Light Valley Solar

Grid Connection Update

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Light Valley
Solar

Infrastructure Planning

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(Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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Grid Connection Update

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1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility and energy storage facility with a total capacity exceeding 100 megawatts (MW) and export connection to the National Grid.

1.1.2 The Proposed Development is described in full in **ES Chapter 2: The Proposed Development [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02]**.

1.1.3 The Application for the Proposed Development was submitted by Light Valley Solar Limited (the Applicant) to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 February 2026. The application was accepted for Examination on 9 March 2026 and Examination commenced on 28 July 2026.

1.1.4 As set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.10]**, the Applicant submitted a grid application to National Energy System Operator (NESO) formally named National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited (NGESO), the system operator of the NETS, in February 2021 to connect the Scheme to the NETS at Monk Fryston 275kV substation owned by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET). This was accepted as a bilateral connection agreement in December 2021.

1.1.5 Subsequently to this, the grid connections reform process has been undertaken by NGESO and they have now proposed to the Applicant a revised final and full connections offer.

1.1.6 This document therefore sets out the details of that offer, and in so doing, responds to queries made by Interested Parties in their Deadline 4 submissions.

1.2 Structure of this Report

- Section 2: Details of Revised Grid Connection Offer
- Section 3: Environmental Implications
- Section 4: Engagement
- Section 5: Conclusion

2 Details of Revised Grid Connection Offer

2.1.1 The revised grid connection offer alters the connection point for the Project from connecting to the Existing National Grid Monk Fryston 275kV Substation to the new 400kV Monk Fryston substation, which was consented by the Yorkshire Green DCO (EN020024) and is currently in construction.

2.1.2 In the context of the application for the Proposed Development, this change of connection point has the following implications:

- the 400kV Monk Fryston substation is located within the Order Limits of the Proposed Development, lying within the Cable Route Corridor for the Grid Connection Cables and therefore the change to the connection location does not require any changes to the Order Limits of the Proposed Development;
- no additions are required to the Order limits for the Cable Route Corridor to facilitate the connection. As the route to the connection point is still to be agreed with NGET, there are also no reductions to the Order limits proposed at this stage;
- the descriptions of Work Nos. 3 – 5 **within the draft Development Consent Order [EN0110012/APP/LVS/03.01]** need to be slightly tweaked to account for voltage specification of some of the equipment which arise from the voltage change of the connection point (i.e. from 275kV to 400kV). This is provided for in the DCO (and associated descriptions in the Design Parameters and Commitments) submitted at Deadline 4.
- no changes are required to the parameters shown on the **Works Plans [EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.03]** or described in the **Design Parameters and Commitments [EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.06]** in respect of any part of the Proposed Development, or to the indicative construction methodology set out in the **Cable Route Method Statement [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.02. 01]** for the Proposed Development substations or the Cable Route Corridor. The Rochdale Envelope of what has been assessed therefore remains the same and as such there is no 'Change' to the basis of the Proposed Development;
- the change in description of what is required does not necessitate any additional land to facilitate AIL movement requirements for substation equipment.

2.1.3 In addition to the connection point location, the revised grid connection offer also confirms the connection date for the Proposed Development, as being 31 October 2031. The Applicant identified 2028 as the earliest anticipated commencement of construction within the DCO application documents which does not change. Completion of construction in 2031 remains within the assessed three-year construction period.

2.1.4 Therefore, the Applicant is confident that the cumulative assessments within the ES Chapters, ES Volume 1, Chapter 17 Cumulative and In-combination effects [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.17], and the conclusions presented in the Inter-Relationships Report [EN0110012/APP/LVS/08.11] remain valid.

2.1.5 Whilst the Applicant is currently reviewing the terms within the offer, the Applicant is minded to accept it.

3 Environmental Implications

3.1.1 The likely environmental impacts and effects resulting from the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning are reported in the ES submitted as part of the DCO application for the Proposed Development and updated where required during the Examination.

3.1.2 As set out in section 1, the alteration of the grid connection affects the voltage specification of the cabling and selected electrical equipment such as transformers. However, this equipment will remain within the parameters set out in the Design Parameters and Commitments Document. In particular, there will be no changes to the dimensions of cable trenches or any of the physical parameters for the transformers. As such, the conclusions of the ES, WFD and HRA remain valid in respect of the new grid connection position.

3.1.3 In respect of the grid connection date, the Applicant identified 2028 as the earliest anticipated commencement of construction within the DCO application documents. Completion of construction would remain within the previously assessed three-year construction period. Accordingly, the Applicant considers that the revised connection date would not materially affect the anticipated construction programme. As the overall construction period remains within the parameters previously assessed, the cumulative assessment within the ES Chapters, **ES Volume 1, Chapter 17 Cumulative and In-combination effects [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.17]**, and the conclusions presented in the **Inter-Relationships Report [EN0110012/APP/LVS/08.11]** remain valid.

3.1.4 To further assist the ExA, in this section, the Applicant has sought to clarify the position in respect of topics that are likely to be of most interest to consideration of the revised grid connection position, being:

- EMF and Aquatic ecology
- Noise and Vibration
- Transport (AILs)

3.2 EMF and Aquatic Ecology

3.2.1 **ES Volume 3, Appendix 16.6: EMF Report [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16. 06]** included within the Application, which informed the biodiversity and water assessments, is based on a worst-case assumption of 1000 Amps peak current which is already significantly above the peak amps for a 275kV cable. The data presented in the report shows the magnetic fields for 400kV cables, and notes that it is the same as for the 275kV cables as magnetic fields are dependent on current, which is the same between 400kV and 275kV cables. Therefore the assessment presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 16.6: EMF Report [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16. 06]** already considers the higher voltage cables and substation equipment associated with the change in the voltage of the grid

connection. No further assessment is considered necessary, the conclusions remain valid and there would be no worsening of effects.

3.2.2 This change also means that the residual EMF values used within the assessment remain valid, as a worst-case, and the assessment of effects on fish remains as included within the Application.

3.2.3 As set in Table 3-2 of the **outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02],** EMF mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce impacts to fish. These include the depth of cabling (at a minimum of 5m below the bed) for all main rivers where >132 kV cables are proposed to be buried beneath. Therefore, the residual EMF values remain valid as a worst case assessment and the change of grid connection position would present no worsening of the effects previously reported.

3.2.4 As there is no change to the EMF assessment, the conclusions made in regards to fish also remain unchanged and the mitigation previously considered in the **oCEMP [EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02],** remain valid and appropriate.

3.2.5 With regard to the thermal impact of buried cables, the Applicant considers there to be no requirement for any further mitigation beyond the minimum cable depth of 5m below the river bed, unless otherwise agreed through consultation with the EA and Natural England, which will be set out within the detailed CEMP.

3.3 Noise and vibration

3.3.1 **ES Volume 1, Chapter 11: Noise and vibration [EN0110012/APP/LVS/08.40]** and the associated noise assessments considered transformer sound power levels associated with an assumption of 400kV substations. This was due to the availability of data to inform the modelling which was available for 400kV transformers and not the 275kV equivalent.

3.3.2 Therefore, the assessment presented in the **Chapter 11 [EN0110012/APP/LVS/08.40]** already considers the higher voltage cables and substation equipment associated with the change in the voltage of the grid connection. No further assessment is considered necessary and the conclusions remain valid.

3.4 Transport

3.4.1 The transformers that would be required for a 400kV connection may be larger than those considered for the 275kV connection. The Applicant considers that the anticipated dimensions of AILs required to transport larger transformers can be accommodated within the assessment undertaken for the existing swept path analysis. The swept path analysis, with regard to AIL dimensions for the larger transformer dimensions, therefore remains unchanged.

3.4.2 The Applicant notes that the larger transformers present an increase in weight. However, the Applicant is already undertaking assessments to confirm the suitability of bridges along the proposed AIL routes, including consideration of the weight of AILs on structures, such as bridges. While the proposed change to a

400 kV connection may result in heavier AILs being required, this does not introduce a new assessment requirement, as assessments are already underway and the measures that have been previously discussed in Examination submissions (e.g. **Written Summary of Oral Submissions at ISH1 [EN0110012/APP/LVS/08.08]**) would be able to be applied for any additional weights.

3.5 Summary

3.5.1 To summarise, the change to the grid connection position has no effect on the environmental assessments previously presented.

4 Engagement

4.1.1 The Applicant however notified relevant statutory bodies prior to the submission of Deadline 4 about the matters set out in this document including:

- North Yorkshire Council (Local Planning Authority)
- Environment Agency (Statutory Body)
- Natural England (Statutory Body)
- Marine Management Organisation (Statutory Body)

4.1.2 This engagement is summarised in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Record of engagement

Statutory body / organisation	Record of engagement
North Yorkshire Council	Discussion of the change within the NYC Steering Group meeting. Confirmation that the Applicant has concluded that this does not result in any change to the environmental assessments and detail on the Applicant's approach to implementing the proposed change within the remaining examination timetable. No further comments or concerns were expressed by NYC in the meeting. Microsoft Teams call with NYC Highways team included a discussion about the change to the grid connection. This included flagging that the transformer weights would be heavier and that the structures on the AIL route are being reviewed.
Environment Agency	Email correspondence to the Environment Agency (EA) notifying them of the change to the grid connection. Response received stated that the information was shared with the technical specialists at the EA and that the EA would contact the Applicant with any follow-up queries. The EA have further responded regarding a query over the implications of the change to the thermal pollution considerations with the Applicant expressing that the mitigation measures already committed shall be sufficient..
Natural England	Email correspondence to Natural England (NE) notifying them of the change to the grid connection. Response received stated that the previous advice from NE on this matter would not change. As long as the worst case scenario is assessed and informs the application of mitigation, NE still comfortable on deferring the agreed action of finalising the burial depth during the discharge of requirements stage as agreed.
Marine Management Organisation	Email sent to the MMO regarding marine licence exemption but also included discussion of the update. No response received to date however the change to the grid connection does not affect the conditions

Statutory body / organisation	Record of engagement
	which would satisfy the exemption, as no significant effects will arise, therefore it is considered that this does not alter the position with the MMO.

5 Conclusion

5.1.1 NGESO have issued a revised grid connection offer to the Applicant. This offer provides for a minor locational change in the connection point within NGESO's sub-station, an increase in connection voltage and a connection date extension to 2031.

5.1.2 Minor changes have been made to Schedule 1 to account for the voltage change, however the revised offer does not change the Order limits, parameters or basis of any assessments in the ES or HRA. Consultees have not raised any concern in respect of this revised grid connection position.

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