



Planning Inspectorate

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Light Valley Solar Limited

Our Ref: EN0110012

By email only

Date: 20 April 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam

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

The Planning Act 2008 – section 89(3)

As set out in the Rule 4 letter [\[PD-002\]](#) published on 9 April 2026, I have been appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to be the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) that will examine and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero on the Light Valley Solar project.

Following the decision of the SoS to accept the application for examination on 9 March 2026 [\[PD-001\]](#), the ExA has decided to make a number of procedural decisions to accept additional submissions and request further information. The aim is to enable the ExA to better utilise the pre-examination stage of this process to ensure that it has as much of the information it needs as early as possible in the overall process.

Additional submissions

In undertaking checks at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate had made some initial observations in relation to the application and provided advice under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 in respect of these initial observations. This advice explained that various issues were encountered when viewing plans digitally on a screen and the applicant was asked to submit new versions of a standard that will enable multiple documents to be opened on a computer and used concurrently.

The ExA has exercised its discretion and made a procedural decision to accept the additional submissions listed in appendix A of this letter and to not accept the following additional submissions:

- 02.12.01 to 02.12.08 Outline Environmental Masterplans Site 1 to 8 due to continued lag and latency issues and lengthy file opening times experienced by the

Planning Inspectorate. These would be likely encountered by interested parties, affected persons, the ExA and others during the examination stage.

- 07.01 Crossings Schedule due to Appendix 1 of this document appearing to be incomplete.

Request for further information from the applicant

Having reviewed the application documents, the ExA is issuing this request for a number of documents to be updated, amended or expanded. Could the applicant therefore provide the following:

- **02.12 Outline Environmental Masterplan [APP-016]**– amended file/s of a standard that will enable multiple documents to be opened on a computer in good time and effectively used concurrently.
- **05.01 Consultation Report [APP-024]**– The ExA understands that the proposed development would cross beneath a section of the River Ouse which is a water in or adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea and spatially located in the East Inshore Marine Plan area. It is not clear to the ExA whether the proposed development would be unlikely to affect this water. Accordingly, the ExA requests the applicant signposts to the evidence in the application documentation that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has been consulted, or that the applicant undertakes targeted consultation with the MMO now and submits an updated consultation report.
- **06.03.02.02 Environmental Statement Volume 3 Appendix 2.2 Indicative Engineering Drawings and Sections [APP-148]** – expanded drawings to include proposed integrated and disaggregated conversion units.
- **06.03.15.01 Environmental Statement Volume 3 Appendix 15.1 Flood Risk Assessment [APP-179]** – amended figures that identify the current and future Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b in context of the proposed development and study area.
- **07.01 Crossing Schedule [APP-191]**
 - an updated Appendix 1 of this document that includes all the proposed crossings as some appear to be missing eg HV_SE6439_001, HV_SE6440_001, HV_SE6540_001
 - an updated Appendix 3 of this document to include plans that visually identify the different crossing methodologies proposed (including horizontal directional drilling, trenchless and open-cut) without the need to cross reference to Appendix 1.

Request for submission of comments on relevant representations (RR)

Rule 3(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) requires written comments on any RRs to be submitted either on the date of the preliminary meeting, or a date specified in the rule 8 letter which follows as soon as practicable following the preliminary meeting, whichever is the later. The ExA intends to draft the examination timetable and publish this in due course within the ExA's rule 6 letter. However, it would be helpful to the ExA, for the preliminary meeting, subsequent hearings and efficient examination of the application, if comments from the applicant on the RRs could be submitted by **4 June 2026**. Comments on the RRs should:

- specify the names of the parties making the representations and the relevant Examination Library reference to demonstrate that all RRs have been responded to;

- be provided in a PDF and spreadsheet format; and
- where a detailed or tabular representation has been submitted, present responses in a comparable manner to ensure that all points are responded to in similar terms.

The ExA requests that updated, amended or expanded information as appropriate to address the matters identified in this letter be submitted by **4 June 2026**. Where the requested information is not submitted by the deadline provided there may be implications for the date upon which the preliminary meeting can be held.

If you have any queries on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning Inspectorate office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Tandy

Matt Tandy
Lead panel member for the Examining Authority

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Appendix A – Accepted additional submissions

Reference	Document description
AS-001	01.03 Guide to the Application
AS-002	01.05 Electronic Application Index [Excel]
AS-003	02.01 Location Plan
AS-004	02.03 Works Plans
AS-005	02.04 Public Rights of Way Plans
AS-006	02.05 Access to Works Plans
AS-007	02.06 Streets Plans
AS-008	02.10 Tree Preservation Order and Hedgerow Plans
AS-017	06.02.01.01 Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Figure 1.1 Site Location Plan and Order Limits Compressed
AS-018	06.02.06.06 Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Figure 6.6 UK Habitat Classification Results
AS-019	06.03.03.01 Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 3.1 Site Selection Assessment Report
AS-020	06.03.08.03.01i Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 8.3 Geophysical Survey Results Part 2i
AS-021	06.03.08.03.01ii Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 8.3 Geophysical Survey Results Part 2ii
AS-022	06.03.08.03.01iii Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 8.3 Geophysical Survey Results Part 2iii
AS-023	06.03.08.03.02i Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 8.3 Geophysical Survey Results Part 3i
AS-024	06.03.08.03.02ii Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 8.3 Geophysical Survey Results Part 3ii
AS-025	06.03.08.03.02iii Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 8.3 Geophysical Survey Results Part 3iii
AS-026	06.03.08.03i Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 8.3 Geophysical Survey Results Part 1i
AS-027	06.03.08.03ii Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 8.3 Geophysical Survey Results Part 1ii
AS-028	06.03.10.04 Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 10.4 Photography and Photomontages
AS-029	06.03.12.02 Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 12.2 Non-breeding Bird Survey Report Part 1 of 3
AS-030	06.03.12.02.01 Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 12.2 Non-breeding Bird Survey Report Part 2 of 3
AS-031	06.03.12.02.02 Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 12.2 Non-breeding Bird Survey Report Part 3 of 3
AS-032	06.03.12.03 Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 12.3 Breeding Bird Survey Report - Solar Development Sites 6-8
AS-033	06.03.16.03 Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 16.3 Ground Conditions Preliminary Risk Assessment - Part 1 of 2
AS-034	06.03.16.03.01 Environmental Statement Volume 3 - Appendix 16.3 Ground Conditions Preliminary Risk Assessment Part 2 of 2