



Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 5

Consultation

5.1 Appendix F: Section 46
Notification to Planning
Inspectorate

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications:
Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009

March 2026

Table of Contents

Appendix F-1.1 Section 46 Letter to the Planning Inspectorate on Behalf of the Secretary of State	3
Appendix F-1.2 Section 46 Acknowledgement Letter	6

Appendix F-1.1 Section 46 Letter to the Planning Inspectorate on Behalf of the Secretary of State



The Secretary of State
c/o The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

By e-mail only to: MeridianSolar@planninginspectorate.co.uk

For the attention of Daniel Hurley, Case Officer, and Jennifer Savage, Case Manager

Wednesday 23 April 2025

Your Reference: EN010169



**Meridian Solar Farm – notification under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008
Proposed Meridian Solar Farm Development Consent Order**

We write to provide the Secretary of State with notification for the purposes of section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (the “Act”), that Meridian Solar Farm Limited (the “Applicant”) proposes to commence statutory consultation pursuant to section 42 of the Act in regard to its proposed application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) to authorise the proposed Meridian Solar Farm (the “Scheme”).

The consultation will commence on Thursday 24 April 2025 and run until 11:59pm on Sunday 8 June 2025. The consultation will be carried out pursuant to section 42, section 47 and section 48 of the Act, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the “APFP Regulations”) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “EIA Regulations”).

Summary of the Scheme

The Scheme is being promoted by Meridian Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Downing Renewable Developments. The Scheme is proposed to be located on land to the north of Crowland and east of Spalding, and is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council.

The Scheme would comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and an approximately 12 to 13 km overhead line connection into National Grid’s planned Weston Marsh substation (which is due to be located east of Spalding, with the exact location to be confirmed by National Grid). The Scheme also includes associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together

the land parcels where the solar panels will be located. The BESS is associated development to ensure that energy can be stored when it is generated and not demanded. The BESS will have a direct relationship with the solar PV panels and it will support the operation of this by storing electricity produced during times of peak capacity until it is needed.

The Scheme comprises a generating station of approximately 750 megawatts and the installation of an above ground electric line greater than two kilometres in length. The Scheme therefore qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(a), 14(1)(b), 15(2) and 16 of the Act. A DCO application for the Scheme (the "Application") will be made by the Applicant to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the "Secretary of State") via the Planning Inspectorate, who will appoint an Examining Authority to examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. After examination, the Examining Authority will make its recommendation on the Application to the Secretary of State, who will make the final decision on whether or not to grant the DCO. The Applicant intends to submit the Application towards the end of 2025.

Consultation materials

In accordance with section 46 of the Act, the Applicant hereby supplies the Secretary of State with the same information that is being supplied to all relevant consultees identified in accordance with section 42 of the Act. The consultation materials will be found on the 'Documents' page on our dedicated Project website during the consultation period: www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk. They are all available for the Planning Inspectorate to view and download via this WeTransfer link: <https://we.tl/t-N01tZG32f1>

- Consultation Newsletter, which is being posted to all addresses within a defined Primary Consultation Zone (as described in the Statement of Community Consultation). This document provides introductory information about the Scheme, the consultation and where more detailed information can be found.
- Consultation Information Booklet, which provides a more detailed overview of the Scheme, including a summary of some of the potential environmental effects, as detailed in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR").
- Consultation Feedback Form, which may be used to provide a response to our consultation on the Scheme.
- Interactive Scheme map, which is a digital map hosted on the website for users to engage with elements of the Scheme by zooming, dragging and clicking to reveal more information.
- PEIR and Non-Technical Summary ("NTS")
- Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC"), which has been publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the Act to explain how we will consult on our proposals.

The Applicant has included as enclosures with this letter a template of the letters being sent to statutory consultees under sections 42 and 44 of the Act, the Scheme Development Area Boundary Plan, and a copy of the Applicant's statutory notice prepared in accordance with section 48 of the Act and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations. Letters will be issued to statutory consultees under sections 42 and 44 of the Act by first class post.

All of the consultation documents will be available via the Applicant's project website at www.meridiansolarfarm.co.uk from Thursday 24 April 2025. We will also be holding a series of in person consultation events, as well as uploading two information presentations to the Scheme website during

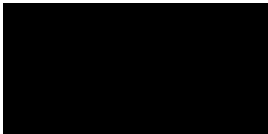
the consultation period. Further details of the consultation events can be found in the section 48 notice enclosed.

Following the receipt and consideration of responses to this statutory consultation, the Applicant anticipates submitting this DCO application to the Secretary of State later in 2025.

If you have any queries or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk or 0800 652 6120.

We would appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this letter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

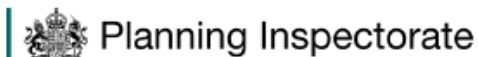


Head of NSIP Projects
Downing Renewable Developments

Enclosed:

- Copy of section 42 consultation letter
- Copy of section 44 consultation letter
- Copy of Scheme Development Area Boundary Plan
- Copy of section 48 notice.

Appendix F-1.2 Section 46 Acknowledgement Letter



National Infrastructure
Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Customer
Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: MeridianSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

██████████
Head of NSIP Projects
Downing Renewable Developments

Your Ref:
Our Ref: EN010169
Date: 9 May 2025

By email only

Dear ██████████

Planning Act 2008 – section 46 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 – regulation 8

Proposed application by Meridian Solar Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Meridian Solar Farm project

Acknowledgement of receipt of information concerning proposed application

Thank you for your email and attached notice of 23 April 2025 and the link to the consultation materials as well as the enclosed documentation:

- Copy of section 42 consultation letter
- Copy of section 44 consultation letter
- Copy of Scheme Development Area Boundary Plan
- Copy of section 48 notice.

We acknowledge that you notified the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application for an order granting development consent for the purposes of section 46 of The Planning Act 2008 and supplied the information for consultation under section 42 on 23 April 2025, before the commencement of your statutory consultation and following the correct process. However, owing to an unfortunate clerical error on our part, the Inspectorate's email address for this project was incorrect on our Find a National Infrastructure Project website, causing your notice to go undelivered. Please be informed that we have now corrected the project email address on our website and have accepted your s46 notice, as resent to us on the 8 May 2025, and I apologise for the inconvenience caused.

We also acknowledge notification in accordance with regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 that you propose to provide an environmental statement in respect of the proposed development.

Please contact us if you have any queries.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>



Yours sincerely



This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our ['Privacy Notice'](#) before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>



