



Planning Inspectorate  
c/o QUADIENT  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough  
SL1 4PN

Customer  
Services: 0303 444 5000  
e-mail: [limedown@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:limedown@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

---

The applicant

Case Ref: EN010168

**By email only**

Date: 22 June 2026

---

Dear Sir/ Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – section 89**

### **Application by Lime Down Solar Park Limited for an order granting development consent for the Lime Down Solar Project**

#### **The Examining Authority's response to a notification by the applicant of its intention to submit a request for changes to the application**

I refer to the change notification [[REP3-134](#)] submitted at deadline (D) 3 giving notice of the intention of Lime Down Solar Park Limited (the applicant) to submit a request to make changes to the Lime Down Solar Project application. The applicant seeks advice from the Examining Authority (ExA) on the effect on the examination timetable, on the proposed consultation arrangements and on any other matter relating to the change notification.

The applicant explains that the proposed change request is being prepared as a result of its review of the design of the proposed development as well as ongoing engagement with landowners and other stakeholders. A more detailed description of and rationale for the proposed changes is provided in the applicant's change notification [[REP3-134](#)]. They are also summarised by the applicant as:

**Change 1:** An extension of the Order Limits at Lime Down D to allow the emergency access to the Battery Energy Storage System to connect with the public highway

**Change 2:** Realignment of Solar PV Infrastructure within Lime Down C to allow Public Right of Way (PRoW) WT/SHER/18 to be realigned

**Change 3:** Update to the Works Plans to allow more flexibility in the detailed design of the interconnecting cable alignment

**Change 4:** Removal of Solar PV Infrastructure from Lime Down C in response to feedback from Cotswold National Landscape (CNL) Board

In responding to this notification, the ExA has considered the Planning Inspectorate's advice [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination \(last updated 24 March 2025\)](#) and the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 ("the CA Regulations"). The ExA makes the following comments.

Change 1 would result in an extension to the Order Limits and the applicant has indicated that it has not been possible to obtain consent for the inclusion of additional powers from all persons with an interest in the additional land. Therefore, the ExA agrees that the proposed change would engage regulations 5 to 19 of the CA Regulations.

In the applicant's view, the proposed changes are minor and would not result in a materially different project to the one applied for or give rise to any materially different environmental effects. The ExA notes this. However, the ExA will not be able to formally decide whether the project would be materially different until after consideration of all material including the applicant's report reviewing the Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Statement (ES) and the responses to the applicant's targeted non-statutory consultation.

The formal request to change the application also needs to include the information, where relevant, listed in Step 4 of the aforementioned Planning Inspectorate's advice. The ExA notes the list of additional and updated documents that the applicant advises will be provided in support of the formal request. Additionally, the formal request should include:

- A clear description of each change, including cross reference to accompanying drawings/ plans that can be readily viewed and clearly understood by all parties (in addition to the works plans and land plan).
- An addendum to the ES identifying any changes to the assessments and findings of the individual ES Chapters, if applicable.
- In relation to changes 2 and 4, relevant updates to the landscape and visual assessment and the assessment of effects on the CNL and its special qualities given that the changes involve alterations to the Solar PV Infrastructure in proximity to the CNL.

Engagement with relevant parties on any outstanding matters in respect of the matters covered by the proposed change request should continue to take place over the coming weeks in order to seek to ensure that any issues can be expeditiously resolved.

## Consultation

On the basis of the information provided and given that the CA Regulations require a period of formal consultation, the ExA considers that the targeted non-statutory pre-application consultation as summarised in Table 3-1 of the applicant's Change Notification [[REP3-134](#)] is appropriate for the ExA's consideration of whether or not to accept the proposed change request into the examination.

Any responses to non-statutory consultation must be sent to the applicant, and not to the Planning Inspectorate. The applicant should then provide evidence of its consultation and any responses to it as part of the formal Change Application. The applicant should make clear in its non-statutory consultation report the duration that consultees were given to provide comments on the proposed changes and justify why it considers that enough time

was allowed. If the ExA decides to accept the changes (whether or not considered to be material) into the examination, all interested parties and affected persons will have an opportunity to make representations on the changed application in writing or orally at any hearings as the examination progresses. Nonetheless, if the ExA is not satisfied with the extent of consultation undertaken by the applicant, the ExA may request that further consultation is carried out to safeguard the interests of and/ or to inform those potentially impacted by the changes who are not already involved in the examination.

As part of the formal consultation under the CA Regulations and in addition to the duty to publicise the proposed provision in local and national newspapers under regulation 8 of the CA Regulations, the ExA advise that the applicant post site notices in locations that can be clearly viewed by residents and others who may wish to comment on the proposed changes.

### **Implications for examination timetable**

The applicant's proposed change request timetable sets out several steps in connection with the change request. The ExA makes the following comments:

Having regard to the prescribed procedures of the CA Regulations, and Table 5-1 of the Change Notification [REP3-134], the ExA considers that there is sufficient time remaining in the examination process (taking into account statutory timeframes as necessary) to examine the proposed changes. This will require the applicant to appropriately discharge its duties under the CA Regulations, including regulations 7, 8 and 9.

The applicant's proposed timetable only provides a period of 12 days for the ExA to decide whether or not to accept the change application. Whilst this is significantly shorter than the 28 days allowed for under regulation 6 of the CA Regulations, the ExA notes that it would enable hearings to be held in relation to the proposed changes in the final round of hearings commencing 21 September 2026.

The applicant's proposed timetable includes the submission of both relevant representations and written representations on the change application at the same deadline. The ExA considers that this approach would be acceptable and notes that a similar approach was taken in the examination of the Lower Thames Crossing.

To provide the ExA with sufficient time to review the proposed changes, representations, and comments on those representations prior to the final round of hearings the ExA would welcome submission of the Change Application, including the targeted non-statutory consultation report, no later than 24 June 2026.

### **Next steps**

Following the receipt of the applicant's Change Application and the receipt of the applicant's targeted non-statutory consultation report, the ExA will issue a formal procedural decision on whether to accept the changes, along with any change required to the examination timetable to accommodate the changes.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the head of this letter should further assistance be needed.

Yours faithfully

*Janine Laver*

**Lead member of the panel of Examining Authority**

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our ['Privacy Notice'](#) before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.