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By email only

Our Ref: EN0110013

Date: 17 March 2026

Dear Lindsay Blainey

Application by The Droves Solar Farm Limited for an order granting development consent for The Droves Solar Farm project

Planning Act 2008 – section 89(3)

Procedural decision following issue of acceptance decision

Following my recent appointment as the Examining Authority (ExA), I have reviewed the Relevant Representation (RR) from National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Plc [RR-036] dated 27 February 2026. NGET state:

“The Grid Connection Statement (EN0110013 APP/7.1) submitted by the Applicant states that the Point of Connection (PoC) for the Project will be located at a new Swaffham 400 kV National Grid Substation. The DCO Application provides for the compulsory acquisition of the necessary land and powers to construct the new substation as part of this DCO Application. NGET wish to note, however that NGET are not currently developing proposals to build a new substation within the Project’s order limits. The location of the new substation is still to be confirmed with siting studies to be reviewed post Connection Reform, and therefore maybe sited in a different location, NGET is unable to confirm the connection point at this stage.

NGET urges the Applicant to confirm, in their connection agreement with NESO, the connection point. This is essential to avoid ambiguity and ensure that all parties’ statutory and operational requirements are met.”

Given NGET’s RR, I have therefore made a procedural decision to request that the applicant provides an assessment of the implications for delivery of the proposed development and how the application should be examined, including the Order Limits.

The response should be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for publication on the National Infrastructure Planning website by 27 March 2026.

Timely receipt of the applicant's response is essential to ensure all persons with an interest in the application will have the opportunity to consider the above implications and how the application should be examined ahead of the preliminary meeting.

Where the requested updates are 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 our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Johnson

Anthony Johnson
Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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