

John Wheadon
Department of Energy Security and Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Our reference: OR-0010021/01

Your reference: EN010170

13 August 2026

Dear Sir,

**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

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above-mentioned request
for information. We provide the following comments.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

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.*

In the Statement of Common Ground between the Applicant and the Environment Agency (see Issue ID: HYD-09) [\[REP7-036\]](#), the Applicant agreed to our requests for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to incorporate an impermeable liner, automatic and manually operated shut-off valves to isolate drainage, procedures for gravel cleaning and removal, and the removal of batteries where necessary. The Applicant also listed the Environment Agency as a named consultee in relation to the

approval of the Battery Storage Safety Management Plan under Requirement 6 (Battery Safety Management) of the Draft Development Consent Order [\[REP7-005\]](#).

The agreed mitigation and commitment to consult on the Battery Storage Safety Management Plan following consent, should the DCO be granted, satisfy our concerns that in the event of a BESS fire, pollution would be isolated and treated or removed from site and would not create a pollution impact pathway. We therefore hold the view that the Applicant's proposed mitigation in the outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan addresses any concerns we would have regarding waterborne pollution impact pathway to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area and the Upper Nene Valley Ramsar Site.

If you have any questions regarding our response, please contact NIteam@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

██████████, Planning Advisor
National Infrastructure team
NIteam@environment-agency.gov.uk