



## **Examination into DCO Application by Lime Down Solar Park Ltd**

### **Royal Mail Group Limited's Statement at Deadline 3 on 15 June 2026**

#### **Introduction**

Further to its s42 consultation response dated March 2025 and s56 relevant representation submitted in January 2025, Royal Mail and its consultants BNP Paribas Real Estate have reviewed Lime Down Solar Park Ltd's Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan dated April 2026. Set out below are Royal Mail's comments on the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan dated in May 2026, preceded by relevant information about Royal Mail, as previously made available.

#### **Royal Mail – relevant information**

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom. The Act provides that Ofcom's primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service.

Royal Mail is under some of the highest specification performance obligations for quality of service in Europe. Its performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and this should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project.

Royal Mail's postal sorting and delivery operations rely heavily on road communications. Royal Mail's ability to provide efficient mail collection, sorting and delivery to the public is sensitive to changes in the capacity of the highway network.

Royal Mail is a major road user nationally. Disruption to the highway network and traffic delays can have direct consequences on Royal Mail's operations, its ability to meet the Universal Service Obligation and comply with the regulatory regime for postal services thereby presenting a significant risk to Royal Mail's business.

Royal Mail has 7 operational properties within 10 miles of the proposed scheme boundary (including the export cable corridor area of search).

1. Chippenham DO c. 200 metres
2. Melksham DO/FPO/LAN – c. 2km
3. Tetbury DO – c.7.5km
4. Calne DO – c.8.5km
5. Calne PAR – c.8.5km
6. Trowbridge DO/RTW – c. 8.3km
7. Bradford on Avon DO – c.9km

Any periods of road disruption / closure, night or day, on or to the surrounding highway network will have the potential to impact operations and may consequently disrupt Royal Mail's ability to meet its Universal Obligation service delivery targets.



Royal Mail's performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and as indicated above should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project. Accordingly, Royal Mail seeks to take all reasonable steps to protect its assets and operational interests from any potentially adverse impacts of proposed development.

### **Royal Mail position on Lime Down Solar Park at June 2026**

The construction works for this new solar farm and its associated infrastructure will be of a scale, nature and duration that has potential to impact Royal Mail's road-based distribution and delivery services.

Advanced knowledge of any Traffic Management, road closures or other works affecting the public highway, its capacity or journey times is usually the key to enable Royal Mail to manage impacts on its operations and business. To this end Royal Mail requires full commitment to advanced notification of works affecting the highway by the applicant or its contractors.

Royal Mail does not wish to stop or delay the construction works for this important infrastructure project from occurring. However, Royal Mail does wish to ensure the protection of its future ability to provide an efficient mail sorting and delivering service to the public in accordance with its statutory obligations.

In order to adequately protect Royal Mail's interests, it is requested that the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan includes the following mitigations, which if included would address Royal Mail's concerns:

1. a requirement that during the construction phase Royal Mail is notified by Lime Down Solar Park Ltd or its contractors at least one month in advance on any proposed road closures / diversions / alternative access arrangements, hours of working;
2. where road closures / diversions are proposed, Lime Down Solar Park Ltd or its contractors should be required to liaise with Royal Mail at least one month in advance to identify and make available alternative highway routes for operational use, where possible; and
3. a mechanism that informs Royal Mail about any other works affecting the local highways network (having regard in particular to the above identified operational Royal Mail sites in the area surrounding the proposed new solar farm and its associated infrastructure).

Royal Mail wishes to reserve its position to submit further representations to the future Public Examination, if required.

In the meantime, any questions of Royal Mail should be sent to:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]