

15 January 2026

FAO Sarah Norris
Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

Dear Sarah,

PLANNING ACT 2008 – SECTION 51 – RESPONSE TO ADVICE FOLLOWING ISSUE OF ACCEPTANCE DECISION

APPLICATION REFERENCE: EN0110013 THE DROVES SOLAR FARM

On 16 December 2025, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) issued a decision to accept for examination a Development Consent Order Application (the DCO Application) made by The Droves Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) in respect of the Droves Solar Farm (the Scheme).

In issuing that decision, PINS also provided advice under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) comprising its initial observations on the DCO Application. This letter provides a response to that advice and is accompanied by the submission of the following new and updated documents:

- **Guide to the Application [APP/1.3.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **Statutory Ecology and Nature Conservation Plan (Doc 2.7.1) (Revision 1)**
- **Funding Statement [APP/4.2.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **Book of Reference [APP/4.3.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **Design Approach Document [APP/5.7.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **ES Chapter 3: Order limits and Context [APP/6.1.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual [APP/6.2.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **ES Chapter 11: Soils and Agriculture [APP/6.2.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked changes)
- **ES Chapter 13: Climate Change [APP/6.2.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **ES Non-Technical Summary [APP/6.5.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment [APP/7.3.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions)
- **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3.1] (Revision 1)**
- **ES Figure 6.12: PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14 Parameter Based Winter Photowires [APP/6.3.1] (Revision 1)**

- **ES Figure 6.13: PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14 Parameter Based Summer Photowires [APP/6.3.1] (Revision 1)**
- **ES Figure 6.14: PM8, PM12 and PM14 Winter Photomontages - Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3.1] (Revision 1)**
- **ES Figure 6.15: PM8, PM12 and PM14 Summer Photomontages - Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3.1] (Revision 1)**
- **ES Appendix 5.1: Illustrative Technical Information [APP/6.4.1] (Revision 1)**
- **ES Appendix 12.2: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) [APP/6.4.1] (Revision 1)** (clean and tracked versions); and
- **Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference [APP/8.1].**

The Applicant notes that **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3.1]** is included in the list above as this is a standalone document which has also been updated as part of the update to Figure 2.1: Concept Masterplan in the **ES Non-Technical Summary [APP/6.5.1]**.

The Applicant has updated the above documents in response to the advice provided by PINS under section 51 of the PA 2008 on 16 December 2025. In addition to the updates provided in response to the section 51 advice, the Applicant has taken the opportunity to carry out a further review and update of **ES Chapter 13: Climate Change [APP-062]**, **ES Figures 6.12 - 6.15 [APP-095 to APP-108]** and **Appendix 5.1: Illustrative Technical Information [APP-138]**, hence the inclusion of these documents in the list above.

The Applicant has also submitted a new document, **Schedule of Changes to the Book of References [APP/8.1]**, which outlines the changes included in the **Book of Reference [APP/4.3.1]**. While this document was not requested by PINS, the Applicant has submitted it to aid PINS in reviewing these changes.

The Applicant notes that the advice from PINS referred to a discrepancy in the distance of the Royal Air Force Marham from the Scheme between **ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Matters [APP-065]** and **ES Chapter 3: Order limits and Context [APP-052]**. The Applicant has identified that only Chapter 3 required amending, and therefore Chapter 16 has not been updated and is not included in the above list of documents.

Generating Output

The advice from PINS requests clarification on the intended output figure of the Scheme, with reference to the **Application Cover Letter [APP-001]**, the **draft DCO [APP-018]**, **Explanatory Memorandum [APP-019]**, and the **Statement of Need [APP-042]**. The Scheme would have a generating capacity exceeding 50MW and is therefore considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the PA 2008. For the purposes of the consent sought under the **draft DCO [APP-018]**, there is no capacity cap proposed, in order to not limit the amount of clean energy provided by the Scheme. The grid connection agreement allows for a Transmission Entry Capacity of 500 MW (AC) export and 500 MW (AC) import from the National Electricity Transmission System, as set out in the **Grid Connection Statement [APP-181]**. Therefore, the Applicant believes the intended output has been clarified and has not updated any of the documents in this regard.

Consultees identified on a precautionary basis

The advice from PINS suggests that the Applicant should take a precautionary approach to consultation under section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 to ensure that all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the DCO Application are given the opportunity to participate fully in the examination of the DCO Application. The Applicant can confirm that it included the bodies listed in Box 6 of the section 55 checklist (and set out below) within the list of bodies served with notice of the accepted application under section 56(2)(a) of the PA 2008, namely The Equality and Human Rights Commission. This body is included in the section 56 notification list submitted alongside this letter.

The Applicant notes that the only other body listed in Box 6 of the section 55 checklist is the Commission for Sustainable Development, which is no longer an active body and therefore has not been included in the section 56 notification.

Minor errors and omissions

The advice from PINS also identified minor errors and omissions to be corrected across various documents. The Applicant's response to these is set out in the table below.

| Section 51 identified a minor error or omission | Applicant's Response |
|--|---|
| ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual [APP-055] | |
| Paragraph 6.6.60: first sentence ends in "and." | This amendment has been made within ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual [APP/6.2.1] . |
| ES Chapter 11: Soils and Agriculture [APP-060] | |
| Paragraphs 11.5.10, 11.5.11, 11.6.7 and 11.11.8 contain the following words "Error! Reference source not found." | References have been added to each paragraph within ES Chapter 11: Soils and Agriculture [APP/6.2.1] . |
| Flood Risk Assessment (FRA): ES Appendix 12.2 [APP-116] | |
| Paragraph 12.2.59 states "As such, the Sequential is passed..." whereas paragraph 12.2.54 refers to 'the Sequential Test'. | This amendment has been made within Flood Risk Assessment (FRA): ES Appendix 12.2 [APP/6.4.1] . |
| Statement of Reasons [APP-021] | |
| Page 1 – 5th paragraph, first sentence, typographical error "ummarised". | This will be an amendment made when the Statement of Reasons is updated for Deadline 1, in accordance with normal practice. |
| Planning Statement [APP-043] | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Paragraph 8.3.30 contains the following words: "Error! Reference source not found." | This will be an amendment made when the Planning Statement is updated for Deadline 1. This is because the Applicant intends to update the Planning Statement at Deadline 1 to include commentary on the compliance of the Scheme with the newly-adopted National Policy Statements (NPSs) (though noting that the Scheme remains subject to the previous NPSs) and therefore proposes one updated document at Deadline 1 rather than piecemeal updates. |
| Design Approach Document [APP-045, APP-046 and APP-047] Parts 1, 2 and 3 | |
| Paragraph 4.9.5: The words at the end of the second sentence are illegible. | This amendment has been made within the Design Approach Document [APP/5.7.1] . |
| Figure 1.24: PEIR Concept Masterplan for Statutory Consultation: the descriptions used in the key are illegible. | This amendment has been made within the Design Approach Document [APP/5.7.1] . |
| Figure 1.30: Green Infrastructure Parameter Plan: With the exception of the order limits, the descriptions used in the key are illegible. | This amendment has been made within the Design Approach Document [APP/5.7.1] . |

In addition, the advice from PINS stated that an explanatory list of the abbreviations and acronyms used has not been included within all of the DCO Application documents. The Applicant is in the process of providing glossaries, an explanatory list of abbreviations and acronyms for the DCO Application documents, which will be updated throughout examination as appropriate.

I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge safe receipt of this letter and the enclosed documents.

Kind regards,



Harman Sond

Project Development Manager – on behalf of The Droves Solar Farm Limited