THE DROVES
SOLAR FARM

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16 September 2026

[redacted]
Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

THE DROVES SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER – DEADLINE 4 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 4 of The Droves Solar Farm examination.

The documents submitted at Deadline 4 are set out in tabulated form in Appendix A (new documents) and Appendix B (updated documents) of this letter.

Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

At Deadline 4, the Applicant has submitted several revised SoCGs which are referenced in Appendix B of this letter. However, there are several other SoCGs that have not been capable of submission at Deadline 4. This is due to the number of SoCG-related Action Points which arose from the hearings that took place across week commencing 7 September 2026 and, therefore, the Applicant and the relevant parties have not had sufficient time to revise these SoCGs ahead of Deadline 4 in a manner which assists the Examination. This position affects the following SoCG parties:

- Historic England
- Natural England
- National Highways; and
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

To benefit the Examination, the Applicant will endeavor to submit updates to these SoCGs as soon as practicable (i.e. once helpful progress has been made). The Applicant therefore hopes that the ExA uses its discretion to accept these updated SoCGs as additional submissions into the Examination at that time.

Written Summaries of Oral Submissions and Action Points

As requested under item 12 of Annex A to the **Rule 6 Letter [PD-006]**, the Applicant confirms that written summaries of the Applicant's oral submissions at the hearings which took place across week commencing 7 September 2026 are submitted at this deadline and can be found in:

- **Written Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions and Responses to Action Points at ISH2 and ISH3 [APP/8.22]**
- **Written Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions and Responses to Action Points at CAH1 [APP/8.23]**; and

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- **Written Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at OFH2 [APP/8.24]**.

At the time of finalising this submission (at 15:00 on 16 September 2026), the ExA's list of Action Points had not been published on the project website on the PINS portal. In the written summaries referred to above, the Applicant has responded to the action points that it had noted during the hearings. The Applicant will review the ExA's Action Points and provide responses to any outstanding actions at Deadline 5.

Permitted Preliminary Works Environmental Management Plan

The **Applicant's Deadline 3 Cover Letter [REP3-001]** confirmed that the permitted preliminary works environmental management plan could not be submitted at Deadline 3 and was, instead, to be submitted at Deadline 4. The Applicant confirms that this plan has been submitted at this deadline as **Permitted Preliminary Works Environmental Management Plan [APP/8.25]**.

RAF Marham Mitigation Areas Plan

On request of the ExA at ISH3, the Applicant confirms it submits the **RAF Marham Mitigation Areas Plan [APP/8.26]** at this deadline to show the three specific areas within the Solar PV Site that the Ministry of Defence has agreed are the only areas requiring mitigation to avoid impacts on RAF Marham's Precision Approach Radar.

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 Deadline 3 Submissions [APP/8.21]** 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,

[redacted]

[redacted]

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

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Appendix A – New Documents Submitted at Deadline 4

Document Reference	Document Title	Reason for Submission
APP/8.21	Applicant's Response to Deadline 3 Submissions	To provide the Applicant's responses to submissions made by Interested Parties at Deadline 3, where the Applicant considers it necessary to do so.
APP/8.22	Written Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions and Responses to Action Points at ISH2 and ISH3	To summarise the oral submissions made by the Applicant at ISH2 on 8 September 2026 and ISH3 on 9 September 2026. The Applicant's response to action points from ISH2 and ISH3 are included in this document.
APP/8.23	Written Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions and Responses to Action Points at CAH1	To summarise the oral submissions made by the Applicant at CAH1 on 9 September 2026. The Applicant's response to action points from CAH1 are included in this document.
APP/8.24	Written Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at OFH2	To summarise the oral submissions made by the Applicant at OFH2 on 9 September 2026.
APP/8.25	Permitted Preliminary Works Environmental Management Plan	To describe the permitted preliminary works defined in Part 1 of the **draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [APP/3.1.4]**, and to detail the relevant mitigation, management and monitoring measures required to appropriately control those works.
APP/8.26	RAF Marham Mitigation Areas Plan	To spatially show the three specific areas within the Solar PV Site that the Ministry of Defence has agreed are the only areas requiring mitigation to avoid impacts on RAF Marham's Precision Approach Radar (PAR).
APP/8.27	Cover Letter for Deadline 4	This Cover Letter is provided to support the Applicant's Deadline 4 submission.

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Appendix B – Updated Documents Submitted at Deadline 4

Document Reference	Rev No.	Document Title	Reason for Submission
APP/1.3	6	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/3.1	4	draft Development Consent Order	To reflect minor clarificatory updates made, plus updates to Schedule 13.
APP/4.4	3	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	4	Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments	To include PAR mitigation parameters and to include drainage-related inverter and access track standards.
APP/5.10	3	Statement of Commonality	To reflect the latest positions within the updated Statements of Common Ground submitted at Deadline 4.
APP/5.11	2	Statement of Common Ground with Breckland Council	To reflect ongoing discussions.
APP/5.12	2	Statement of Common Ground with Norfolk County Council	To reflect ongoing discussions.
APP/5.13	2	Statement of Common Ground with the Environment Agency	To reflect ongoing discussions.
APP/5.18	1	Statement of Common Ground with Anglian Water Services Ltd	To reflect ongoing discussions.
APP/5.20	2	Statement of Common Ground with Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	To reflect ongoing discussions.
APP/6.2	3	ES Chapter 12: Water Resources	To change reference to **ES Figure 12.10: Groundwater Flow Directions from NEAC Groundwater Model [REP3-041]** as the dry scenario with regard for groundwater flows and to refer to MODFLOW, not TUFLOW, for the NEAC model.
APP/6.3	2	ES Figure 12.5: Source Protection Zones	To include SPZ3 designation.
APP/6.4	4	ES Appendix 12.2: Flood Risk Assessment	To provide text on preferring above ground impermeably lined detention basins over belowground structures and that containment areas will be

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			cleaned before shut-off valves are reopened.
APP/7.4	2	Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report	To remove W22a from 'High Strategic Significance' to the Report and associated metric.
APP/7.6	4	outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	To confirm tankering arrangements and to clarify that the Flood Risk Assessment's commitment to a detention basin at the BESS is to be taken over this management plan's relevant commitments.
APP/7.8	4	outline Operational Environmental Management Plan	To reflect the Flood Risk Assessment's commitments for the surface water drainage strategy and to commit to the establishment of a procedure for managing glint and glare complaints.
APP/7.14	2	outline Battery Safety Management Plan	To confirm how damaged batteries will be managed and that an Anglian Water connection is not required for fire suppression purposes.
APP/8.5	3	Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order	To reflect updates to the **draft DCO [APP/3.1.4]**.