
To:

Our Ref: EN010170

Green Hill Solar Farm Limited
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
Natural England
Cadent Gas Limited

28 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 project (“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 issues on which the Secretary of State requests the Applicant, National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc [“NGET”], Natural England and Cadent Gas Limited [“Cadent Gas”] to provide updates or information as appropriate.

Battery storage safety management plan

3. NGET’s response [C1-005] to the Secretary of State’s letter dated 10 August 2026 raised concerns about fire risks arising from Work No 2. NGET requested that Requirement 6 of the draft Development Consent Order to be amended to require NGET to approve the battery storage safety management plan. **NGET** is requested to provide its preferred drafting of requirement 6 and to highlight any precedents in previously consented orders.
4. The **Applicant** is requested to provide justification why it considers NGET should not be part of the approval process for the battery storage safety management plan, including any precedents in previously consented orders.

Protective provisions for NGET

5. The Applicant states in its response to the Secretary of State's 10 August 2026 letter that the only outstanding issue between the parties is the definition of 'acceptable insurance' [C1-015]. The Secretary of State requests that **NGET** confirms that the additional issues raised in its submission to the Secretary of State have been agreed between the two parties [C1-005].
6. **NGET** and the **Applicant** are requested set out their justification for the different approaches to the insurance and, if possible, highlight any precedents in previously consented orders.

Data Sharing

7. The **Applicant** is invited to revise the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan, outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy, outline Operational Environmental Management Plan, and outline Construction Environmental Management Plan to provide that pre-construction, construction and post-construction and operational survey and monitoring data is regularly shared in the appropriate formats with the relevant Local Environmental Records Centre(s) and relevant national and regional environmental recording schemes.

Changes to the draft Development Consent Order

8. In response to the Secretary of State's most recent request for information, the Applicant produced an updated Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order [C1-014]. In this, the Applicant included a proposed update to Article 6 (Disapplication and modification of legislation, etc.) in response to comments made by Natural England during the Examination of the Lime Down Solar Project (EN010168). **Natural England** is invited to comment on the wording of this requirement, and the suitability of adding this requirement into this Development Consent Order.
9. In the same response, the Applicant updated 'Article 2(1) (Interpretation) – definition of "permitted preliminary works"', to include the 'protection' of apparatus to the list of permitted preliminary works. The **Applicant** is invited to explain further the rationale for this addition to the draft Development Consent Order.

Protective provisions for Cadent Gas Limited

10. The **Applicant** and **Cadent** are invited to comment on paragraph 97(4) of Part 8 of Schedule 15 (protective provisions for the protection of Cadent Gas Limited). Paragraph 97(4) provides:

“(4) Any agreement or consent granted by Cadent under paragraph 100 or any other paragraph of this Part of this Schedule, will be taken to constitute agreement under sub-paragraph (1).”
11. The Secretary of State invites the **Applicant** and **Cadent** to consider whether this paragraph is accurately drafted, noting that previous protective provisions for Cadent stated that agreements relating to retained apparatus (or otherwise) would

not be considered an agreement for the purpose of paragraph 97(1). For example, the corresponding paragraph in West Burton Solar Project Order 2025 provides:

*“(4) Any agreement or consent granted by Cadent under paragraph 69 or any other paragraph of this Part of this Schedule, will **not** be taken to constitute agreement under sub-paragraph (1).” (emphasis added).*

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

12. The deadline for response is **23:59 on 11 September 2026**.
13. Responses should be submitted **by email only** to greenhill@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.
14. Responses will be published on the Green Hill Solar Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website **as soon as possible after 11 September 2026**:
<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010170>
15. 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