalf of the council depending upon the exact Agenda items to be covered. The council notes that the Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 is yet to be published.

Wiltshire Council anticipates that it will wish to speak at Issue Specific Hearing 1.

## Comments on the Relevant Representations

Wiltshire Council has reviewed the Relevant Representations submitted for the Lime Down Solar Park scheme. The council has identified some general observations it wishes to make on the submissions as well as specific comments on certain Relevant Representations. The council's response to the Relevant Representations is attached to this letter.

## Suggestions for Locations for Site Inspections

Wiltshire Council would like to suggest the following locations for either accompanied or unaccompanied site inspections.

From a highways and transport perspective, the council would like to suggest the following locations:

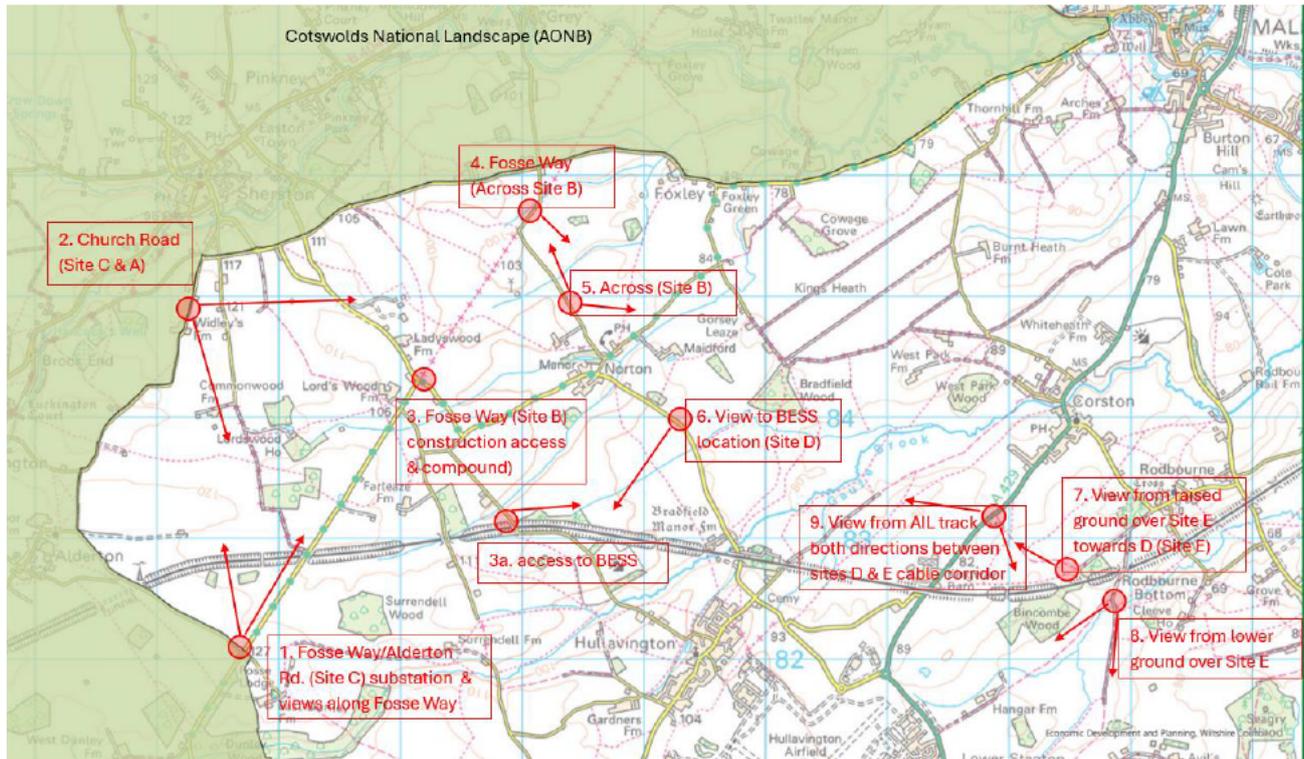
- Alderton Road / Fosse Way, which is part of the proposed HGV construction route between Grittleton and Lime Down Areas A-C; and

- The road between Dyson RBT and Bradfield Cottages, which is part of the proposed HGV construction route between the A429 and Lime Down Area D.

From a built heritage perspective, the council considers that Bradfield Manor should be a suggested location for accompanied or unaccompanied inspections. However, the council notes permission from the landowner would be required as the short section of track which links to the Public Right of Way (PROW) is private. Additionally, please be aware that access onto the Public Right of Way from the south is currently blocked; a walk from the north will be required if using the PROW.



From a landscape and visual perspective, Wiltshire Council wishes to put forward the following suggested locations for accompanied or unaccompanied site inspections.



Please note that the point at Bincombe Wood as identified in the above image, is also suggested by the council on arboricultural grounds given the scheme's proposed 242m section of internal access track, which is within the 15m Ancient Woodland Buffer Zone of North Bincombe Wood located in LDSP Site E.

I trust that this response provides all of the information requested to be submitted at Procedural Deadline A. However, please do not hesitate to contact me, or the appropriate member of my team, should you require anything further or wish to discuss anything within the council's response.

Yours sincerely,



Nic Thomas  
Director of Planning, Economy and Regeneration



**Enc: Wiltshire Council Comments on LDSP Relevant Representations**