Meridian Solar Farm
Downing Renewable Developments
[redacted]
United Kingdom

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

FAO: [redacted] (Case Officer)
27 October 2026

Dear [redacted],

Planning Act 2008 – Application for a Development Consent Order for the Meridian Solar Farm (Ref. EN010169) – Deadline 3 Submission

This letter is drafted to accompany the Deadline 3 submission from Meridian Solar Farm Limited ('the Applicant'). In its Rule 8 Letter [PD-008], the Examining Authority ('the ExA') has requested the following information of relevance to the Applicant to be submitted at Deadline 3:

- Responses to the ExA's first written questions;
- Comments on oral submissions;
- Comments on Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs);
- Updated documents as set out in Annex G of the Rule 6 letter [PD-006];
- Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010;
- Comments on any other information or submission received by Deadline 2.

Responses to the ExA's First Written Questions

The ExA published its first written questions (ExQ1) on Tuesday 13 October [PD-011]. The Applicant has provided its response to the relevant ExQ1s within the **Applicant's Response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions** (Doc Ref. 8.39).

Comments on Oral Submissions

The Applicant has not made any further comments on any oral submissions made at OFH1 or ISH1.

Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs)

The Applicant has submitted updated SoCGs at Deadline 2 with the following parties:

- **Statement of Common Ground with Environment Agency** (Doc Ref. 8.12 Rev 2);
- **Statement of Common Ground with Natural England** (Doc Ref. 8.13 Rev 1);
- **Statement of Common Ground with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust** (Doc Ref. 8.17 Rev 1); and
- **Statement of Common Ground with Anglian Water** (Doc Ref. 8.22 Rev 1).

The **Statement of Commonality** (Doc Ref. 8.9 Rev 2) has been updated to summarise the latest status of matters, organised thematically by stakeholder. In some cases, the DCO application documents have been updated to reflect agreed positions.

The Applicant would like to highlight that engagement with the Environment Agency has confirmed that Flood Risk Activity Permits would not be required for the Scheme. On that basis, this removes the requirement for protective provisions with the Environment Agency within the DCO. The SoCG has been updated to reflect this position, and the **Draft Development Consent Order** (Doc Ref. 3.1 Rev 3) has been updated to remove the protective provisions with the Environment Agency.

The Applicant is also actively engaging with other SoCG parties, and will endeavour to submit updated SoCGs, including with the local authorities, at Deadline 4.

Updated documents as set out in Annex G of the Rule 6 letter

The Applicant has updated the follow documents as requested at Annex G:

- **Land and Crown Land Plans – Section A Solar Development Area** (Doc Ref. 2.4 Rev 3);
- **Land and Crown Land Plans – Section B Grid Connection** (Doc Ref. 2.4 Rev 3);
- **Special Category Land Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.5 Rev 1);
- **Draft Development Consent Order** (Doc Ref. 3.1 Rev 3);
- **Explanatory Memorandum** (Doc Ref. 3.2 Rev 3);
- **Book of Reference** (Doc Ref. 4.1 Rev 3);
- **Land Rights Tracker** (Doc Ref. 4.4 Rev 3);
- **Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference** (Doc Ref. 8.25 Rev 1); and
- **Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order** (Doc Ref. 8.31 Rev 1).

Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17

No further information has been requested at Deadline 3 under Rule 17.

Comments on any other information or submission received by Deadline 2

The Applicant has provided its response to submissions made at Deadline 2 within the **Applicant's Comments on Deadline 2 Submissions** (Doc Ref. 8.38).

Submission of updated and additional documents

The Applicant has submitted a number of new and updated application documents at Deadline 3 in response to further engagement with stakeholders.

The table below sets out the updated and new documents submitted for ease of reference, including the reason for submission. The **Navigation Document** (Doc Ref. 1.4 Rev 4) provides a comprehensive list of all new and updated to documents throughout the examination stage, including the reason for submission.

Updated or Additional Document	Document Title and Reference	Reason for Submission
Updated	**Navigation Document** (Doc Ref. 1.4 Rev 4) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	To update references to documents referred to within this submission.
Updated	**Land and Crown Land Plans – Section A Solar Development Area** (Doc Ref. 2.4 Rev 3)	Updated to amend the plans to omit/exclude the CA sought over the Crown interest in Plot A12-9.
Updated	**Land and Crown Land Plans – Section B Grid Connection** (Doc Ref. 2.4 Rev 3)	Updated to match revision of Section A.
Updated	**Special Category Land Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.5 Rev 1)	Updated to correct a drafting error on the SCL plan which did not show the compulsory acquisition of rights sought over the common land as identified in the Book of Reference (Doc Ref. 4.3 Rev 3) and Land and Crown Land Plans (Doc Ref 2.4 Rev 2). This update sees the

Updated or Additional Document	Document Title and Reference	Reason for Submission
		inclusion of plots; A5-4, A5-7, A5-10, A5-13, A5-15, A5-16 added to the plan for completeness.
Updated	**Indicative and Illustrative Layout Plans and Sections - Section B** (Doc Ref. 2.8 Rev 1)	Updated in response to ExQ1s regarding septic tanks at compounds. The plan has been updated to include a cesspit with no discharge to watercourse.
Updated	**Draft Development Consent Order** (Doc Ref. 3.1 Rev 3) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated in response to comments raised in Lincolnshire County Council's Local Impact Report, the Environment Agency Statement of Common Ground and ExQ1.
Updated	**Explanatory Memorandum** (Doc Ref. 3.2 Rev 3) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to reflect changes made to the Draft DCO.
Updated	**Book of Reference** (Doc Ref. 4.1 Rev 3) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to changes in land ownership information.
Updated	**Land Rights Tracker** (Doc Ref. 4.4 **Rev** 3) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to remove references to Environment Agency protective provisions being under discussion, following confirmation from the Environment Agency that Flood Risk Activity Permits and corresponding protective provisions are not required for the Scheme. Updates are also made to the status of negotiations with landowners (including the Crown Estate).
Updated	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated in response to errors identified in ExQ1s and also to align with updates made to the Design Parameters since the start of the Examination.
Updated	**ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.1 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated in response to errors identified in ExQ1s.
Updated	**ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** (Doc Ref. 6.1 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated in response to errors identified in ExQ1s.
Updated	**ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration** (Doc Ref. 6.1 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated in response to errors identified in ExQ1s.
Updated	**ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access** (Doc Ref. 6.1 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated in response to ExQ1s to clarify wording and to correct a table cross-reference.

Updated or Additional Document	Document Title and Reference	Reason for Submission
Updated	**ES Figure 2-2: Indicative Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections Layout Plan** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 2)	Updated in response to ExQ1s asking for - PRoW and National Cycle Network from Figure 12-3 to be shown , and - update to show advanced planting in the south and southeast of field C-107. update to include access track from Spalding Road to Land Parcel A.
Updated	**ES Figure 2-5: Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Accesses** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 1)	Updated in response to ExQ1 to remove AIL and HGV routing.
Updated	**ES Figure 2-6: Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections Illustrative Construction Layout Plan** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 1)	Updated in response to ExQ1 to show an illustrative construction access route from Access QB-01 to the 400kV Substation and BESS, and to include an access track from Spalding Road to Land Parcel A.
Updated	**ES Figure 2-7: Grid Connection Route Illustrative Construction Layout Plan** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 1)	Updated in response to ExQ1 query asking why there is an existing route layer shown going south from the 400kV substation.
Updated	**ES Figure 12-21: Photosheets - Part 6 - Viewpoints 14 to 16** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 1)	Updated in response to ExQ1s, which notes an error with regards to VP15 cumulative visualisation being labelled as a winter rather than summer photograph.
Updated	**ES Figure 13-1 Study Area, Receptor and Nosie Monitoring Positions** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 1)	Updated in response to ExQ1 noise query asking for HGV routing to be shown, along with 50m buffer to show construction traffic noise study area, and buffers for operational noise from fixed plant and overhead lines.
Updated	**ES Figure 15-1 Traffic and Access Study Area** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 1)	Updated in response to ExQ1s to show 2024 survey locations and link and junction receptors.
Updated	**ES Figure 15-4 Abnormal Indivisible Load Routing** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 1)	Updated in response to ExQ1s to correct AIL routing.
Updated	**ES Figure 15-5 Staff Trip Route** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 1)	Updated due to a typographical error in the Figure name.
Updated	**ES Figure 15-7: Grid Connection Route Zones** (Doc Ref. 6.2 Rev 1)	Updated in response to ExQ1s to show which accesses serve which construction zone.
Updated	**ES Appendix 4-1: List of Cumulative Schemes** (Doc Ref. 6.3 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated in response to ExQ1s to provide updates to the long list of cumulative schemes.
Updated	**ES Appendix 9-10: Vantage Point Survey Report** (Doc Ref. 6.3 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated in response to ExQ1 query asking for Figure A1.1 to be updated.
Updated	**ES Appendix 9-14: Habitats Regulations Assessment Report** (Doc Ref. 6.3 Rev 2)	Updated in response to comments received in Natural England's comments received at Deadline 2 with regards to the assessment of

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	(Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	impacts on Functionally Linked Land. Updates also made in response to ExQ1s.
Updated	**Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4 Rev 3) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Update in response to ExQ1s.
Updated	**Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.10 Rev 3) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to: • Include reference to OFERP and to include additional measures for the protection of fish for watercourse crossings over permanently wet watercourses, as requested by the EA in their Deadline 2 submission. • Updated to confirm no works for access construction in the Slys Connection LWS, as requested by LWT. • Align with updates being made to the HRA Report in line with NE's D2 comments. • Reference Ecological Steering Group, as requested by LCC. • Commitment to no works to TPO trees and to mention tree inspection will be responsibility of the applicant and its contractors per ExQ1s.
Updated	**Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.11 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to: • Include reference to OFERP and to include commitment to the provision of annual operational waste arisings to LCC in response to comments received in the LIR. • Clarify commitment to annual incident logging for bird collisions as requested by NE. • Updates made in response to ExQ1s for noise and transport. • Include reference to EA's access to Embankment on edge of land parcel A following EA meetings.
Updated	**Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.12 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to: • Include reference to OFERP and to include a commitment for Water supply strategy to be agreed prior to decommissioning works being undertaken. • Clarify requirements for archaeological investigations in accordance with the OAMMS, if ground disturbance in previously undisturbed areas is

Updated or Additional Document	Document Title and Reference	Reason for Submission
		required as requested in the LCC D2 submission. • Align with updates being made to the HRA Report in line with NE's D2 comments, and to reference Ecological Steering Group, as requested by LCC. • Include reference to EA's access to Embankment on edge of land parcel A following EA meetings.
Updated	**Outline Soil Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.14 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to: • Include reference to Archaeological Clerk of Works which was requested as part of the LCC Deadline 2 submission. • Commitment for additional soil pits and a survey of the condition of existing field drains post-DCO consent to verify the baseline ALC grades against which restoration would be undertaken in response to comments received from RAC (LCC) and NE. • Respond to comments from ExQ1s
Updated	**Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.15 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated in response to comments raised by LCC LIR, including: • Further clarifications / commitments with regards to engagement and consultation to take place prior to PROW closures, including feeding into the Council's OneNetwork system. Advertise closures 4 weeks in advance and clear diversion information. Regular meetings with LCC PRoW team & sharing a closure schedule. Request to limit temporary closures to the minimum duration possible. Maintain equivalent public accessibility for any diversions. • No new gates or restrictions should be introduced that would limit public use. Gates should be used to control vehicles running over the PRoW. Where crossings are required gates should be provided for vehicles and not the public, to reinforce priority of users.
Updated	**Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.16 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to: • Refer to an Ecological Steering Group & restoration of planting if removed at decommissioning in response to comments from LCC LIR.

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		• Commitment for replacement with appropriate species (as opposed to the same species). • Respond to comments from ExQ1swith regards to advanced planting, and updated to mention tree inspection will be responsibility of the applicant and its contractors.
Updated	**Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.17 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to include reference to consideration of heritage skills and employment opportunities, as requested by LCC in their Deadline 2 submission, and to strengthen commitment to target named schools and colleges under Opportunity 3 as requested by Meridian Action Group.
Updated	**Outline Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy** (Doc Ref. 8.7 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updates made in response to minor edits requested by LCC in their Deadline 2 submission to clarify works where archaeological mitigation may be required, and in response to ExQ1s.
Updated	**Statement of Commonality** (Doc Ref. 8.9 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	To reflect the updated positions with the SoCGs submitted at Deadline 3.
Updated	**Statement of Common Ground with Environment Agency** (Doc Ref. 8.12 Rev 2) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	As requested by the ExA at Deadline 3 as per the Rule 8 Letter [PD-008].
Updated	**Statement of Common Ground with Natural England** (Doc Ref. 8.13 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	As requested by the ExA at Deadline 3 as per the Rule 8 Letter [PD-008].
Updated	**Statement of Common Ground with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust** (Doc Ref. 8.17 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	As requested by the ExA at Deadline 3 as per the Rule 8 Letter [PD-008].
Updated	**Statement of Common Ground with Anglian Water** (Doc Ref. 8.22 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	As requested by the ExA at Deadline 3 as per the Rule 8 Letter [PD-008].
Updated	**Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference** (Doc Ref. 8.25 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	Updated to reflect changes in land ownership information.
Updated	**Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order** (Doc Ref. 8.31 Rev 1) (Clean and tracked change versions supplied)	To clearly set out the changes to the Draft DCO at Deadline 3.

Updated or Additional Document	Document Title and Reference	Reason for Submission
New	**Applicant's Comments on Deadline 2 Submissions** (Doc Ref. 8.38)	The Applicant's response to submissions made at Deadline 2.
New	**Applicant's Response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions** (Doc Ref. 8.39)	The Applicant's response to the ExA's First Written Questions.
New	**Review of the Scheme Against the Electricity Transmission Design Principles** (Doc Ref. 8.40)	Produced to support the response to ExQ2.0.13.
New	**Review of the Scheme Against the Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2026** (Doc Ref. 8.41)	Produced to support the response to ExQ1.0.4.

The Applicant trusts that the above is helpful and would be grateful for the ExA's confirmation as to whether the approach set out above would be acceptable. Should the ExA require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact [redacted] at [redacted] or [redacted].

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Head of NSIPs

Downing Renewable Developments LLP

E: [redacted]
T: [redacted]