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All interested parties, statutory parties and
the applicant

Our Ref: EN0110012

Date: 27 October 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Planning Act 2008 – section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination
Procedure) Rules 2010 – rules 8(3) and 9**

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

**Procedural decision following the applicant's request to make 9 changes to the
submitted application**

I refer to the change notification [[CR1-001](#)] submitted on 25 September 2026, giving notice of the intention of Light Valley Solar Limited (the applicant) to submit a request to make changes to the Light Valley Solar Project application. The applicant subsequently submitted that request on 13 October 2026 and the associated documents have been published on the project webpage, examination library references CR1-001 to CR1-048 inclusive.

The request included 9 changes to the application with a detailed description of and rationale for the proposed changes provided in the applicant's change notification. They are also summarised by the applicant as:

Change 1: The potential alteration to the construction access route for the land within the proposed Cable Route Corridor to the south of the proposed Solar Development Site 1. An extension of the Order limits to accommodate an additional construction access route due to concerns raised in respect of impacts to the Field House Farm business.

Change 2: An extension of the Order limits at Harry Moor Lane near access CA19 (shown on Sheet 10 of the Access to Works Plans [AS-006]) to accommodate an over sail of abnormal indivisible loads during deliveries.

Change 3: A reduction of the Order limits within the northern section of proposed Solar Development Site 6 in Field 6.9, as identified in the Field Numbering Plan [APP-061].

Change 4: An extension of the Order limits to include additional land required to provide and maintain the sightlines to ensure strict Design Manual for Roads and Bridges compliance at access points 1 and 3 of proposed Solar Development Site 4 (as shown on sheets 12 and 18 of the Access to Works Plans [AS-006] (labelled as points 10 and 8 respectively).

Change 5: A change to include an additional 0.2 hectares for the proposed 275KV substation at Solar Development Site 1 to allow an optimum layout to be developed. No change to the Order limits is proposed.

Change 6: A reduction in the area identified as Works No.5 on the Work Plans [AS-004] and an increase in Works No.8a. No change to the Order limits is proposed but a reduction in the extent of permanent rights sought.

Change 7: The removal of an area of proposed solar panels at Solar Development Site 6 to the south of Milford Lodge and Milford Lodge Cottage to create a bird habitat area. No change to the Order limits is proposed.

Change 8: The addition of two new access points from Rawfield Lane into the Monk Fryston Substation. No change to the Order limits is proposed.

Change 9: An extension of the Order limits to provide access for abnormal indivisible loads to the proposed Solar Development Site 4 at the location of access 3 (labelled as point 9 on the Access to Works Plans [AS-006]).

The applicant explained that Changes 2, 4 and 9 would result in an extension of the Order limits and had not managed to obtain consent of all relevant land interests before submission of the change request. As such the applicant requests to extend the powers of compulsory acquisition to include additional land affected by Changes 2, 4 and 9. Because Changes 2, 4 and 9 involve additional land, and the applicant has not obtained the relevant consents, the “Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010” (the CA Regulations) would apply. Change 1 would also result in an extension to the Order limits however the applicant seeks the power to temporarily possess the associated land which would not invoke the CA Regulations.

In relation to this change request, the Examining Authority has made a procedural decision to accept 4 additional submissions received following its invitation to the examination procedure meeting held on 21 October 2026. These have been

published on the project webpage, examination library references AS-044 to AS-047 inclusive.

The Examining Authority's reasoning and procedural decision

The Examining Authority has assessed the applicant's change requests in line with the Government's guidance "[Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the examination stage of an application](#)" (the Guidance) and the Planning Inspectorate's advice "[Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Changes to an application after it has been accepted for examination](#)" (the Advice). The Guidance and Advice both recognise that applicants may need to change elements of a proposal after an application has been accepted.

The applicant has described the changes as minor and small scale and was therefore of the view that it was not necessary or desirable to consult on the proposed changes and associated environmental information, prior to making the change request. The Examining Authority has had regard to the nature and scale of the proposed changes and the information provided by the applicant in the proposed change documentation.

The Examining Authority notes from the Supporting Environmental Information Report [[CR1-048](#)] submitted that the proposed changes would not alter the conclusions in respect of likely significant effects reached by the applicant in the Environmental Statement (ES) which accompanied the originally submitted application. Given the scale and nature of the proposed changes the Examining Authority is currently of the view that the applicant's assessment of the implications for the submitted ES to be reasonable.

Having regard for this, the Examining Authority is satisfied that the proposed changes are not so substantial, individually or cumulatively, that they would constitute a materially different project, in that they would lead to the project being different in nature or substance to that which was originally applied for. The Examining Authority is therefore content to accept Changes 1 to 9 inclusive into the examination provided that issues of fairness can be satisfactorily addressed and other procedural requirements still met.

Specifically relating to Changes 2, 4 and 9, the applicant in its change request documentation provided a proposed timetable for examining the requested changes. For the reasons discussed at the examination procedure meeting [[EV6-001](#) and [EV6-003](#)] and the matters set out in its advice letter [[PD-010](#)], the Examining Authority finds the proposed timetable does not provide a fair and sensible approach for meaningfully examining the requested changes alongside the wider application.

The Examining Authority has considered what limited opportunities there may be to accommodate the proposed changes within the remaining examination period and whether other procedural requirements can be met. With some variations to the extant examination timetable, the Examining Authority considers that there would be sufficient time remaining within the examination for Changes 1 to 9 inclusive to be

accommodated as part of the “Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010” examination process, most particularly to enable interested parties to make comments should they so wish.

The Examining Authority has also carefully considered the CA Regulations and whether the notice, representation and examination stages for Changes 2, 4 and 9 could be accommodated within the remaining statutory examination period, to ensure additional affected persons and additional interested parties have a fair opportunity to make comments should they so wish, and other procedural requirements still met.

Having regard to the above-mentioned considerations, the Examining Authority has made the procedural decision to accept Changes 1 to 9 inclusive into the examination. However, in the circumstances of this case including those issues raised at the examination procedure meeting, the Examining Authority considers that there is insufficient time remaining to examine the compulsory acquisition powers associated with Changes 2, 4 and 9, in a manner that would avoid procedural prejudice and maintain the rigour of the examination of the application as a whole. Furthermore, in the absence of consultation by the applicant prior to submitting the change request, the Examining Authority’s opinion on the applicant’s assessment of the implications for the submitted ES may change following receipt of comments on the applicant’s proposed changes.

To reflect this procedural decision, the applicant is invited to update the Book of Reference, Land Plans and the Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker at **deadline 4** for the benefit of clarity and understanding for all involved in this examination. If this update were to include powers to temporarily possess the additional land associated with Changes 2, 4 and 9, the Examining Authority would be willing to examine a request for such powers. The applicant must demonstrate how those affected by these changes have been notified of that sought power and provided an opportunity to participate in the examination.

Variation to the examination timetable

The extant examination timetable previously set out in our Rule 8 letter [[PD-006](#)] requires some variations as a result of the Examining Authority accepting the applicant’s request to change the submitted application. The updated examination timetable is set out in full at annex A of this letter. The changes to the examination timetable resulting from the applicant’s change request are as follows:

- The hearings provisionally set for week commencing 2 November 2026 have been moved to the week commencing 11 January 2027 to provide those affected by the accepted changes an opportunity to attend.
- Deadline 4 has been moved to Tuesday 10 November 2026 and includes for the submission of comments on the accepted changes and updates to several application documents that reflect previous commitments from the applicant to do so. The relevant specific documents are identified at annex B of this letter.
- As a result of the hearings moving from week commencing 2 November 2026, the Examining Authority has decided to bring forward the date of publication of

its second written questions to Tuesday 24 November 2026. This will avoid responses to written questions needing to be prepared over the Christmas and New Year period.

- Deadline 5 has accordingly been moved to Tuesday 8 December 2026 to reflect changes earlier in the timetable.
- The Examining Authority's schedule of proposed changes to the draft Development Consent Order has been moved to Friday 18 December 2026 so responses to questions received at deadline 5 could be accommodated if required.
- Deadline 6 has been moved to **12:00 noon** on Thursday 21 January 2027 to allow sufficient time for parties to prepare and submit any post-hearing submissions, following the hearings during the week commencing 11 January 2027.
- The date for the close of the examination has accordingly been moved to Thursday 28 January 2027. Whilst the examination timetable has been extended, this is still within the statutory 6-month period for conducting an examination.

Other matters

Several parties have not responded to the Examining Authority's first written questions [PD-008] that were published on Tuesday 22 September 2026. The below parties are requested to review those written questions directed to them and provide a response by **deadline 4 (Tuesday 10 November 2026)**.

- National Energy System Operator
- Skipwith Parish Council
- Historic England
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- Selby Area Internal Drainage Board
- National Grid Electricity Transmission
- Harmony MF Ltd
- Noventum Power Ltd
- Constantine Energy Storage

Your status in the examination

You have received this letter because you are a person or organisation who is involved in the national significant infrastructure projects process. See the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice for members of the public: National Infrastructure Projects and the people and organisations involved in the process](#) for further details. If, having read the advice, you are still unsure about how you are involved in the process please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this examination and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#). Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how the Planning Inspectorate handle your personal information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

Yours faithfully

Matt Tandy

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Examination timetable

The examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The Examining Authority (ExA) will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	Procedural deadline A Deadline for receipt by the ExA of any further information or submissions requested by the ExA in its letter dated 20 April 2026 [PD-003], under section 89(3) of The Planning Act 2008, including: • updated, amended or expanded application documentation as detailed in the letter • comments from the applicant on relevant representations	Thursday 4 June 2026
2.	Procedural deadline B Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: • written submissions on the examination procedure, including any submissions about the use of virtual methods • requests to be heard orally at the preliminary meeting and/ or attend at the venue in person including which agenda items you wish to speak on, points you wish to make and why these need to be made orally rather than in writing • requests to speak at compulsory acquisition hearing 1 and/ or attend at the venue in person on Tuesday 28 July 2026 • requests to speak at open floor hearing 1 and/ or attend at the venue in person on Wednesday 29 July 2026 • requests to speak at issue specific hearing 1 and/or attend at the venue in person on Thursday 30 July 2026 • suggested locations for site inspections (accompanied or unaccompanied), including justification, and whether such locations can be seen from public land or require private access, for consideration by the ExA • any further information requested by the ExA – refer to annex F of the Rule 6 letter [PD-004]	Tuesday 7 July 2026

3.	Preliminary meeting (PM)	Tuesday 28 July 2026
4.	Compulsory acquisition hearing 1 (CAH1)	Tuesday 28 July 2026
5.	Open floor hearing 1 (OFH1)	Wednesday 29 July 2026
6.	Continuation of open floor hearing 1 (OFH1) (if required)	Wednesday 29 July 2026
7.	Issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1)	Thursday 30 July 2026
8.	Issue by the ExA of: the examination timetable (Rule 8 Letter)	As soon as practicable following the preliminary meeting
9.	Deadline 1 For receipt by the Examining Authority (ExA) of: post hearing submissions any specific responses to actions or points raised in oral submissions at the hearings during week commencing 27 July 2026 written representations (WR) to include those parts of the application with which they agree and do not agree supported by evidence comments from interested parties on: - relevant representations - the applicant's responses to relevant representations comments on any further information or submissions accepted by the ExA summaries of all RR and WR that exceed 1500 words (summaries should not exceed 10% of the original text) local impact reports from local authorities any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (the Examination Procedure Rules)	Tuesday 11 August 2026

	• requests to be heard at any further open floor hearing (OFH) requests by interested parties to be heard at a further open floor hearing, if not heard from at OFH1 • requests to be heard at any further compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) requests by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a CAH • notification by statutory parties of their wish to be considered as an interested party by the ExA	
10.	Deadline 2 For receipt by the ExA of: • the applicant's summary of matters raised in oral submissions at OFH1 and the applicant's responses • comments on the local impact reports • comments on written representations (WRs) • applicant's revised documentation updates to documents that reflect representations, including, but only as required: • guide to the application • the draft DCO (dDCO) and a schedule of changes to dDCO • the explanatory memorandum • the outline control documents • the policy compliance document • drafts of any planning agreements and obligations if necessary • progress regarding protective provisions • progress on securing other consents • the land and rights negotiations tracker • the Book of Reference (BoR), schedule of changes to the BoR, Statement of Reasons and land plans • any further information requested by the ExA as set out under annex B of this letter or under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (the Examination Procedure Rules)	Tuesday 1 September 2026
11.	Publication by the ExA of: • the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1) including questions on the Implications for European Sites	Tuesday 22 September 2026

12.	Deadline 3 For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1) • comments on any information received at deadlines 1 and 2 and accepted by the ExA • comments from affected persons on the applicant's updated land and rights negotiations tracker • statements of common ground between the applicant and interested parties and a list of matters not agreed – see annex B of this letter • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	Tuesday 6 October 2026
13.	Deadline 4 For receipt by the ExA of: • comments on responses to the ExA's first written questions and any further information received and accepted by the ExA at deadline 3 • comments on the applicant's proposed changes set out in its change request of 13 October 2026 • outstanding responses to the ExA's first written questions (ExQ1) • the applicant's revised documentation Updates to specific application documents as identified at annex B of this letter including: • Archaeological Mitigation Strategy • the Book of Reference (BoR), Schedule of changes to the BoR, Land Plans and the Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker • Design Parameters and Commitments • ES Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual • ES Chapter 14 & Appendix 14.1 – Transport Assessment • ES Appendix 15.2: Water Environment Regulations Assessment • ES Figures 15.23 to 15.26 • The outline control documents including: ○ Outline Bird Mitigation Area Management Plan ○ Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan ○ Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan	Tuesday 10 November 2026

	○ Outline Environmental Masterplan, and Figure 12.06 ○ Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ○ Outline Materials and Waste Management Plan ○ Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan ○ Outline Soils Resource Management Plan • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	
14.	Publication by the ExA of: • the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) including questions on the Implications for European Sites (if required) • a summary table setting out the ExA's understanding of the applicant's HRA conclusions and the position of the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body (if required – refer to the 'Note about the report on the Implications for European Sites' below and annex D of the Rule 6 letter [PD-004])	Tuesday 24 November 2026
15.	Deadline 5 For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) • further comments on the applicant's proposed changes set out in its change request of 13 October 2026 • comments on the ExA's understanding of HRA matters • comments on the applicant's revised documentation and any further information received and accepted at deadline 4 • the applicant's revised documentation Updates to documents that reflect representations, including, but only as required: • guide to the application • the draft DCO (dDCO) and a schedule of changes to dDCO • the explanatory memorandum • the outline control documents • the policy compliance document	Tuesday 8 December 2026

	• drafts of any planning agreements and obligations if necessary • progress regarding protective provisions • progress on securing other consents • the land and rights negotiations tracker • the Book of Reference (BoR), schedule of changes to the BoR, Statement of Reasons and land plans • requests to be heard at any further open floor hearing (OFH) requests by interested parties to be heard at a further open floor hearing, if not heard from at OFH1 • requests to be heard at any further compulsory acquisition hearing (CAH) requests by affected persons (defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008) to be heard at a CAH • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010	
16.	Publication by the ExA of: • the ExA's schedule of proposed changes to the draft Development Consent Order (if required)	Friday 18 December 2026
17.	Dates reserved (if required) for: • any compulsory acquisition hearing • any issue specific hearing • any open floor hearing	Week commencing Monday 11 January 2027
18.	Deadline 6 For receipt by the ExA of: • responses to ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order (if issued) • post hearing submissions (if held) any specific responses to actions or points raised in oral submissions at the hearings held week commencing 11 January 2027 • closing summary statements to signpost and summarise matters that have previously been raised during the examination and are considered to have not been resolved • comments on any additional information or submissions received at deadline 5 and	Thursday 21 January 2027 (12:00 noon)

	comments on responses to the ExA's second written questions (ExQ2) • any further information requested by the ExA under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 • Final updated documents from the applicant <u>if required</u> (in clean and tracked versions): • the final draft DCO to be submitted by the applicant in the SI template The applicant to provide the email notification from https://publishing.legislation.gov.uk/validation confirming the document has successfully passed validation, and the PDF version of the SI validation report obtained from the link in the notification email. The applicant should also provide a clean standalone MS Word version of the draft DCO, with no header or cover page • Book of Reference (BoR) and a schedule of changes to the BoR • Land rights and negotiations tracker • final statements of common ground and a list of matters not agreed (if significant progress has been made since deadline 3) • any signed and dated planning agreements and obligations (if required) • guide to the application • final position of Protective Provisions • final position on securing other consents • Environmental Statement and other documents including management plans and control documents (if required)	
19.	Close of examination The ExA intends to close the examination on this date. See 'Note about the close of examination date'.	Thursday 28 January 2027

Note about the close of examination date

The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the preliminary meeting. The ExA may however decide to close the examination earlier if it considers that the application and relevant matters have been examined adequately.

Submission times for deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions.

Note about the report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

For examinations commencing in June 2026 or later, Reports on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) will be discontinued and will no longer be produced by Examining Authorities. In place of a RIES, the ExA may include Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) related questions within its written questions. These questions will be included in a dedicated section titled 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', to clearly distinguish HRA matters from other environmental assessment regimes.

Where relevant, the written questions will also include a summary table setting out the ExA's understanding of the applicant's HRA conclusions and the position of the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body or Bodies (SNCB(s)) as at the date of issue. A Microsoft Word version of the table will be provided to applicants and SNCB(s) to enable them to propose amendments using tracked changes and to return the amended table within their responses to written questions, supporting a clear and efficient understanding of their respective positions.

For the avoidance of doubt, the ExA may continue to use issue specific hearings, requests for further information under rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, and any other appropriate examination procedures to address HRA-related matters.

Annex B – Application documents to be updated

Document	Reason	Source
Book of Reference	To reflect the accepted Changes 1 to 9 and the land rights powers to be examined.	This letter
Schedule of changes to the Book of Reference	To reflect the accepted Changes 1 to 9 and the land rights powers to be examined.	This letter
Land plans	To reflect the accepted Changes 1 to 9 and the land rights powers to be examined.	This letter
Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker	To reflect the accepted Changes 1 to 9 and the land rights powers to be examined.	This letter
ES Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual	To be updated in order that the cumulative assessment tables include Hllam Solar Farm, ID67.	Response to ExQ1.6.2
ES Chapter 14 & Appendix 14.1 – Transport Assessment	To be updated to reflect revised HGV traffic numbers and various corrections including movements in tables contained therein and colouration of junction visibility drawings.	Responses to ExQ1.14.3 ExQ1.14.4 ExQ1.14.5
ES Appendix 15.2: Water Environment Regulations Assessment	To be updated to reflect the assessment of combined or cumulative effects of several watercourse crossings on the same waterbody or within the same catchment.	Response to ExQ1.15.16
ES Figures 15.23 to 15.26	To be updated to resolve the observed differences between the submitted P01 and P02 versions.	Response to ExQ1.15.7
Design Parameters and Commitments	Applicant advised it would be updated to confirm number of matters including: • Depth of cable trenches taking into account deeper joint boxes	Response to ExQ1.2.1
	• the total heights cited above ground level for components such as conversion units and switchrooms would be inclusive of any external housing, required foundation or concrete plinth depth, finished floor level and freeboard allowance will not exceed the relevant maximum parameter assessed and reported within the ES.	Response to ExQ1.2.2
	• confirm crossing method for North Yorkshire Council (NYC) roads	Statement of Common Ground with NYC
	• provide clarification on offsets from woodland, veteran trees and other trees and the relationship between minimum buffers and root protection areas.	Response to ExQ1.2.11

	provide clarification on the siting of solar panels outside of areas where flooding is identified at depths greater than 1 metre.	Response to ExQ1.15.2
Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan	To be updated to make clearer commitments and details including: to seek to avoid use of SF6 components and, if these are used (confirmed at detailed design stage) then monitoring will be put in place to make clearer compliance with the NPS EN-5 requirements	Responses to: ExQ1.2.6
	recording of HGV movements associated with replacement traffic	ExQ1.14.11
	operational noise monitoring, including locations, frequency, trigger levels, exceedance procedures, reporting, corrective action and complaint investigation.	ExQ1.10.11
Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	To be updated to confirm that the formal bird mitigation area at SDS1 must be established and functional before relevant solar and cable works during the September to March non-breeding period, reflecting discussions with Natural England.	ExQ1.8.6
Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan	To be updated to make clearer a commitment that for accesses where traffic would only approach/ exit from one direction then this would be secured/ implemented therefore negating the need for additional swept path analysis.	ExQ1.14.5
Outline Materials and Waste Management Plan	To be updated to reflect the updated soils and waste calculations and a commitment to produce a strategy for managing spoil generation.	ExQ1.4.4
Outline Soils Resource Management Plan	To be updated to reflect all of the environmental parameters, constraints and buffers used in the ES will apply when considering potential soil stockpile locations and a commitment to produce a strategy for managing spoil generation.	ExQ1.14.4
Archaeological Mitigation Strategy	File submitted as 'Archaeological Management Strategy' to be updated to correct the document title and file designation.	ExQ1.5.8
Outline Bird Mitigation Area Management Plan	To be updated to recognise the bird mitigation area's dual function for non-breeding and breeding birds and to distinguish its scope from the oLEMP. Also to require the bird mitigation area to be functional before relevant works.	Responses to ExQ1.8.2, ExQ1.8.5, and ExQ1.8.6
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan	To provide the management framework for the SDS4 bird habitat area and to distinguish wider farmland-bird habitat from the formal bird mitigation area.	ExQ1.7.6 ExQ1.8.2