

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Light Valley Solar](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Formal Objection – Failure to Update Project Information for EN0110012 (Light Valley Solar)
Date: 25 June 2025 19:00:40

Formal Objection – Failure to Update Project Information for EN0110012 (Light Valley Solar)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to lodge a formal objection regarding the continued failure to update the National Infrastructure Planning website in respect of **EN0110012 – Light Valley Solar**, a Development Consent Order (DCO) application proposed by Light Valley Solar Limited.

Despite your project site being updated **today** and the applicant issuing revised materials **over two months ago** (which includes the significant addition of Sites 6–8 to be included as part of the Phase 2 consultation which materially affects the application), your official project page continues to reflect only the original five sites referenced during Phase 1 – as shown below.

Latest update - 25 June 2025

The applicant's [notification](#) (PDF, 204KB) under s46 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 8 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 has been received and an [acknowledgement letter](#) (PDF, 128KB) has been issued.

[View all updates.](#)

About the project

Type of application: Generating Stations

Name of applicant: Light Valley Solar Limited

The project is a solar farm with associated battery energy storage system (BESS) located near Selby in North Yorkshire, connecting to National Grid's Monk Fryston sub-station. A 500MW grid connection to the transmission network has been secured. The development will be designed to fulfil this connection efficiently. Due to the expected generating capacity, the project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for which a development consent order (DCO) will be sought.

The project comprises five site panel areas, located in rural areas to the north and east of Selby, covering an area of approximately 1066ha. Within the boundaries of these sites, ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) modules accompanied with the necessary infrastructure to generate and store electricity, and environmental mitigation / biodiversity net gain areas, are proposed. The proposal also includes underground cabling, both on and off-site, to connect between the sites and to National Grid's transmission network.

Project location

The Proposed Development includes five land parcels (Sites 1-5) which are strategically situated in the rural expanse between Monk Fyston, Hambleton and Escrick. Site 1 is the northernmost parcel, part of the Escrick Estate and is approximately 430m east of Escrick. The west parcels (Sites 2 and 3), situated to the east of Monk Fyston are characterised by arable landscaped dotted with farm structures. The central and eastern parcels (Sites 4 and 5), lie adjacent to the River Aire.





This misrepresents both the size and scope of the proposed development and has done so for over 2 months. Of particular concern is the fact that the **Phase 2 statutory consultation period is due to commence tomorrow**. The Planning Inspectorate's failure to ensure the public has access to an accurate and up-to-date summary of the project for over 2 months and at this critical juncture is not simply an administrative oversight—it is a clear **breach of statutory obligations** under the **Planning Act 2008** and the **Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017** and it is a substantive failure that will taint the procedural fairness of the pre-application and subsequent examination process.

The omission has the following effects:

- It **undermines public trust** in the integrity of the NSIP consultation process.
- It **impairs the public's ability** to engage meaningfully with the current proposal.
- It **prejudices the interests** of those living or working near the additional sites.
- And more importantly, it **contravenes statutory obligations** concerning the provision of accessible and accurate project information.

This is all in addition to the numerous failings by the applicant to adequately consult all affected communities under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, which I will be raising with the applicant directly under separate cover.

I formally request that the Planning Inspectorate:

1. Update the EN0110012 project page without further delay to include information relating to Sites 6–8.
2. Confirm whether this ongoing inaccuracy has been raised internally or with the applicant. If so, what was the outcome.
3. Clarify what safeguards are in place to ensure that NSIP documentation remains up-to-date during all stages of the process.
4. Confirm that both this objection and any response will be recorded and addressed in a transparent manner and


that they will also form part of the documentation to be submitted with the DCO application.

Please also be advised that this major oversight undermines the legitimacy of the applicant's statutory consultation and raises serious questions about the procedural validity of any future acceptance decision.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Nick Billingham



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Planning Inspectorate

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Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
email: lightvalleysolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Mr Nick Billingham

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

EN0110012

Date:

27 June 2025

(By email)

Dear Mr Billingham

Thank you for your email of 25 June 2025 regarding the proposed Light Valley Solar nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP). By way of introduction, I am the Operations Manager responsible for the administration of this project and I am replying on behalf of the Planning Inspectorate.

I note your complaint that the Planning Inspectorate's website has not reflected the most recent evolution of the proposed development. We have now updated our project website page accordingly to incorporate the latest information in relation to the location of the proposed development site and the number of expected panel areas, which has changed since the Inception Meeting was held. We apologise for this oversight and any inconvenience caused. Our project page has continued to include a link to the applicant's website which contains relevant resources and up-to-date information about its proposed NSIP during the pre-application stage, which you and others should be able to access.

The requirements for the Planning Inspectorate to maintain and publish a register of NSIP applications received by the Secretary of State is set out in section 39 of the Planning Act 2008, with "details of the application to be entered in the register". This section of the 2008 Act specifies such information as being any consultation reports received by the Secretary of State under section 37(3)(c), and accompanying documents and information received under section 37(3)(d). Additionally, regulation 18 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 sets out requirements for the publicity and consultation for EIA development, where such an application is accepted by the Secretary of State. There are separate requirements for applicants to notify and consult prescribed persons about a proposed application during the pre-application stage and to publicise accepted applications.

Separately, regulation 11 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 sets out requirements for the Planning Inspectorate to maintain a record and a website publicising any advice given to applicants and others in accordance with section 51(1) of the Planning Act 2008.

In consideration of the above, we have not breached any legislative requirements by failing to keep this type of information up to date on our website during the pre-application stage.

I also do not agree that this oversight has called into question the procedural validity of any future acceptance decision, as you allege. It is common for proposed NSIPs to evolve during the pre-application stage, because of the applicant's land, engineering and environmental assessments being undertaken at different stages and the feedback received from consultees during the non-statutory and statutory consultation phases. We do however update our website with any significant changes in information about proposed developments during the pre-application stage as soon as practicable and take our responsibilities in relation to transparency seriously.

With regards to your comment about statutory consultation, the Planning Inspectorate is unable to comment. Any correspondence about the merits of the application or how consultation is being carried out should be sent to the applicant directly during pre-application. If the application is submitted and accepted for examination, you and other parties will have an opportunity to register your interest and make written and oral representations about the scheme. Information on how to take part in this consultation and how to contact the applicant can be found on their website [here](#).

Further information about the NSIP process and how you can have your say can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say](#) as well as the Government's guidance on the Planning Act 2008.

Please be assured that we already have robust internal processes and procedures in place to ensure application documentation is published on our website and in accordance with relevant legislation. However, we will ensure that our team colleagues are reminded to proactively update our project pages across our website with any significant details resulting from changes to proposed developments during pre-application, to avoid this type of oversight happening again. A copy of your complaint and our reply will be published on our website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008.

Thank you again for raising your concerns with the Planning Inspectorate and for your patience whilst we have updated the information on our project page.

Yours sincerely

Jolyon Wootton

Jolyon Wootton
Operations Manager