

By email
4 March 2026

The Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

Your ref EN0110012

Dear Madam

Light Valley Solar

Response to request for signposting information

On behalf of Light Valley Solar Limited (the Applicant), the following information provides a response to a request for signposting information, under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008, made by the Planning Inspectorate on 25 February 2026. The request from the Planning Inspectorate was as follows:

1. *As part of the acceptance process certain checks on the satisfactory nature of application information are undertaken. Within Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual (Document 06.01.10), Table 10-23 provides the Summary of residual visual effects at Year 15. Appendix 10.4 (Photography and Photomontages) provides photos from various viewpoints (VPs). Where photomontages are supplied, these are for Year 1 of Operation (Winter), and Year 15 of Operation (Summer). Appendix 10.1 (Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology) notes that residual effects are those which remain even with embedded or primary mitigation at year 15 of existence and operation and which cannot be further mitigated by design or other measures in this time period (para 1.2.42). Please can the applicant signpost to the basis on which the worst-case winter scenario at year 15 residual effects have been assessed, including reference to sources or photomontages at Year 15 (winter).*

Chapter 10 of the ES (Document 06.01.10) does not include a worst-case winter scenario at year 15 of operation and existence and photomontages which illustrate the Proposed Development in this scenario have not been prepared. This is because the assessment has already considered the maximum (worst-case) landscape and visual effects at year 1 of existence and operation in winter, when effects are greatest. In this maximum scenario, 20 out of a total of 53 viewpoints would experience significant (moderate adverse) effects. Note that the viewpoints' locations and quantity were agreed with North Yorkshire Council on 17/11/2025. This is predicted to reduce further by year 15 of operation (summer), with only five viewpoints experiencing significant effects. This demonstrates a clear improvement over time as landscape mitigation becomes established. It is considered that in a winter year 15 scenario for existence and operation, there would be no new significant effects compared to those reported for summer of year 15. This is because the proposed planting would continue to substantially screen or filter views of the built elements of the Proposed Development, reinforcing local landscape patterns. The residual visual effects of existence and

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operation (i.e. those which remain following the establishment of proposed planting) are therefore those reported within Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual (Document 06.01.10), Table 10-23 of the ES.

Paragraph 4.3.18 of NPS EN-1 states that “the Secretary of State should consider the worst-case impacts in its consideration of the application and consent, providing some flexibility in the consent to account for uncertainties in specific project details”. The scenarios which form the basis of the assessment of landscape and visual effects are set out in paragraph 14.10.2.1 of the Scoping Report. There is no reference to a requirement to assess a year 15 winter worst-case scenario in the Scoping Opinion, in stakeholder feedback, in the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (including Appendix 2: Applicant’s section 55 checklist) or the Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development. With respect to solar farm development, NPS EN-3 states that photomontage visualisations may be required to demonstrate effects on sensitive or valued landscapes, particularly designated landscapes, the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints. The Applicant has provided photomontages for the Year 1 (winter) and Year 15 (summer) scenarios, which is consistent with DCOs for several solar farm developments that have been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate for Examination and consented by the Secretary of State without a year 15 winter scenario being assessed or photomontages being provided. This includes Tillbridge Solar, Sunnica Energy Farm, Gate Burton Energy Park and Longfield Solar Farm.

In the case of the Proposed Development, the worst-case for landscape and visual effects has been assessed in year 1 of operation and existence in winter with the residual effects assessed in year 15 in summer. This is in line with the methodology set out in the Scoping Report and is consistent with industry standard best practice. Paragraph 6.28 of GLVIA3 states that “consideration should be given to the seasonal differences in effects arising from the varying degree of screening and/or filtering of views by vegetation that will apply in summer and winter” with further clarity provided by paragraph 2.4 of Landscape Institute Technical Note 06/19, which states that “where reasonable within project timescales, include maximum effect scenario (e.g. winter views...)”. These guidelines do not specify assessment scenarios, which are left to the assessor to determine in consultation with relevant authorities. The maximum effect scenario for the landscape and visual effects of operation and existence is year 1 of operation in winter. This scenario assumes that deciduous vegetation is not in leaf and that proposed planting has been implemented but has not established (Appendix 10.1: Photography, baseline photography section) to represent the maximum openness of views in winter. Therefore, the worst-case scenario has been assessed in line with the relevant NPS and published guidance. It takes time for proposed planting to establish and this is the reason that the residual effects of the Proposed Development have been assessed in year 15 of operation in summer.

On this basis, the Applicant does not consider that this information is necessary, and this should not prevent acceptance of the DCO application for Examination.

Please accept this letter as a formal response made before 17:00 on 04 March 2026. Do not hesitate to get in touch regarding any further queries.

Date

4 March 2026

Yours sincerely

Abbey South MRTPI
DCO Coordinator
Planner



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To Light Valley Solar Limited

Your Ref:

By email only

Our Ref: EN0110012

Date: 25 February 2026

Dear Ruth Jackson

Planning Act 2008 – section 55

Application by Light Valley Solar Limited for an order granting development consent for Light Valley Solar

Request for signposting information

The above application was received on 10 February 2026 and the deadline for a decision on whether to accept the application for examination must be made by 10 March 2026.

To assist the Planning Inspectorate in reaching a decision on acceptance we are requesting signposting information as listed below. The Planning Inspectorate cannot accept any further or new information from the applicant at this stage, therefore please limit your response to stating where the relevant information is provided within the application documents submitted on 10 February 2026.

1. As part of the acceptance process certain checks on the satisfactory nature of application information are undertaken. Within Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual (Document 06.01.10), Table 10-23 provides the Summary of residual visual effects at Year 15. Appendix 10.4 (Photography and Photomontages) provides photos from various viewpoints (VPs). Where photomontages are supplied, these are for Year 1 of Operation (Winter), and Year 15 of Operation (Summer). Appendix 10.1 (Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology) notes that residual effects are those which remain even with embedded or primary mitigation at year 15 of existence and operation and which cannot be further mitigated by design or other measures in this time period (para 1.2.42). Please can the applicant signpost to the basis on which the worst-case winter scenario at year 15 residual effects have been assessed, including reference to sources or photomontages at Year 15 (winter).

Please provide the requested signposting information by **17:00** on **04 March 2026**.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>



Yours sincerely

Aamina Khan

**Aamina Khan
Case Manager**

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