Meridian Solar Farm
By email:
c/o [redacted]
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Our ref: Meridian Solar Farm / Deadline 2 ExA 1

27th October 2026

Dear [redacted]

Anglian Water Response to ExA Written Questions 1 for Meridian Solar Farm

Q6.1.1 Planning Act 2008
Please set out your position with regards to the tests under s127 and s138 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as applicable to your respective interests.

AWS is concerned that the proposed development around Cowbit Sewerage Treatment Works is at risk of serious detriment to its statutory undertaking, due to a 400kv line and its proximity to the works. As per the Statement of common ground this remains under discussion. Until AWS has been able to discuss this matter further, we are unable to consider that the tests under sections 127 and 138 of the Planning Act 2008 are satisfied.

Whilst AWS remains hopeful that agreement can be reached prior to the close of the Examination it considers this matter sufficiently important to bring to the attention of the ExA as an outstanding issue.

Q7.1.16 Part 5 Article 33 (Statutory undertakers)
Please confirm whether statutory undertakers are content with the drafting of article 33. Where any statutory undertaker is not content with the wording, please identify the specific provisions of concern and explain the reasons.

Bespoke protective provisions for Anglian Water have been agreed with the Applicant and are to be incorporated into the draft DCO. These provisions will provide safeguards for AWS assets and operations, including controls over works in proximity to water and wastewater infrastructure, approval of detailed design where AWS assets are affected, protection of service continuity, and ongoing consultation on drainage and flood risk matters.

Q19.0.1 Water Supply Strategy
The applicant has submitted a Water Supply Strategy [REP2-019]. Please provide your response to this with reference to policy requirements and current guidance, including on the potentially outstanding issues of rainwater harvesting and fire water.

Anglian Water has a statutory duty to supply water for domestic purposes. This means we are legally obliged to supply water to all household properties as well as any domestic requirements (e.g., drinking water, hand-basins, toilets and showers) of non-household properties. In many cases, domestic demand will be the only requirement for non-household properties (e.g., schools, hospitals, offices, shops and hairdressers). Non-domestic demand refers to water use for industrial processes, (e.g., agri-food production or car washes), and there is no legal requirement for us to supply for this type of water usage where it might put at risk our ability to supply water for domestic purposes. Although Anglian Water do not have a statutory obligation to supply for non-domestic purposes in these circumstances, we factor this into our Water Resources Management Plan 2025-2050 (WRMP24) and we do everything we can to support businesses in the region, with the help of the water retail market.

Where new and unplanned non-domestic requests are received, which exceed 20m3/ per day (this may be less dependent on the availability of water in that area) or where there is a cumulative impact from a significant number of smaller requests, there might be the need to decline in order to protect existing supplies and the environment. Anglian Water has adopted a 'Non-Domestic Water Requests Policy' to explain this. However, for NSIPs that are requesting over 20m3/per day of non-domestic water (as defined above) for a scheme, a WRA must be completed. This is so we can better understand water demands, water efficiency measures and more effectively forecast water supply requirements. This will help enable us to support projects that

help achieve national ambitions such as achieving net zero carbon and unlocking sustainable growth. However, this is subject to a director level review within Anglian Water and can take some time to approve. In some instances, even NSIPS may ultimately be refused their requested non-domestic water request.

Anglian Water and the Applicant have continued to liaise regarding the water resources required to support the delivery of the Merdian Solar Farm Project. Anglian Water can confirm that the Applicant has submitted the water supply strategy information to us alongside the Water Resources Assessment form, and this information is currently undergoing internal review for a decision regarding whether the temporary supply of non-domestic water through the construction period is "acceptable in principle". Anglian Water cannot guarantee a maximum daily demand request for non-domestic water until this is formally applied for by the Applicant, through submission of a Pre-Planning Application, and once agreed, this is only valid for 12 months.

Whilst AWS remains hopeful that agreement can be reached prior to the close of the Examination it considers this matter sufficiently important to bring to the attention of the ExA as an outstanding issue.

[redacted]

Strategic and Spatial Planning Lead
Growth, Planning and Capacity
Anglian Water Services