



To:
Sunnica Limited
Natural England

Our Ref: EN010106

14 December 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

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

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- 1) On 8 December the Secretary of State re-set the statutory deadline for taking a decision on the proposed Sunnica Energy Farm from 7 December 2023 to 7 March 2024.
- 2) There are matters on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if **the Applicant** and **Natural England** could provide updates on, as set out below.

Landscape/visual impacts

- 3) With reference to NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.9.8, the Applicant is asked to:
 - i) provide any updates to its position on the mitigation provided for landscape and visual impacts.
 - ii) with the aim of minimising harm to the landscape and visual effects as far as reasonably possible, advise whether their work concluded that the proposed mitigation was the best available or if any further mitigation could reasonably be provided.
- 4) With reference to draft NPS EN-3 paragraph 2.10.134, the Secretary of State notes that the Applicant’s Glint and Glare assessment appears to have been carried out on the basis that anti-reflective coating would be used. The **Applicant** should explain whether it has considered the use of anti-glare/anti-reflective coating on the proposed solar arrays and if so whether this should be secured by the DCO.

Breckland Special Protection Area (“SPA”)

- 5) **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. **Natural England** is also invited to comment on whether it anticipates the report as published is likely to change its advice provided to date.

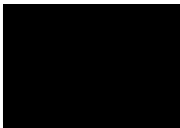
Next Steps

- 6) Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to **Sunnica@planninginspectorate.gov.uk** by **23.59 on 11 January 2024**.
- 7) Responses will be published on the Sunnica Solar Farm project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after **11 January 2024**:

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

- 8) 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