Deadline 4 – Light Valley Solar, EN0110012

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc – Outstanding Response to the ExAs First Written Questions

Interested Party Reference Number: [redacted]

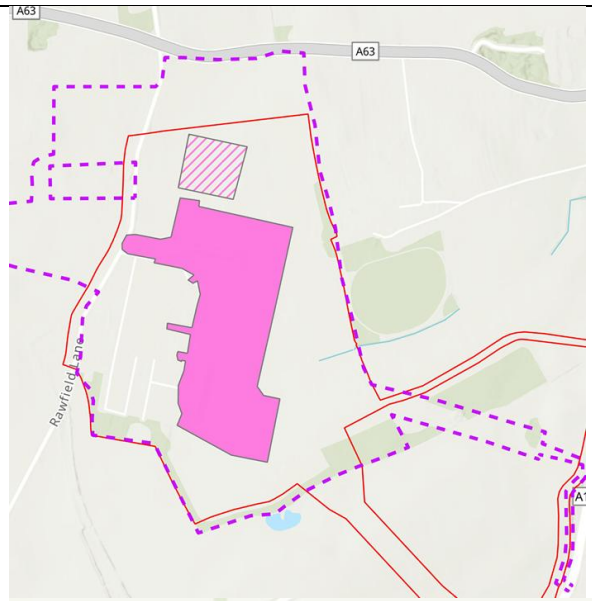
National Grid Electricity Transmission's response to the ExAs Written Questions can be seen below. NGET's engineering team are reviewing the revised proposals and welcome co-ordination and discussion. NGET reserves the right to provide a more detailed response at a later deadline. Whilst substantive progress has not been made on protective provisions NGET will continue to engage with the Applicant with a view to concluding matters and agreeing an acceptable set of protective provisions as soon as possible during the Examination and will keep the Examining Authority updated in relation to these discussions. We remain hopeful that outstanding issues can be resolved. NGET maintains its objection until such time as it has reached an agreed position with the Applicant.

National Grid's technical team note in relation to Change 8 of the Applicant's change request that using the two existing Monk Fryston substation access' is preferred and would allow access into the south western end of the substation. The second south eastern access would not enable access to the outside of the south eastern extend of the substation due to the presence of the BESS Site, so any cable routing and threading the cable into the substation itself for connections may require another access from an alternate location. Specifics may need to be discussed with Asset Ops at a later date. NGET reserves the right to provide a more detailed response at a later deadline.

Examining Authority's Written Questions – NGET Response

ExQ	Question to:	Question:	NGET Response
Q1.17.12	The applicant **National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)** Harmony MF Ltd Any other interested party	**Monk Fryston substation (north)** The applicant's response to relevant representations reference NGET-01 [REP2-109] acknowledges that the majority of plot 21-031 will form part of the operational Monk Fryston substation once the Yorkshire GREEN extension is completed. Appendix E.1 of the Interrelationships Report [REP2-112] identifies the Yorkshire GREEN location and main features. In addition, appendix C of the Interrelationships Report identifies a consented	**(A)** Given the change to a 400 kV connection and the Applicant's proposed changes to the Monk Fryston accesses, NGET is unable to say which elements of Work No. 5 the Applicant envisages at these plots, and the Applicant is best placed to clarify this. NGET's understanding is that Work No. 5 comprises cable and communications works, and that Change 40 widened the Order limits south-east of the substation to give flexibility for cable routing. NGET notes that Work No. 5 is described as cabling "up to 275 kV", whereas the connection is now understood to be at 400 kV. NGET's engineering team will need to fully review the revised proposals and welcome co-ordination and discussion. NGET reserves the right to provide a more detailed response at a later deadline.

		BESS development on land to the east of Rawfield Lane to be within the proposed Order limits (plot 21-030). An extract of both appendices is included below with the pink and yellow areas identifying the other developments respectively.	**(B)** The Applicant is required to demonstrate how access via CA41 to Work No. 4 would be achieved, and has not yet done so. The information below, provided by Yorkshire GREEN, sets out how access may be possible and what constraints apply. The outline landscape plan for the Monk Fryston substation expansion element of the Yorkshire GREEN project, copied below, shows the location of the landscaping bunds. Based on the current proposed location of CA41, access may be possible off Rawfield Lane at three points: • between the bund and the new tower (not shown on the plan, but roughly in the area of the three dotted trees within the Sheet 4 square); • between the northern bund and the substation boundary; and • behind the eastern bund, to reach the south-eastern extent of the expanded substation. Overhead power lines may restrict or limit some construction activities in these areas, and clearance and stand-off distances must be maintained. NGET notes the following: • The Applicant has not yet demonstrated that access can be achieved. Any access is subject to the Yorkshire GREEN landscape mitigation, which NGET will maintain after completion. • Change 8 adds rights over existing operational substation accesses without altering them. NGET considers the Protective Provisions can address this. • NGET requires access to its operational assets to be maintained at all times.

		 	NGET including the Yorkshire GREEN team would be happy to support the applicant further as required and will work in a collaborative way to resolve any conflicts. **(C)** Rights of compulsory acquisition and temporary possession by the Applicant could and should be limited to land not shared with Yorkshire GREEN. The following should be excluded: • the Yorkshire GREEN extension footprint (plot 21-031); • the tower XC526 easement and stand-off; and • the consented landscape and biodiversity mitigation, including the bunds and the Rawfield Lane access. The Applicant has accepted in the SoCG that rights are sought only over non-operational areas, and that NGET's prior written consent is needed for compulsory acquisition over its land. NGET considers that the Applicant's need for flexibility until the Point of Connection is fixed does not justify rights over land already consented for Yorkshire GREEN. It would be wholly inappropriate for the DCO to authorise powers capable of extinguishing NGET's land rights. NGET needs these rights to own and operate the electricity transmission network safely, and so to deliver the Monk Fryston substation expansion element of the Yorkshire GREEN project. If NGET did not retain control and ownership of the land, its undertaking would suffer serious detriment. NGET's position is that suitable protective provisions in the DCO are the only way to address this, and that a consent process for compulsory acquisition would enable NGET to prevent that detriment. Substantive progress on protective provisions have not taken place, but NGET will continue to engage with the Applicant. NGET maintains its objection until Protective Provisions are agreed.

		The applicant is to: (a) clarify what elements of Work No.5 are envisaged at these plots in context of the cable route corridor meeting the Monk Fryston substation at its south-eastern boundary (b) given the proximity of these consented developments to each other within the proposed Light Valley Solar development Order limits, demonstrate how the access via CA41 to the proposed Work No. 4 would be achieved (c) explain whether the rights of compulsory acquisition and temporary possession could be limited to the areas not shared with the aforementioned developments (d) confirm whether the purposes for which rights over land may be required and restrictive covenants imposed set out in schedule 9 of the draft DCO [REP2-004] would hinder the operation of the aforementioned developments. All other listed parties are to provide a view on the matters covered in the above questions.	 **(D)** Schedule 9 enables the Applicant to acquire new rights, and impose restrictions, over land at and around Monk Fryston Substation. This includes land which forms part of, or is required for, the Yorkshire GREEN substation extension (plot 21-031), the new overhead line tower XC526 (plots 21-029 and 21-031), and the permanent landscape and biodiversity mitigation bunds and Rawfield Lane access (including plots 20-001 to 20-003). The rights and restrictions include rights to install apparatus and to restrict or remove buildings, structures, planting and ground level

			changes. As drafted, these are not limited to avoid land which is, or will become, operational or which is required for Yorkshire GREEN. If exercised over this land, they could interfere with the construction, operation, maintenance and access to Yorkshire GREEN, and with the planting and ongoing maintenance of the consented landscape mitigation. NGET notes the Applicant's position that it can accommodate Yorkshire GREEN and requires flexibility until the Point of Connection is confirmed. Given the change to a 400 kV connection and the Applicant's proposed changes to the Monk Fryston accesses, NGET's engineering team is reviewing the revised proposals. NGET reserves the right to provide a more detailed response at a later deadline. NGET considers that the risk of hindrance can be addressed only through suitable PPs in the DCO and continued co-ordination between NGET, Yorkshire GREEN and the Applicant on the interfaces. The PPs should include protection for future infrastructure and require NGET’s prior written consent before any compulsory acquisition or restrictive covenant affecting its land, its rights or Yorkshire GREEN land is exercised, as already accepted in principle in the SoCG. NGET maintains its objection until PPs are agreed.