



# The Planning Inspectorate

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To: All Interested Parties, Affected  
Persons, Category 3 persons, all  
Statutory Parties, Other Persons and  
the Applicant

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010106

Date: 4 May 2022

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Dear Sir / Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 (as amended)**

### **Application by Sunnica Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Sunnica Energy Farm**

#### **Request by the Applicant in Respect of the Timing of the Preliminary Meeting / Examination**

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an examination of the above application. I am Grahame Kean and the other members of the ExA are Guy Rigby and Karin Taylor. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

We would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted us when preparing our proposals regarding how to examine this application.

I write in connection with recent correspondence between the ExA and the Applicant. A letter on behalf of the Applicant dated 19 April 2022 advised of its intention to seek changes to the Sunnica Energy Farm project Development Consent Order Application (the DCO Application) and to request a delay to the start of the Examination. A copy of that letter can be viewed on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be found here: [Applicant Letter of 19 April 2022](#).

The Applicant's letter of 19 April 2022 outlined further work proposed on the options it included within the DCO Application. This relates to locations for the grid connection to Burwell substation together with the connections corridors and other proposed changes to

the Order limits, including consequential minor updates or changes to the Application. A draft timetable for the change request was provided in accordance with Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 16.

Based on the draft timetable the Applicant requested that the Preliminary Meeting be arranged for mid-July 2022. Delaying the Preliminary Meeting until then would mean that it would take place some seven months after the DCO Application was accepted.

In light of the DCLG Examination Guidance the ExA has concerns about the delay to the commencement of the Examination. Therefore, on 22 April 2022 we sought clarification from the Applicant about the potential need for the Preliminary Meeting to be delayed until mid-July. A copy of our letter can be found here: [Examining Authority's Letter of 22 April 2022](#). The [Applicant's response dated 28 April 2022](#) provides further explanation to support its request that the Preliminary Meeting should be delayed.

Before the ExA confirms the date of the Preliminary Meeting, we wish to seek the views of Interested Parties, Affected Persons and Statutory Parties on this matter in light of the Applicant's response to our questions.

You are welcome to comment specifically on the **following matters only**:

- The issue of whether the Preliminary Meeting should be delayed until mid-July 2022
- The Applicant's proposed timetable to consult further on amendments intended to form the formal Change Request to be made to the ExA.

Please send any comments by **23:59 on Wednesday 18 May 2022**, by email to the address above. If you do not have access to email, you can submit your comments in writing to the Sunnica Case Team at the postal address above.

This deadline is extended from 9 May as indicated in our earlier letter to the Applicant of 22 April 2022. All submitted comments **on these matters** will be published on the project webpage and will be taken into account by the ExA in deciding the next steps in the examination of this application.

If you have any questions about any of the matters raised in this correspondence, please contact the Case Team using the details provided in this letter.

Yours faithfully

Grahame Kean

**Grahame Kean**  
**Lead Panel Member of the Examining Authority**

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