

EN010127 – Application by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Mallard Pass Solar Project

Deadline 8 – Request for further information

Response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (NGET)

3) Existing Ryhall Substation

a) NGET is requested to review the Applicant’s response and comments [Appendix B of REP7-036] and provide comments on its agreement or otherwise, along with appropriate justification. This should include the matters set out below.

i) Can NGET provide any further update on the progress being made with the Front End Engineering Design [FEED], including any potential impediments that have been identified?

Front End Engineering Design is ongoing and the outcome is anticipated to be ready in late Summer 2024. No potential impediments have been identified to date.

ii) Does NGET agree with the Applicant’s summary of the works required to the existing substation to achieve a grid connection to the Proposed Development? Please provide any further relevant details.

NGET agrees with the Applicant’s summary of the works required to the existing substation and does not have any further relevant details to add.

iii) Does NGET expect to use relevant permitted development rights (Class B(f) of Part 15 of Schedule 2 of the General Permitted Development Order 2015) for these works?

Yes, at this stage NGET anticipates that it will rely upon its permitted development rights to undertake the works.

iv) In its previous response, NGET states that the network surrounding Ryhall has no further electrical capacity and that further network reinforcements are required in the region to accommodate more capacity. Please can NGET provide further details of the likely extent and timescales of the network reinforcements that are likely to be required in order for the Proposed Development to be able to fully connect to the network?

The Transmission Reinforcement Works consist of Attributable Enabling Works (at Ryhall Substation) and non-Attributable Enabling Works, including wider transmission reinforcements. Delivery of the Transmission Reinforcement Works that are likely to be required in order for the Proposed Development to be able to fully connect to the network are provided for within the contract between the Applicant and NGET. The scope of those works cover specific activities at Ryhall Substation (Attributable works) as described by the Applicant in its response and comments [Appendix B of REP7-036], as well as the delivery of other (non-Attributable) network enabling reinforcement works. The non-Attributable works (Ref 101248-202488) are not only required for the Applicant’s project but have also been identified as part of the Network Options Assessment (NOA) 2021/22 and 2022/23 to support the delivery of no fewer than 17 different grid connection agreements in the region by strengthening the transmission networks in both the local and wider area.

v) Can an indicative timeline be provided for the processes and works necessary in order for the proposed grid connection of 1 January 2028 to be achieved and operable?

Appendix J of the connection agreement between the Applicant (the 'User') and NGET (the 'Relevant Transmission Licensee') includes a Construction Programme for the delivery of all Enabling Works identified in the construction agreement. The key milestones in that agreement, which underpin the completion date of the works on 1 Jan 2028, are:

- i. 1 Jan 2025 User granted planning consent and land rights for User's Works (and the Applicant notes that if the DCO is granted, it will already be ahead of this milestone)
- ii. 30 August 2025 User to provide evidence of financial commitment
- iii. 30 October 2025 Final diagrams are exchanged and agreed between the Relevant Transmission Licensee and the User
- iv. 30 October 2025 Financial Investment Decision is achieved by the Relevant Transmission Licensee
- v. 30 March 2026 Relevant Transmission Licensee will award contracts for the Transmission Reinforcement Works (TRW) at the Connection Site
- vi. 1 June 2026 Commencement of User's Works at the User's site
- vii. 30 September 2026 TRW commences
- viii. 30 August 2027 Commissioning Programme commences
- ix. 1 January 2028 Completion Date