

24 July 2026

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Planning Inspectorate
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THE DROVES SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER – DEADLINE 3 SUBMISSION

APPLICATION REFERENCE: EN0110013 THE DROVES SOLAR FARM

Further to the Examining Authority's (ExA) updated **Rule 8 Letter [PD-008]**, published 13 May 2026, I am writing to provide the Applicant's submissions for Deadline 3 of The Drovers Solar Farm examination.

The documents submitted at Deadline 3 are set out in tabulated form in Appendix A (new documents) and Appendix B (updated documents) of this letter.

Clean Word Version of Draft Development Consent Order

As requested under item 4 of Annex F to the **Rule 6 Letter [PD-006]**, the Applicant confirms that a clean word version of the **draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [APP/3.1.3]** has been shared directly with thedrovessolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Cumulative Assessment Updates

Within the **Applicant's Response to Written Representations and other Deadline 1 Submissions [REP2-028]**, the Applicant committed to updating the long and short lists contained within **ES Appendix 2.4: Cumulative Schemes [APP/6.4.1]** for Deadline 3. The Applicant confirms that it has adhered to this commitment and has also updated a number of the ES Chapters at Deadline 3 to reflect necessary and resulting updates. The ES Chapters which have been updated at Deadline 3 in this regard are as follows:

- **ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [APP/6.2.2]**
- **ES Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration [APP/6.2.1]**
- **ES Chapter 15: Human Health [APP/6.2.1]; and**
- **ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Matters [APP/6.2.1].**

The Applicant has also been progressing updates to **ES Chapter 11: Soils and Agriculture [AS-018]** and **ES Chapter 14: Socio-Economics [APP-063]**. However, the Applicant has not yet been able to finalise the necessary revisions to the Soils and Agriculture Chapter for Deadline 3 – in turn, the Socio-Economics Chapter also cannot be updated for Deadline 3, as these two Chapters are interlinked.

The Applicant is mindful that Deadline 4 falls on 16 September 2026, which is after the week reserved for the next round of hearings (w/c 7 September 2026). Therefore, to benefit the Examination and productivity of those hearings, the Applicant will endeavour to submit updates to the aforementioned Chapters into the Examination as soon as practicable (i.e. in

advance of the hearings), in order to assist Interested Parties and the ExA. The Applicant therefore hopes that the ExA uses its discretion to accept these updated Chapters as additional submissions into the Examination before Deadline 4 (and before the hearings), once those submissions are made by the Applicant.

Submission of the Report Validating the draft Development Consent Order

The Applicant notes the request under item 4 of Annex F to the **Rule 6 Letter [PD-006]** for the submission of “A report validating that the draft Development Consent Order is in the statutory instrument template (obtained from the publishing section of the legislation.gov.uk website)” at Deadline 3. The Applicant confirms, as is standard practice, that a report validating the final **draft DCO [APP/3.1.3]** will be submitted at Deadline 6 within an update to **draft DCO Template Validation Report [APP-020]**, rather than at each interim deadline.

Request for a Schedule of New and Updated Document and Plan Updates

The Applicant notes the request under item 5 of Annex F to the **Rule 6 Letter [PD-006]** for the submission of a ‘Schedule of New and Updated Document and Plan Updates’ document or equivalent. The Applicant points the ExA to the **Guide to the Application [APP/1.3.4]** which is being updated at each Deadline to track the latest versions of each document. The reason(s) for document updates are presented within each revised document respectively and the appendices to each covering letter.

Request for an updated ‘Consents and Agreements Position Statement’

The Applicant notes the request under item 6 of Annex F to the **Rule 6 Letter [PD-006]** for the submission of an updated ‘Consents and Agreements Position Statement’. As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant submitted the **Consents and Agreements Position Statement [APP-185]**. On review of those other consents and agreements referenced within that document that may be required as the Scheme continues to be refined (e.g. at the detailed design stage), the Applicant confirms that there is currently no update that can be provided in relation to these and has, therefore, not updated the **Consents and Agreements Position Statement [APP-185]**. The Applicant is in regular contact with statutory bodies, where relevant, to discuss any other consents or agreements that may be required for the benefit of the Scheme.

Submission of the Permitted Preliminary Works Environmental Management Plan

Against reference BKLWN44 in **Applicant’s Response to Local Impact Reports [REP2-027]**, the Applicant committed to submitting a permitted preliminary works environmental management plan at Deadline 3. The Applicant is progressing the development of this management plan but, at Deadline 3, considers it unsuitably advanced to be of benefit to be entered into Examination at this time. Instead, the Applicant confirms that the management plan will be entered into Examination at Deadline 4.

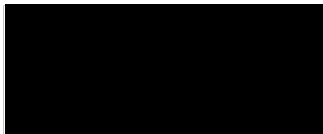
Use of Artificial Intelligence

In accordance with the Planning Inspectorate’s guidance on the use of artificial intelligence, the Applicant confirms that there has been minor use of AI (ChatGPT Teams) in **Applicant’s Response to Written Representations and other Deadline 2 Submissions [APP/8.16]** and **Applicant’s Response to ExQ2 [APP/8.17]** to make linguistic amendments which have not altered the substance or meaning of the Applicant’s application material. All suggested text has been checked by an appropriately knowledgeable or qualified person before

inclusion. This means that all text has been validated for its content and accuracy by the author before submission of the document set out above.

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

Kind regards,



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



Appendix A – New Documents Submitted at Deadline 3

Document Reference	Document Title	Reason for Submission
APP/5.11	Statement of Common Ground with Breckland Council	As noted in the Deadline 2 Cover Letter [REP2-001] , this Statement of Common Ground is submitted at Deadline 3 following constructive engagements between the parties which have resulted in agreement on various matters.
APP/6.3	ES Figure 2.2: Cumulative Schemes – Countywide	To provide greater legibility of the cumulative schemes considered in the cumulative assessment.
APP/8.16	Applicant's Response to Written Representations and other Deadline 2 Submissions	To provide the Applicant's responses to Written Representations and other submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 2, where the Applicant considers it necessary to do so.
APP/8.17	Applicant's Response to ExQ2	In response to the ExA's Second Written Questions [PD-009] issued on 2 July 2026.
APP/8.18	Technical Information Note – Landscape and Visual	To provide narrative on the request for additional visualisations from the local authorities.
APP/8.19	Cover Letter for Deadline 3	This Cover Letter is provided to support the Applicant's Deadline 3 submissions.

Appendix B – Updated Documents Submitted at Deadline 3

Document Reference	Rev No.	Document Title	Reason for Submission
APP/1.3	4	Guide to the Application	To provide an up-to-date list of the status of application documents and to identify where any have been superseded.
APP/2.3	1	Works Plan	To make minor corrections to spatial extents to ensure alignment across all Work Nos.
APP/3.1	3	draft Development Consent Order	To reflect updates made in response to various matters raised in the ExA's Second Written Questions [PD-009] , but also for some clarificatory matters and to remove the protective provisions for the benefit of Exolum Pipeline System Limited.
APP/3.2	3	Explanatory Memorandum	To reflect the updates to the draft DCO [APP/3.1.3] .
APP/4.1	1	Statement of Reasons	To reflect the removal of the protective provisions for the benefit of Exolum Pipeline System Limited (Exolum).
APP/4.3	3	Book of Reference	To reflect the fact that a redundant pipeline previously allocated to Exolum is, in fact, under the previous ownership (i.e. pre-redundancy) of the Ministry of Defence.
APP/4.4	2	Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker	To provide an update as to the current status of negotiations with affected person(s) or company(ies).
APP/5.8	3	Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments	To update wording on BESS foundation types and to commit to not placing sensitive electrical infrastructure in surface water flood zones.
APP/5.10	1	Statement of Commonality	To reflect the latest positions within the updated Statements of Common Ground submitted at Deadline 3.
APP/5.12	1	Statement of Common Ground with Norfolk County Council	To reflect ongoing discussions.
APP/5.13	1	Statement of Common Ground with Environment Agency	To reflect ongoing discussions.



APP/5.15	1	Statement of Common Ground with Natural England	To reflect ongoing discussions.
APP/5.20	1	Statement of Common Ground with Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	To reflect ongoing discussions.
APP/6.1	1	ES Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives and Design Evolution	To provide further text on the reasonable alternative technologies the Applicant has considered.
APP/6.2	2	ES Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity	To provide clarifications and minor additions, in accordance with the commitments made in Applicant's Response to Written Representations and other Deadline 2 Submissions [APP/8.16] .
APP/6.2	1	ES Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration	To reflect the updated list of cumulative schemes considered in ES Appendix 2.4: Cumulative Schemes [APP/6.4.1] .
APP/6.2	2	ES Chapter 12: Water Resources	To provide updated references to the updated figures supporting this ES Chapter.
APP/6.2	1	ES Chapter 15: Human Health	To reflect the updated list of cumulative schemes considered in ES Appendix 2.4: Cumulative Schemes [APP/6.4.1] .
APP/6.2	1	ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Matters	To reflect the updated list of cumulative schemes considered in ES Appendix 2.4: Cumulative Schemes [APP/6.4.1] .
APP/6.3	2	ES Figure 2.1: Cumulative Schemes - Within 25km	To reflect the updated list of cumulative schemes considered in ES Appendix 2.4: Cumulative Schemes [APP/6.4.1] . This ES Figure's title has also been changed from 'Cumulative Schemes' to 'Cumulative Schemes - Within 25km' to accurately describe its contents.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 6.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - DTM	To add a note that the Zone of Theoretical Visibility does not include the Grid Connection Infrastructure.



APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - DSM	To add a note that the Zone of Theoretical Visibility does not include the Grid Connection Infrastructure.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 6.7: Visual Receptor Groups	To add a note that the Zone of Theoretical Visibility does not include the Grid Connection Infrastructure.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 6.10: PP1-16 and PPa-g Winter Photograph Panels (Part A)	To include woodland annotation.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 6.11: PP1-16 and PPa-g Summer Photograph Panels (Part A)	To include woodland annotation.
APP/6.3	2	6.3 ES Figure 6.14: PM8, PM12 and PM14 Winter Photomontages - Illustrative Scheme (Parts A - C)	To annotate wirelines to show the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and BESS, together with Bartholomew's Plantation.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.5: Source Protection Zones	To improve symbology clarity.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.6: Groundwater Monitoring Locations	To include the Brink Hill monitoring point.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.7: Triangulated Baseline Groundwater Elevation	To improve clarity by showing the data in two dimensions. This ES Figure's title has also been changed from '3D Representation of Groundwater' to 'Triangulated Baseline Groundwater Elevation' to accurately describe its contents.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.8: Depth to Triangulated Baseline Groundwater Elevation	To reflect updated groundwater interpolation. This ES Figure's title has also been changed from 'Minimum Static Groundwater Level Depths within CSA' to 'Depth to Triangulated Baseline Groundwater Elevation' to accurately describe its contents.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.9: Depth to NEAC Groundwater Wet Conditions	To reflect the outputs from the Environment Agency's NEAC model. This ES Figure's title has also been changed from 'Maximum Static Groundwater Level Depths within CSA' to 'Depth to NEAC Groundwater Wet Conditions' to accurately describe its contents.

APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.10: Groundwater Flow Directions from NEAC Groundwater Model	To reflect the outputs from the Environment Agency's NEAC model. This ES Figure's title has also been changed from 'Groundwater Flow Pattern' to 'Groundwater Flow Directions from NEAC Groundwater Model' to accurately describe its contents.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.12: Drinking Water Protection Designations	To identify more designations than Drinking Water Protected Areas. This ES Figure's title has also been changed from 'Drinking Water Protected Area' to 'Drinking Water Protection Designations' to accurately describe its contents.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.13: Work No. 2 Maximum Potential Foundations and Groundwater Elevation	To reflect the updated groundwater interpolation and outputs from the Environment Agency's NEAC model. This ES Figure's title has also been changed from 'Work No.2 Piling Locations within CSA for Maximum Groundwater Level' to 'Work No. 2 Maximum Potential Foundations and Groundwater Elevation' to accurately describe its contents.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.14: Work No. 3 Maximum Potential Foundations and Groundwater Elevation	To reflect the updated groundwater interpolation and outputs from the Environment Agency's NEAC model. This ES Figure's title has also been changed from 'Work. No 3 Piling Locations within CSA for Maximum Groundwater Level' to 'Work No. 3 Maximum Potential Foundations and Groundwater Elevation' to accurately describe its contents.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 12.15: Work No. 4 Maximum Potential Foundations and Groundwater Elevation	To reflect the updated groundwater interpolation and outputs from the Environment Agency's NEAC model. This ES Figure's title has also been changed from 'Work No. 4 Piling Locations within CSA for Maximum Groundwater Level' to



			'Work No. 4 Maximum Potential Foundations and Groundwater Elevation' to accurately describe its contents.
APP/6.3	1	ES Figure 16.1: Utilities Plan	To reflect that an underground fuel pipe is now confirmed to be redundant and to update a separate pipe's alignment following discussions with the Ministry of Defence.
APP/6.4	1	ES Appendix 2.4: Cumulative Schemes	To update the list of cumulative schemes considered.
APP/6.4	1	ES Appendix 12.1: Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance	To update the legislation referenced within this ES Appendix.
APP/6.4	3	ES Appendix 12.2: Flood Risk Assessment	To provide a minor update on freeboard wording.
APP/7.6	3	outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	To provide updated text on the measures committed within this management plan.
APP/7.7	2	outline Construction Traffic Management Plan	To remove all reference to Route C and to include a commitment to investigate the use of electric buses.
APP/7.8	3	outline Operational Environmental Management Plan	To provide updated text on the measures committed within this management plan.
APP/7.9	2	outline Operational Traffic Management Plan	To remove all reference to Route C.
APP/7.10	2	outline Decommissioning Strategy	To update the management commitments for end-of-life batteries.
APP/7.11	2	outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan	To add detail on the ground nesting bird mitigation habitat sequencing.
APP/7.14	1	outline Battery Safety Management Plan	To add reference to the management of contaminated firewater and thermal pollution from cabling.
APP/8.1	2	Schedule of Changes to the Book of Reference	To reflect the updates to the Book of Reference [APP/4.3.3] .
APP/8.3	1	Report on Interrelationships between Projects	To incorporate further information that the Applicant has received.
APP/8.5	2	Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order	To reflect and explain the updates to the draft DCO [APP/3.1.3] .