



Planning Inspectorate

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The applicant
For information – to all Interested Parties

Case Ref: EN010168

Date: 6 July 2026

By email only

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – section 89 and 123, The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 9 and The Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 regulation 6

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

Procedural Decision following the applicant's request to make changes to the application

We are writing to inform you of the procedural decision made by the Examining Authority (ExA) following a change request made by the applicant dated 24 June 2026. The ExA has decided **to accept** the applicant's proposed changes to the application into the examination. All documents referred to herein have been published on the project page of the Find a National Infrastructure [Project website](#). The documents can also be found using the [examination library](#) (EL).

Background

The applicant notified the ExA via a letter dated 15 June 2026 [[REP3-134](#)], at deadline (D) 3, that it intended to submit a request to make changes to the application, to which the ExA provided a response [[PD-011](#)]. The applicant subsequently submitted a formal request for the proposed changes on 24 June 2026. The cover letter for the formal change request [[CR1-001](#)] provides a brief description of the four changes proposed and the reason for them. The detailed description of the proposed changes and the applicant's justification for each can be found in the EL ([[CR1-001](#) to [CR1-046](#)] inclusive). The changes can be summarised as set out in the following table:

Change	Area of proposed change and description
1	An extension of the order limits at Lime Down D to allow the emergency access to the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to connect with the public highway. This change engages the procedure for “additional land” set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010. The area of the land to be added to the Order limits is approximately 0.044 hectares (ha) and would be subject to Work Number 8b. This additional land would contain the bellmouth of emergency Access 21 comprising hardcore or gravel over a levelling layer of substrate.
2	Realignment of solar photovoltaic (PV) infrastructure within Lime Down C to allow Public Right of Way (PRoW) WT/SHER/18 to be realigned. Change 2 comprises an update to the Works Plan to reflect the realignment of Solar PV Infrastructure within parts of Fields C21 and C23.
3	Update to the Works Plans to allow more flexibility in the detailed design of the interconnecting cable alignment. This change comprises an update to some areas within Lime Down A, C and E to include Work Number 5B (electrical cables up to 132 kV) in addition to Work Number 1(d) (electrical and communications cabling). All cabling would be underground, and subject to the parameters stated in Design Principles and Parameters [REP3-083]. This change would allow for the interconnecting cables to be laid in the same location as on-site cables, where possible, including the design flexibility to place both interconnecting cables and on-site cables into a single trench. There is no change to the extent of the Order Limits associated with Work Number 5B being included in addition to Work Number 1(d).
4	Removal of solar PV infrastructure from Lime Down C in response to feedback from Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) Board. This change comprises the removal of Solar PV Infrastructure from Field C9 to reflect ongoing engagement with the CNL Board related to the potential significant adverse visual effects for receptors located on Alderton Road. With removal of Solar PV Infrastructure in Field C9, the total area of the Solar PV Sites remains as approximately 749.1 ha of land. This includes a reduction in land for solar infrastructure to approximately 466.5 ha and an increase to 282.6 ha for the provision of ecological mitigation, biodiversity net gain, landscaping, offsets and agricultural land managed for environmental enhancement and habitat creation.

ExA's consideration of the change request

In reaching our decision to accept the proposed changes to the application, the ExA has had regard to the Planning Inspectorate's advice page on '[Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination](#)'. The ExA has also had regard to the provisions of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (CA Regulations).

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 set out in the Change Application and Consultation Report

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[CR1-045] is appropriate for the ExA's consideration of whether or not to accept the proposed change request into the examination.

With regard to assessment of likely significant effects of the proposed changes, the ExA notes the information included in the applicant's documents [CR1-026 to CR1-040] and the Supporting Environment Information Report [CR1-046]. This report concludes that for the majority of disciplines the assessments do not change, and no new or different residual likely significant effects have been identified. The applicant, in its report [CR1-046], states that the significant adverse visual effect on users of Alderton Road (receptor TR038) during the construction phase and year 1 of the operational phase would be reduced to be not significant as a result of change 4.

Having regard to this, the ExA is satisfied that:

- There would be no new or different likely significant effects, either alone or in combination, to those identified in the Environmental Statement as a result of the change request.
- The proposed changes are not so substantial, individually or cumulatively, that they would constitute a materially different project, in that they would lead to the project being different in nature or substance to that which was originally applied for.

However, as change 1 would result in additional land being required, it has the potential to increase the interference with landowners' rights. Consequently, the ExA agrees that the proposed changes trigger Regulations 5 to 19 (inclusive) of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 (CA Regulations). Irrespective of this, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the CA Regulations, the ExA considers that the proposed change request can be accepted into the examination. In reaching this decision the ExA is satisfied that the change request complies with the requirements of Regulation 5 of the CA Regulations and has prepared a Regulation 5 'Proposed Provision' Checklist in addition to this procedural decision, which is attached at Annex A of this letter.

The ExA is satisfied that there is sufficient time within the examination for the proposed changes to be properly and fairly examined, including the opportunity for written submissions and any oral representations to be made at any hearings that are required, along with the procedural requirements of the CA Regulations.

The ExA notes that consent of all those with an interest in the land has not yet been obtained, but that the applicant submitted documents in compliance with Regulation 5 of the CA Regulations. The applicant is reminded of its obligations to notify the affected persons in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 7, 8 and 9 of the CA Regulations.

In compliance with Regulations 7, 8 and 9 of the CA Regulations, notifications should be carried out in accordance with the timescales set out in the applicant's suggested timetable detailed in table 5.1 of the change application and consultation report [CR1-045]. The ExA stresses the importance of meeting the above-mentioned timescales, as set out in this suggested timetable. The ExA requests that the certificates of compliance, as required by Regulation 9, are submitted promptly after the close of the consultation period and significantly earlier than the 10 working days set out in the CA Regulations. This would allow the examination to proceed promptly in accordance with the applicant's suggested

timetable as set out in table 5.1 of the applicant's Change Application and Consultation Report [\[CR1-045\]](#).

With the ExA accepting the applicant's change request, the applicant is now required to submit consolidated versions of the relevant documents including draft Development Consent Order (dDCO), the explanatory memorandum, statement of reasons, funding statement, and any updated version of Environmental Statement chapters by D5.

Next steps

It is now the applicant's responsibility to publicise the proposed changes that incorporate additional land in accordance with the CA Regulations. The applicant must advise the Lime Down project case team of its proposed schedule as soon as possible, so that an appropriate form for making relevant representations about the proposed provision for the Compulsory Acquisition of additional rights over land can be made available on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

The applicant's proposed timetable at table 5.1 of the Change Application and Consultation Report [\[CR1-045\]](#) includes the submission of both relevant representations and written representations on the change application at the same deadline. To accommodate this, a single revised examination timetable will be issued under rule 8(3) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 as soon as practicable by the ExA, and before 31 July 2026, to provide enough notice for submission of written representations at D6. Such a revised examination timetable would also be likely to include relevant deadline(s) for responses to representations to be submitted and an indication of any necessary hearings.

It should be noted that the acceptance of the proposed changes is made on the basis that all the processes can be completed in the required time prior to the close of the examination, and in accordance with any revised examination timetable that may be published in due course. If this is not achieved, then the ExA will not be in a position to take the change request into account in its recommendation report to the Secretary of State as it will not have complied with the relevant statutory procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact the case team using the contact details at the head of this letter should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Janine Laver

Janine Laver
Lead Member of the Examining Authority

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Annex A: Regulation 5 'Proposed Provision' Checklist Lime Down Solar

The Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010

Lime Down proposed provision for the compulsory acquisition of additional land

Regulation 6(1)			
Within 28 days (starting the day after receipt) the Secretary of State must decide whether or not to accept the proposed provision as part of the application.	Date received	28-day due date	Date of decision
	24 June 2026	21 July 2026	6 July 2026
Regulation 6(2)	Planning Inspectorate Comments		
Regulation 4 - Prescribed procedure for compulsory acquisition of land			
Regulations 5 to 19 prescribe the procedure for the purposes of the condition in subsection (4) of section 123 (land to which authorisation of compulsory acquisition can relate) and apply where—			
(a) it is proposed to include in an order granting development consent a provision authorising the compulsory acquisition of additional land;	On 24 June 2026, the applicant submitted their formal change request 1 (CR1) application. Two of the four changes included in CR1 require a change in land powers sought (additional permanent acquisition of land or acquisition of rights): • Change 1 - an increase to the order limits to facilitate works required for emergency access to the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to connect with the public highway. The area of the land to be added to the Order limits is approximately 0.044 hectares (ha) and would be subject to Work Number 8b. This additional land would contain the bellmouth of emergency Access 21. The relevant land parcel is Plot No. 04-036. • Change 3 - an update to some areas within Lime Down A, C and E to include Work Number 5B (electrical cables up to 132 kV) across the entire area of Work Number 1(d) (electrical and		

	communications cabling). There is no change to the extent of the Order limits for Change 3, however, rights over land may be affected. The relevant affected land parcels can be identified on the Land Plans which accompanied the Change Request application [CR1-006] – see legend for change 3.1 and 3.2.
(b) a person with an interest in the additional land does not consent to the inclusion of the provision	Yes. The Change Application and Consultation Report [CR1-045] demonstrates that where interests in additional land have been identified, engagement has occurred. However, no formal/ signed consents from parties with an interest in the additional land have been provided.
Summary – Regulation 4	The proposed provision is one to which regulations 5 to 19 of The Infrastructure planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 apply.
Regulation 5 - Proposed Provision	
The applicant must send to the Secretary of State details of the proposed provision which must—	
(a) be in the form of a book of reference or, where a book of reference has been submitted to the Secretary of State, a supplement to that book;	The submission included: • An updated complete Book of Reference (clean and tracked) [CR1-024] and [CR1-025] • A schedule of changes to the Book of Reference [CR1-043].
(b) be accompanied by— (i) land plan identifying the land required as additional land, or affected by the proposed provision; and (ii) a statement of reasons as to why the additional land is required and a statement to indicate how an order that contains the authorisation of the compulsory acquisition of the additional land is proposed to be funded.	The submission included: • Land Plans (clean and tracked) [CR1-006] and [CR1-007] identifying the land required as additional land. • A Change Application and Consultation Report [CR1-045] which provides a detailed description of and reasons for each proposed change. • An updated Statement of Reasons [CR1-021]. However, the applicant explains in the Change Application and Consultation Report [CR1-045] that there are no changes to the Statement of

	Reasons proposed as a result of the Change Application, and the reasons already set out in the Statement of Reasons are relied on to justify the modest increase to the Order Limits. • A Funding Statement (clean and tracked) [CR1-022 and CR1-023] which concludes that the change in the overall cost estimate is negligible and is covered by the existing funding position. As a result, the applicant concludes that there are no other amendments required to the Funding Statement as a result of the proposed change.
Summary – Regulation 5	The book of reference, land plan, statement of reasons and funding statement for the proposed change have been submitted, as required by regulation 5.

Case Manager

Deborah Allen

Signed

Date: 1 July 2026

**Lead member of the
Examining Authority**

Janine Laver

Signed

Date: 6 July 2026
