
To:

Our Ref: EN010170

Green Hill Solar Farm Limited
Natural England
Environment Agency
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

10 August 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Green Hill Solar Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 10 April 2026, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 8 July 2026. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.
2. There are matters on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the **Applicant, Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc** could provide updates or information as appropriate.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

3. Paragraph 7.2.99 of the Applicant’s shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment [REP5-079] states that the measures detailed within Method Statement 13 of the outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [REP7-017] will be followed in order to rule out an adverse effect of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area and the Upper Nene Valley Ramsar Site from operational disturbance. The **Applicant** is requested to update the outline Operational Environment Management Plan [REP6-043] to appropriately secure this mitigation, specifically for impacts during the operational phase, and to provide a copy of this to the Secretary of State.

4. **Natural England** and the **Environment Agency** are invited to confirm that the Applicant's proposed mitigation in the outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan [REP5-075] fully addresses their concerns regarding the waterborne pollution impact pathway to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area and the Upper Nene Valley Ramsar Site.

Use of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

5. The **Applicant** is requested to provide further justification for concluding that approximately 4.3ha of land under the substation and BESS can be satisfactorily restored to its former Agricultural Land Classification ("ALC") Grade following 60 years under concrete hard standings.

Protective Provisions

6. The **Applicant** and **National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc** are requested to provide updates regarding whether protective provisions have been agreed. If agreement has not been reached, provide the reasons why, and when agreement is expected to be reached.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

7. The deadline for response is **23:59 on 24 August 2026**.
8. Responses should be submitted **by email only** to greenhill@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.
9. Responses will be published on the Green Hill Solar Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website **as soon as possible after 24 August 2026**:
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010170>
10. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Proposed Development or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

John Wheadon

John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery & Innovation

Department of Energy Security & Net Zero