



Planning Inspectorate

Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

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

To the applicant

Our Ref: EN010169

By email

Date: 23 July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application by Meridian Solar Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for the Meridan Solar Farm

Planning Act 2008 – section 89(3)

Following my recent appointment [[PD-004](#)] as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA), I have reviewed the submitted application documents received on 20 March 2026 and I have concluded that there are matters which require resolution at the outset of this pre-examination period. I have therefore made a procedural decision to request additional and updated evidence. The following evidence should be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for publication on the National Infrastructure Planning website by the dates listed below.

Connection to the National Grid Weston Marsh substation

The Environmental Statement Chapter 8 Heritage [[APP-059](#)] and Work No.14 'connection works between Work No.13 and Work No.15' as described within the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) [[APP-028](#)] sets out two scenarios for the connection of grid connection route (GCR) to the Weston Marsh substation. One being new overhead electric lines (scenario one) and one being a new underground transmission electrical cable with associated permanent cable sealing end compounds (scenario two). To assist the ExA in fully understanding the position regarding these scenarios please provide:

- An update on any progress in the determination of the likelihood of scenario one or scenario two proceeding.
- A figure showing the proposed route of scenario two including the locations of the cable sealing compounds.
- Clarification of any differences in the design principles used for the scenarios.
- A table detailing the differences in the design parameters and mitigation measures for the scenarios and how these would be secured.

- For scenario two, Tier 1 and Tier 3 visualisations, with photomontages, from representative viewpoints showing the effect of the cable sealing compounds required for this scenario.

The ExA requests that this information is provided by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 22 September 2026)**.

Additional visualisation

The ExA identified that viewpoints 21, 22 and 23 identified in [\[APP-138\]](#) and [\[APP-139\]](#) do not include cable sealing end compound south (Work No.10) or cable sealing end compound north (Work No.12).

Please extend the photographs for viewpoints 21, 22 and 23 to provide a representative baseline for visual effects of the location of the proposed cable sealing end compounds. Please extend the images for viewpoints 21, 22 and 23 and provide a Type 3 visualisation for coverage of both cable end sealing compound south and north.

The ExA requests that the baseline photographs and the summer Type 3 visualisations are provided by **Deadline 1 (Tuesday 22 September 2026)**, and the winter photomontages are provided by **Deadline 4 (Tuesday 01 December 2026)**.

Timely receipt of this updated evidence is essential to ensure all persons with an interest in the application will have the opportunity to make relevant representations based on evidence that comprehensively describes the proposed development.

Where the requested updates are not submitted by the deadline provided there may be implications for the date upon which the preliminary meeting can be held.

If you have any queries on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Cassini

Helen Cassini
Lead panel member for the Examining Authority

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