



# Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 3

Draft DCO

3.3 Schedule of Other  
Consents and Licences

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

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

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# 1. Consents and Agreements Position Statement

## 1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This Schedule of Other Consents and Licences forms part of an application by Meridian Solar Farm Limited to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008<sup>1</sup> (the 'Act') for a Development Consent Order (the DCO Application) for the Scheme.
- 1.1.2. The DCO Application is for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) comprising the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and up to 13 km of overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation. 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.
- 1.1.3. The Scheme comprises a generating station of more than 100 MW and the installation of above ground electric lines greater than two kilometres in length, with a nominal voltage of greater than 132kV. The Scheme therefore qualifies as an NSIP under sections 14(1)(a), 14(1)(b), 15(2) and 16 of the Act.
- 1.1.4. A full description of the Scheme is included in **Chapter 2: The Scheme of the Environmental Statement (ES)** (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).

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<sup>1</sup> Planning Act 2008. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

## 2. Purpose of this Document

- 2.1.1. The purpose of this document is to provide information on the additional consents and licences that are, or may be, required to construct and operate the Scheme.
- 2.1.2. Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008<sup>2</sup> (PA 2008) governs the content of an application for a DCO, including the requirements for the necessary accompanying documents specified in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009<sup>3</sup> (“APFP Regulations”).
- 2.1.3. Regulations 5 and 6 of the APFP Regulations provide the statutory requirements for what must accompany a development consent application. Guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government: ‘Planning Act 2008: Application Form Guidance’ (June 2013)<sup>4</sup> (paragraphs 45 and 46) requires that:
- "Where the proposed development will also require other consents, licences, permits, etc, to enable it to be constructed and/or operational, and for which the Secretary of State is not the authorising body under the Planning Act, then the applicant must list and briefly describe these in Box 24. Reference should be made to any that have already been applied for, and a copy enclosed of any that the applicant may already be in the possession of.*
- The applicant should also, either in Box 24 or elsewhere in one of their application documents, set out whether there are, in principle, any reasons why such consents etc. might not be granted. In providing this information the applicant should reference responses received from the relevant authorising bodies regarding the likelihood of such consents etc. being granted."*
- 2.1.4. This document lists those consents which the Applicant currently anticipates could be required for the Scheme.

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<sup>2</sup> The Planning Act 2008. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents> [Accessed 07 November 2025]

<sup>3</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2264/contents/made> [Accessed 07 November 2025]

<sup>4</sup> Planning Act 2008: Application Form Guidance (June 2013). Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a75ac43ed915d6faf2b4ced/Planning\\_Act\\_2008\\_-\\_application\\_form\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a75ac43ed915d6faf2b4ced/Planning_Act_2008_-_application_form_guidance.pdf) [Accessed 07 November 2025]

## 3. The Development Consent Order

### 3.1. Overview

3.1.1. Section 33 of the PA 2008 makes clear that there is no requirement for certain principal conventional consents to be obtained where a DCO is required to authorise a project (as is the case of the Scheme).

3.1.2. Part 7 of the PA 2008 sets out that the following can be included within a DCO:

- Ancillary matters (including those listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the PA 2008);
- The application, modification or exclusion of statutory provisions for which the provision may be made in the DCO;
- Amendment, repeal or revocation of any local legislation, where thought necessary or expedient by the Secretary of State in consequence of or in connection with the DCO; and
- Incidental, consequential, supplementary, transitional or transitory provisions and savings.

3.1.3. Section 150 of the PA 2008 states that a requirement to obtain certain prescribed consents, or authorisations, under the Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015 can be removed by the DCO with the relevant consenting body's agreement.

3.1.4. The intention of the PA 2008 is to encourage as many consents as possible to be 'wrapped up' in a DCO, creating a 'one-stop shop' approach for construction related consents.

3.1.5. The Applicant's approach is as follows:

- The DCO contains an express provision disapplying the requirement for the consent in question.
- In exchange, the DCO includes protective provisions for the benefit of the body concerned.
- These protective provisions are specifically stated to have effect unless otherwise agreed between the Applicant and the body concerned.
- Compliance with the provisions is a matter between the parties and can be enforced accordingly.

- The protective provisions provide a means for the body concerned to monitor, enforce compliance, and review the effectiveness of the approval regime.
- The mechanism of approval under protective provisions allows the body concerned to approach the project in two stages: (i) DCO application stage, where the principle of the project is accepted and the detail of the protective provision is negotiated; (ii) subsequent approval stages under the protective provisions, which cannot be unreasonably refused but allow detailed matters for construction to be properly considered.

3.1.6. This approach is well established for DCOs and statutory undertakers.

## 3.2. Consents

3.2.1. The principal consent for the Scheme will be the DCO. The DCO process enables land acquisition, along with many consents and powers, to be dealt with at the same time. The DCO application may, however, need to be supplemented by other applications because:

- A particular consent cannot be contained in the DCO.
- A consenting authority declines to allow a consent to be contained in the DCO.
- It is not desirable to include a consent within the DCO due to the stage of design development and the level of detail available at the time the DCO is made.

3.2.2. The majority of consents required are included, or addressed, within the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1), as permitted by various provisions in the PA 2008, although discussions in some respects are continuing with principal stakeholders. These fall into the following categories:

- Authorisation of all permanent and temporary works for the Scheme which are described as “authorised development” in Schedule 1 to the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) (equivalent to planning permission). Article 3 (Development consent etc. granted by this Order) is the principal power in this respect;
- Compulsory acquisition of land and rights over land, and temporary possession of land. Articles 21 to 34 in Part 5 (Powers of acquisition) of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) provides this power;
- Consent to carry out street works. Article 9 (Street works) of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) provides this power;

- Traffic regulation measures required during construction that are equivalent to Traffic Regulation Orders made under the Road Traffic Regulation 1984. Article 17 (Traffic regulation measures) of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) provides this power;
- Consent to alter the layout of streets and to form new, or alter or improve existing, accesses to the highway. Article 11 (Power to alter layout, etc., of streets) of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) provides this power;
- Article 7 (Disapplication and modification of legislation, etc.) provides a number of powers:
  - Land drainage consent(s) under section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 for works affecting the flow in ordinary watercourses or any relevant byelaws determined by the Lead Local Flood Authority or Internal Drainage Board as apply (disapplication requires the consent of the relevant body).
  - Flood risk activity permit(s) from the Environment Agency under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016 (disapplication requires the consent of the relevant body).
  - Trade effluent consent under the Water Industry Act 1991 for the purposes of discharging trade effluent from welfare facilities during construction (disapplication requires the consent of the relevant body).
  - Requirement of licence for felling under section 9 of the Forestry Act 1967.

3.2.3. Some of these consents are prescribed under the Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015. Under section 150 of the PA 2008, the relevant consenting body must agree to the inclusion of these consents within (i.e. disapplied by) the DCO. Discussions between the Applicant and these consenting bodies are ongoing, and the Applicant is confident that the necessary agreements will be obtained before or during the examination of its application, in exchange for the Application including in the DCO appropriate protective provisions.

## 4. Agreements

4.1.1. Agreements with third parties may be required in parallel to the DCO process and may take a variety of forms. A fundamental part of the DCO process is the preparation and agreement of Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) with third parties to identify the matters on which the Applicant and a third party are in

agreement, in order to narrow the focus for examining the Application and to make the examination process more efficient. These will be progressed by the Applicant where appropriate.

- 4.1.2. The **Land Rights Tracker** (Doc Ref. 4.4) sets out the current status of agreements with utility providers for gas, electricity, water and sewers, surface water and telecommunications, and the Crown Estate.

## 5. Other Consents and Licences

- 5.1.1. A summary of the additional consents and licences likely to be required is set out in Table 5-1 below.
- 5.1.2. Table 5-1 lists the type of consent or licence required, the relevant consenting body, any agreement that has been reached with that body, actions to be undertaken and the status of the relevant application (e.g. whether the consent or licence has been granted or the anticipated application submission date).

Table 5-1 Summary of Additional Consents and Licences Likely to be Required

No	Nature of Consent / Licence	Relevant Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status / Comment
1	Excavation Licence	Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	Secretary of State (Ministry of Defence)	<p>Required for works on or near the Lancaster Bomber crash site in Parcel A.</p> <p>An application for a licence will be sought post consent and will be in place prior to any ground works commencing in the fields adjacent to the crash location.</p> <p>The typical timescale for a decision is 2-3 months from submission of the application.</p>
2	Electricity Generation Licence	Electricity Act 1989 <sup>5</sup>	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	<p>Required for the Scheme to generate electricity and supply to National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET).</p> <p>Meridian Solar Farm Limited already holds a full Section 6(1)(a) Electricity Act 1989 Generation Licence. The licence contains no special conditions, no amendments to the standard conditions, and no project-specific or capacity-related restrictions. It authorises electricity generation throughout Great Britain and continues in force unless terminated by not less than 25 years' notice, which</p>

<sup>5</sup> Electricity Act 1989. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents>

No	Nature of Consent / Licence	Relevant Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status / Comment
				cannot be served earlier than 10 years after the licence came into effect.  Accordingly, no further generation licence or licence amendment is required for the Scheme.
3	Water Resource Licences (e.g. abstraction, transfer or impoundment)	Water Resources Act 1991 <sup>6</sup> (as amended by Water Act 2003), Environment Act 1995 <sup>7</sup> , Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006 <sup>8</sup>	Environment Agency	During construction, groundwater pumping/dewatering will be needed where intrusive cable laying techniques will take place. Depending on the volumes, timescales and other factors, this may require an abstraction licence from the Environment Agency. Similarly, the temporary impounding or diversion of a watercourse during construction works may also require an application to the Environment Agency for an impoundment or transfer licence. In some cases, there may be exemptions or Regulatory Position Statements that apply.  No application has been made yet. It is anticipated that the main contractor undertaking the works on behalf of the Applicant will secure the required consent prior to construction.

<sup>6</sup> Water Resources Act 1991. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents>

<sup>7</sup> Environment Act 1995. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents>

<sup>8</sup> Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/641/contents/made>

No	Nature of Consent / Licence	Relevant Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status / Comment
				The typical timescale for a decision is 3 months from submission of the application.
4	Water discharge	Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 <sup>9</sup>	Environment Agency	If water discharge activities are required to a Controlled Water and are not exempt or covered by a Regulatory Position Statement, then an application for a water discharge activity will be made by the contractor before water is discharged as required by the Environment Agency.
5	Bilateral Connection Agreement (BCA)	N/A	National Energy System Operator (NESO)	Required in order to physically connect the Scheme via 400kV cables and associated infrastructure to the proposed National Grid Weston Marsh Substation and for the onward supply of electricity of NGET.
6	Permit for transport of abnormal loads	Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003 or with authorisation from the Secretary of State under the	Department for Transport, Highways, Local Highway Authority or the police and bridge owners (if	Required for the delivery of abnormal loads during construction.  The application will be made by the contractor in advance of the delivery of abnormal loads and in accordance with the Construction Traffic Management Plan to be submitted and approved in accordance with requirement 14 of the <b>draft DCO</b> (Doc Ref. 3.1).

<sup>9</sup> Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1154/contents>

No	Nature of Consent / Licence	Relevant Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status / Comment
		Road Traffic Act 1988.	any) as appropriate	
7	Section 61 consent	Control of Pollution Act 1974 <sup>10</sup>	South Holland District Council (SHDC)	Whilst not a mandatory requirement for DCO projects, the Applicant proposes to use Section 61 consents on a voluntary basis to control construction noise. Any applications will follow the DCO being made by the Secretary of State and would be applied for prior to specific construction activities outside of the standard construction hours. Construction works for the Scheme can start prior to this consent being granted. The Applicant does not consider there will be an impediment to obtaining such consent.
8	Health and Safety related consent	Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and Construction (Design and Management Regulations) 2015 and any other subsidiary legislation	Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	To ensure that the construction of the Scheme is in accordance with HSE requirements supported by the detailed CTMP and CEMP that will be secured by requirements attached to the Order.  Applications to be made by the contractor before construction commences as appropriate.

<sup>10</sup> Control of Pollution Act 1974. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40/contents>

No	Nature of Consent / Licence	Relevant Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status / Comment
9	Protected species licence	Protection of Badgers Act 1992 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) <sup>11</sup> Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Natural England	It is proposed that the formal application process will take place and any required ecological licences granted prior to the commencement of construction. The Applicant is not aware of any reason why a licence would not be granted should one be required and has been engaging with Natural England in relation to the licence.
10	Hazardous Substance Consent	The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015	Lincolnshire County Council South Holland District Council	In the event that there is the presence of certain quantities of hazardous substances. It is not anticipated that any hazardous substance consent will be required, but this is noted for completeness.  The Applicant is not aware of any reason why a consent would not be granted should one be required.
12	Permit scheme	Lincolnshire Permit Scheme for Road	Lincolnshire County Council	Applications will be made with respect to works to streets under Part 3 of the <b>draft DCO</b> (Doc ref. 3.1) and this is provided for pursuant to article 10 of the draft DCO.

<sup>11</sup> Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents>

No	Nature of Consent / Licence	Relevant Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status / Comment
		Works and Street Works Order 2016		
13	Building Regulations Approval	The Building Regulations 2010 (as amended)	Local Planning Authority	Required in respect of buildings forming part of the Scheme. Buildings Regulations Approval would be sought prior to and during the construction phase of the Scheme for the erection of the On-Site Substations and BESS Compounds (operation and maintenance base). The Applicant does not consider there will be an impediment to obtaining such consent.
14	New water mains connection	Water Industry Act 1991	Anglian Water	The need for a mains water supply to the operation and maintenance office within the Scheme.  No application has been made yet. It is anticipated that the main contractor undertaking the works on behalf of the Applicant will secure the required consent prior to construction.
15	Consent to discharge to foul sewer	Water Industry Act 1991	Sewerage undertaker	The requirement for consent under section 118 of the Water Industry Act 1991 is proposed to be disapplied by Article 7 of the <b>Draft DCO</b> (Doc Ref. 3.1).  The controls that would otherwise be secured through that regime will instead be managed through protective provisions to be agreed with the Environment Agency and the relevant sewerage undertaker. Any discharge of effluent would be subject to appropriate controls and approvals secured through

No	Nature of Consent / Licence	Relevant Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status / Comment
				the DCO. No separate consent application is therefore anticipated.

