



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Web:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-energy-security-and-net-zero>

To:
Sunnica Limited
Natural England

Our Ref: EN010106

Date: 27 July 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,
Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Sunnica Energy Farm (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Sunnica Solar Farm Project (“Sunnica Solar Farm”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. Following the completion of the Examination on 28 March 2023, the Examining Authority submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 28 June 2023. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“the Secretary of State”) has three months to determine the application.
2. There are matters on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if the Applicant and Natural England could provide further information, as set out below.

Deed of Obligation

3. The Secretary of State notes that, at the close of the Examination, the Deed of Obligation (“DoO”) with Suffolk County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council had not been completed. **The Applicant** should therefore confirm whether the DoO has been completed.

Battery Energy Storage System Design and Hazardous Substance Consent

4. The Secretary of State understands that at the close of Examination, the Applicant had not concluded as to whether the Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”) would fall under one of the three categories in Schedule 1 of the Health and Safety Regulations, as the BESS design had not been finalised. **The Applicant** should provide an update on its position on the BESS design and whether or not it will fall under one of the three categories in Schedule 1 of the Health and Safety Regulations.

Isleham Bomber Plane Crash Site

5. **The Applicant** should provide an update as to whether it has obtained a licence from the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre that would confirm the extent of the exclusion zone around the crash site.

Side Agreement with the Local Highways Authority

6. The Secretary of State understands that at the close of the Examination, negotiations were ongoing in relation to protective provisions and side agreements with the local highway authorities. **The Applicant** should provide an update on the position of the relevant protective provisions and side agreements.

Glint and Glare

7. The Secretary of State notes that disagreement remained at the end of the Examination in respect of the Applicant’s glint and glare assessment. **The Applicant** should confirm as to whether or not it has any further updates in respect of its position on its assessment of glint and glare impacts, in particular in relation to impacts on equestrian users.

Breckland SPA

8. **Natural England** is invited to confirm whether the draft evidence document regarding its research into the functional linkage of stone curlew populations of the Breckland SPA, as summarised in [REP5-096] and [REP7-104], has now been made publicly available and if not, when it intends to publish it.

Next Steps

9. Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to **Sunnica@planninginspectorate.gov.uk** by **23.59 on 10 August 2023**.
10. Responses will be published on the Sunnica Solar Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after **10 August**

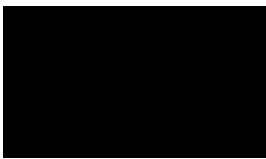
2023:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sunnica-energy-farm/>

11. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the Sunnica Solar Farm Project or any part of the project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

John Wheadon



Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero