

Meridian Solar Farm

Notice of Acceptance of an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero) under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008.

Planning Inspectorate Reference No: EN010169

Regulation 8 and 9 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

Regulation 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

1. Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State has accepted an application (the “Application”) by Meridian Solar Farm Limited (Company registration number 14887675) of 10 Lower Thames Street, London, England, EC3R 6AF (the “Applicant”) for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) under the Planning Act 2008. The Application (Reference No. EN010169) was submitted by the Applicant to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 20 March 2026 and was accepted for examination on 15 April 2026.

Summary of the Scheme

2. The key components of the Scheme include:
 - The ‘Solar Development Area’, comprising land parcels A, B, C and D, which would host the ground-mounted solar PV generation facilities (and associated supporting infrastructure), BESS and On-Site Substation Compounds (including one 400 kilovolt (kV) substation and BESS compound at Land Parcel B, facilitating connection to the 400kV overhead electric line, and three 132kV substations compounds at the other land parcels);
 - The ‘Inter-Array Connections’, comprising underground cabling with an operating voltage of 132kV between Land Parcels A and B and a 132kV overhead line between Land Parcels C and D; and
 - The ‘Grid Connection’, predominantly a 400kV overhead electric line (via steel lattice style pylons), with one section of underground cable and associated cable sealing end compounds, to the National Grid Electricity Transmission planned Weston Marsh B Substation, east of Spalding.
3. The Application includes the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the infrastructure listed above.
4. The Site constitutes the total land area under consideration for the Scheme, including the Solar Development Areas, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route. The total area of the Site within the Order Limits is approximately 1,616ha.
5. 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.
6. A map showing the location of the Scheme can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link: <https://nsp-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010169-000101-2.1%20Overall%20Location%20Plan.pdf>
7. Development consent is required to the extent that development is or forms part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to sections 14(1)(a), 14(1)(b), 15(2) and 16 of the Planning Act 2008. As an onshore generating station in England with a capacity greater than 100 MW (AC), 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 falls within the remit of the Secretary of State’s decision-making powers.

Environmental Impact Assessment Development

8. The DCO, if granted, would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily. The DCO would also authorise alterations to the layout of streets, the construction of accesses to the Scheme, the temporary stopping up or management of the public rights of way, street works, removal of hedgerows and the application and disapplication of legislation.
9. Due to its nature and size, the Scheme is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the Scheme constitutes development for which an EIA is required. The Application is therefore accompanied by an Environmental Statement which reports on the EIA.

Application form and accompanying documents

10. The Application form and its accompanying documents (including accompanying plans, maps, the Environmental Statement, and the draft Development Consent Order (the “Application Documents”)) can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on the Meridian Solar Farm page of the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website (<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010169>) until at least the Secretary of State makes their decision on whether or not to grant the DCO. This link will also be available on the Scheme website: <https://meridiansolarfarm.co.uk/>
11. The locations listed below have public internet access, through which the Application Documents can be accessed on the Planning Inspectorate’s website free of charge. Please check directly with the facilities to confirm their opening hours, as well as any bookings or registrations that might be required to access the documents digitally through the computers available at the respective locations.
 - Crowland Library, Hall Street, Crowland PE6 0EW
 - Tuesday and Thursday: 09:30am to 12:30pm and 14:00pm to 17:00pm
 - Saturday: 10:00am to 13:00pm
 - Spalding Library, Victoria Street, Spalding PE11 1EA
 - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 09:00am to 17:00pm
 - Thursday: 09:00am to 18:00pm
 - Saturday: 09:00am to 13:00pm
12. The Application documents will be available to view online at least until the Secretary of State makes their decision whether or not to grant the Development Consent Order.
13. An electronic copy of the Application documents can be supplied free of charge on a USB memory stick. To request a USB, please email enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk, write to FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN (free of charge; no need for a stamp) or telephone 0800 652 6120 (free of charge).
14. Application documents can be made available in hard copy format on request to the Applicant. Document requests can be made using the contact details at the bottom of this notice. Please note that reasonable printing costs may apply. Requests may be made for documents in bespoke or alternative formats or specific individual documents. Given the size and format of the Application documents, a full suite of documents to publication specifications will cost £5,000.

Making Representations

15. Becoming an Interested Party gives you the right to make representations about the Application to the Planning Inspectorate, which gives you the right to make further representations during the examination process. Any person may register as an Interested Party by submitting a Relevant Representation on the Application during the representation period, which must be made directly to the Planning Inspectorate. Any representations (giving notice of any interest in, or objection to, the Application) must be made on the Planning Inspectorate’s Registration Form and give the grounds on which it is made. The Registration Form will be made available by the Planning Inspectorate once the registration/relevant representation period has been opened on the Planning Inspectorate’s website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010169>
16. If you require guidance on obtaining or completing the Registration Form, or you are unable to complete the form online and you would like to register your interest and/or request a hard copy, please telephone the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000 quoting the name of the Application and the Planning Inspectorate’s reference number EN010169 or email MeridianSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
17. The government guidance ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: How to register to have your say and make a relevant representation’ provides further information and can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-how-to-register-to-have-your-say-and-make-a-relevant-representation>.
18. Please note that representations must be received by the Planning Inspectorate by 23:59 on Thursday 2 July 2026.
19. It should be noted that personal data, such as the name of persons over 18, will be published alongside a representation. If you do not wish personal data to be made publicly available, you should state why when submitting the representation. If necessary, the Planning Inspectorate will publish the representations with your name and personal data redacted. Please note that all representations submitted will be published on the Planning Inspectorate’s website and will be subject to their privacy policy, found online here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice/customer-privacy-notice>.

Contact us

20. Further information about the Application may be obtained from the Applicant through the contact details provided below.
 - Email: enquiries@meridiansolar.co.uk Writing: FREEPOST DOWNING MERIDIAN (no stamp or further details required)
 - Phone: 0800 652 6120 (free of charge, open 09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday, except bank holidays. A voicemail service operates outside these hours)

