



Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 1

Application Forms

1.1 Cover Letter

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

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

March 2026

Meridian Solar Farm Ltd
10 Lower Thames Street
London
EC3R 6AF
United Kingdom

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

20 March 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Act 2008 – Application for a Development Consent Order by Meridian Solar Farm Limited for the Meridian Solar Farm

PINS Application Reference: EN010169

Introduction

On behalf of Meridian Solar Farm Ltd ('the Applicant'), I am pleased to enclose an application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') ('the Application') pursuant to section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008') for the proposed Meridian Solar Farm ('the Scheme').

Introduction to the Application

The DCO Application is for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') comprising the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating station with associated infrastructure, including co-located Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Inter-Array Connections to link the land parcels that form the Solar Development Areas, and an up to 13km overhead line Grid Connection (with one short undergrounded section) which would run north towards a point of connection (PoC) at the proposed Weston Marsh B National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) substation, to the north of Weston.

The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems ('BESS') and inter-array connections to link together the land

parcels where the solar panels are 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.

A detailed description of the Scheme is contained with **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). An overview of the Scheme and its environmental impacts is provided in the **ES Non-Technical Summary** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

The Application

The Scheme comprises a generating station with a capacity greater than 100 MW, and the installation of above ground electric lines greater than two kilometres in length and a nominal voltage of 132 kV or greater. The Scheme therefore qualifies as an NSIP under sections 14(1)(a), 14(1)(b), 15(2) and 16 of the PA 2008.

The location of the Scheme and its Order Limits are shown on the **Location Plan** (Doc Ref. 2.1). The works to be carried out within the Order Limits are shown on the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3). The land within the Order Limits is referred to as the 'Site' within the Application documents.

Application Formalities

The Application is made in the prescribed form as required by section 37(3)(b) of the PA 2008. The Application documents comply with the requirements in section 37 of the PA 2008 and those set out in the:

- Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'APFP Regulations');
- Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations');
- Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010;
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government ('MHCLG') 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance' (June 2013);
- MHCLG's 'Guidance on associated development applications for major infrastructure projects' (April 2023);
- MHCLG's Guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'; and
- Planning Inspectorate's Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents' (last updated July 2025).

The Application will be published (with any necessary redactions and minus any confidential documents) by the Planning Inspectorate on its website from the point of acceptance. The following Application document contains confidential documents information and therefore a redacted version is also provided:

- **ES Appendix 9-8: Badger Report Confidential** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

This document has been marked as red in the **Electronic Application Index** (Doc Ref. 1.6) and the **Guide to the Application** (Doc Ref. 1.3) to highlight its confidentiality.

Compulsory Acquisition

The land over which the Applicant is seeking powers of compulsory acquisition of land, rights and interests and powers of temporary possession in the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) over the land described in the **Book of Reference** (Doc Ref. 4.3) and shown on the **Land and Crown Land Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.4).

The **Statement of Reasons** (Doc Ref. 4.1) explains why it is necessary, proportionate and justifiable for the Applicant to seek powers of compulsory acquisition and why there is a compelling case in the public interest for the Applicant to be granted these powers.

The volume of documents to support the compulsory acquisition powers sought also includes the **Funding Statement** (Doc Ref. 4.2) which sets out how the compulsory acquisition powers which would be authorised by the DCO are proposed to be funded, and the **Land Rights Tracker** (Doc Ref. 4.4) which summarises the latest position of negotiations with landowners.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development and therefore the Application is accompanied by an **Environmental Statement** ('ES') in accordance with the EIA Regulations. The ES is arranged into ES Chapters, ES Figures and ES Appendices.

This Application also includes **ES Appendix 9-14: Habitats Regulations Assessment Report** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The report identifies all the relevant European sites potentially affected by the Scheme and has been completed having regard to Advice Note Ten: Habitats Regulations Assessment (November 2017) and Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations. The Report provides sufficient information for the Secretary of State to make an appropriate assessment of the implications for any relevant European site, concluding "*there will be no adverse effect on site integrity at The Wash SPA and Ramsar and Nene Washes SPA*".

Other Consents and Licences

A summary of other consents and licences likely to be required in addition to those sought as part of the Draft DCO is provided in the **Schedule of Other Consents and Licences** (Doc Ref. 3.3).

Pre-application Consultation

The Applicant has had careful regard to the pre-application guidance on consultation as required by section 50(3) of the PA 2008 and advice received as part of its pre-application discussions held with the Planning Inspectorate.

As required by section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008, the Application is accompanied by a **Consultation Report** (Doc Ref 5.1) and its supporting appendices. The report provides details of the Applicant's compliance with sections 42, 47, and 48 of the PA 2008, the APFP Regulations, the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance. It also sets out a summary of any relevant responses received and how the Applicant has taken account of these in the design and assessment of the Scheme and the Application in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008.

Application Fee and Documentation

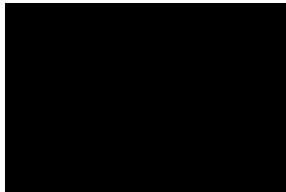
A fee of £8,946.00 has been submitted by BACS transfer to the account of the Planning Inspectorate on 13 March 2026 with the reference 'Meridian Solar Farm EN010169'.

As agreed with the Planning Inspectorate, the application has been submitted electronically via a SharePoint site which has been set up for the file transfer of the full application for development consent.

This includes the submission of a completed and signed **Application Form** (Doc Ref. 1.2) and a completed **Section 55 Checklist** (Doc Ref. 1.5) to assist with the Planning Inspectorate's compliance check of the Application.

I would be grateful if the Planning Inspectorate would confirm receipt of the Application. I look forward to hearing from the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the formal acceptance of the Application. If we can be of any assistance in that regard, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]@quod.com or [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully,



Head of NSIP Projects
Downing Renewable Developments LLP
E: @downing.co.uk

T: 