

Written Representation – MSP Fairwind Limited (Fairwinds Solar Farm) Interested Party Reference number: [REDACTED]

Status: Commenting

Primary Issue: Impact on operational renewable energy infrastructure and associated commercial and operational effects

Category: Affected Person

1. Introduction and Interest in the Proposed Development

MSP Fairwind Limited operates Fairwinds Solar Farm, an operational ground-mounted solar photovoltaic generating station located within the Order limits and directly affected by the proposed Norwich to Tilbury 400kV overhead line project.

The solar farm represents existing nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure contributing to UK decarbonisation and electricity generation objectives. The Proposed Development interacts physically and operationally with the site through the installation of pylons, overhead conductors, access routes and associated construction activities.

MSP Fairwind Limited is therefore an affected person for the purposes of the Examination.

2. Overview of Current Engagement

MSP Fairwind Limited has been actively engaging with National Grid Electricity Transmission throughout the pre-application and application stages.

A **Draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)** has been prepared between the parties and submitted to the Examining Authority, evidencing ongoing discussions aimed at identifying, assessing and mitigating potential impacts arising from the Proposed Development.

These discussions remain ongoing and are dependent on further detailed design and construction methodology information still to be provided by the Applicant.

3. Key Operational Concerns

While MSP Fairwind Limited recognises the national importance of electricity transmission reinforcement, the Proposed Development has the potential to give rise to material operational and commercial impacts on the continued operation of Fairwinds Solar Farm, including:

a) Permanent operational impacts

- Shading and shadow effects arising from pylons and overhead conductors leading to reductions in electricity generation output;
- Long-term operational constraints associated with proximity to high-voltage transmission infrastructure.

b) Construction phase impacts

- Dust and soiling effects associated with haul road construction, earthworks and ongoing construction activities affecting photovoltaic module performance;
- Temporary restriction or disruption to routine operations and maintenance access;
- Interaction between construction activities and existing solar infrastructure.

c) Risk to existing electrical infrastructure

- Potential damage to underground electrical cabling and associated infrastructure resulting from intrusive surveys, heavy vehicle movements and construction works;
- Requirement for appropriate protection measures and agreed working methodologies.

4. Requirement for Further Technical Information

Assessment of the full extent of impacts remains ongoing.

MSP Fairwind Limited is in the process of instructing independent technical advisors to quantify operational losses and identify mitigation measures. Completion of this assessment requires further information from the Applicant, including:

- detailed construction methodology,
- access arrangements and haul road locations,
- tower dimensions and final siting,
- construction programme and sequencing.

Until such information is available, the extent of operational and commercial effects cannot be fully determined.

5. Mitigation and Compensation

MSP Fairwind Limited considers it essential that the Examination recognises the need to:

- appropriately mitigate impacts on existing operational renewable generation assets;
- ensure safe coexistence between transmission infrastructure and operational solar facilities; and
- secure suitable compensation arrangements addressing both temporary construction impacts and permanent operational effects.

Discussions regarding mitigation and compensation are ongoing between the parties and are expected to continue alongside the Examination process.

6. Position in Relation to the Proposed Development

MSP Fairwind Limited is not opposing the principle of the Proposed Development.

However, it seeks to ensure that the Examination fully considers the interaction between the scheme and existing renewable generation infrastructure, and that appropriate safeguards, mitigation measures and compensation mechanisms are secured prior to construction.

7. Future Submissions

MSP Fairwind Limited reserves the right to submit further written representations, technical evidence and responses during the Examination as additional project information becomes available and ongoing discussions with the Applicant progress.