Deadline 1: Written Representation submitted by National Highways Limited

Application by Meridian Solar Farm Ltd for an Order granting Development Consent for the Meridian Solar Farm Project

Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN010169

1 OVERVIEW

1.1 This Written Representation provides a summary of National Highways' (NH) outstanding matters in connection with an application by Meridian Solar Farm Limited for development consent for the Meridian (Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010169).

1.2 NH is the statutory body responsible for England's motorways and major A-roads (the strategic road network or "SRN"). NH supports the proposed development but requires some further information on the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) to address its concerns. NH expresses willingness to engage constructively with the Applicant to resolve the outstanding matters, which it believes is achievable within the Examination period.

1.3 In relation to outstanding matters to be resolved, NH does not seek to rehearse those matters in this Written Representation but instead continues to rely on the positions advanced in its Relevant Representation **[RR-139]**, some of which remain unresolved.

2. OUTSTANDING MATTERS TO BE RESOLVED

2.1 The majority of matters raised by NH in its Relevant Representation have been resolved following constructive engagement with the Applicant's transport consultants. This includes NH's initial requests for further clarification regarding HGV and AIL routes. NH is content that HGV routes will be determined in the final CTMP, which is secured by Requirement 15 of the dDCO **(APP-028)**, and which includes NH as a consultee.

2.2 NH is content that the AIL routes will be agreed post-consent. This will need to be agreed and secured via the established ESDAL (Electronic Service Delivery of Abnormal Loads) process, which ensures compliance with regulations and safety standards, and is therefore at the Applicant's risk. It is not envisaged that there will be any significant constraints on the SRN in respect of AIL routes, but it is recommended that the Applicant engages with NH on its proposed AIL routes as soon as they are known.

2.3 The sole outstanding unresolved matter concerns the potential impact of construction traffic at the A47/A16 junction. NH requires some further information to provide assurance that the operation of this principal access point to and from the SRN will not be adversely affected by construction traffic. It is acknowledged that the Applicant expects that no construction traffic

will be using the road network during peak hours. However, the junction can be very busy throughout the day and there is therefore a need for an **assessment of existing conditions to understand the impact of additional traffic.**

4. Summary

4.1 National Highways is generally satisfied that construction traffic associated with the development is unlikely to have a material impact on the SRN, particularly during peak network periods. However, further information is required to fully understand and assess construction traffic impacts at the A47/A16 junction.

National Highways Limited
22 September 2026