Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Environmental Services
Infrastructure Decisions and
Applications Service
Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: cearnsolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

By email

Your Ref: N/A

Our Ref: EN0110044

Date: 26 October 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Proposed application by Cearn Solar Farm Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Cearn Solar Farm (the proposed development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

The proposed development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). A summary of the NSIP planning process can be found at the following link:

'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: The stages of the NSIP process and how you can have your say'.

The proposed development is currently in the pre-application stage.

Environmental Statement (ES) and the scoping process

To meet the requirements of The EIA Regulations, applicants are required to submit an ES with an application for an order granting development consent for any NSIP likely to have a significant effect on the environment. An ES will set out the potential impacts and likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment. Schedule 4 of The EIA Regulations sets out the general information for inclusion within an ES.

The applicant has asked the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for its written opinion (a Scoping Opinion) as to the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the ES relating to the proposed development. The applicant has set out its proposed

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scope of the ES in its Scoping Report which is published on the 'Find a National Infrastructure Project' website:

https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110044/documents

Before adopting a Scoping Opinion, the Planning Inspectorate must consult the relevant 'consultation bodies' defined in The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

The Planning Inspectorate has identified you as a consultation body which must be consulted before adopting its Scoping Opinion. The Planning Inspectorate would be grateful if you would:

- inform the Planning Inspectorate of the information you consider should be provided in the ES, or
- confirm that you do not have any comments

If you consider that you are not a consultation body as defined in The EIA Regulations, please let us know.

The deadline for consultation responses is **23 November 2026**. The deadline is a statutory requirement and cannot be extended. Any consultation response received after this date will not be included within the Scoping Opinion but will be forwarded to the applicant for information and published on our website as a late response.

The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS is entitled to assume under regulation 10(11) of The EIA Regulations that you do not have any comments to make on the information to be provided in the ES, if you have not responded to this letter by the deadline above.

To support the smooth facilitation of our service, we strongly advise that any responses are issued via the email identified below rather than by post. Responses to the Planning Inspectorate should be sent by email to cearnsolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Please note that your response will be appended to the Scoping Opinion and published on our website consistent with our openness policy.

Please also note that this consultation relates solely to the ES scoping process.

The applicant is encouraged to undertake a wide consultation and/ or engagement during pre-application in line with published guidance on gov.uk:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-introduction-to-national-infrastructure-planning-guidance-july-2026
Should you wish to make any comment, you can become involved in the Planning Act 2008 process in a number of ways as detailed in our Advice Pages, which are available on the Advice page collection on gov.uk:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-infrastructure-planning-advice-notes

Scoping Opinion

The Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) must adopt a Scoping Opinion within 42 days of receiving a scoping request. The Scoping Opinion will be published on the relevant project page of the 'Find a National Infrastructure Project' website at the end of the statutory period, or before if applicable.

The applicant must have regard to comments made within the Scoping Opinion and the ES submitted with the future application must be based on the most recently adopted Scoping Opinion.

Applicant's name and address

As the Planning Inspectorate has been notified by the applicant that it intends to prepare an ES, we are also informing you of the applicant's name and address:

Michele Hu
Senior DCO Development Manager
Cearn Solar Farm Limited
Suite 1, 7th Floor
50 Broadway
London, England
SW1H 0DB
info@cearnsolarfarm.co.uk

Regulation 11(3) duty

You should also be aware of your duty under regulation 11(3) of The EIA Regulations, if so requested by the applicant, to make available information in your possession which is considered relevant to the preparation of the ES.

Spatial data

The applicant has provided the Planning Inspectorate with spatial data for the purpose of facilitating the identification of consultation bodies to inform a Scoping Opinion (as set out in our Advice Page 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Pre-application for Environmental Impact Assessment', available on the gov.uk website). Requests by consultation bodies to obtain and/or use the spatial data to inform its consultation response should be made directly to the applicant using the contact details above.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Jessica Harper

Jessica Harper
Senior Environmental Advisor
on behalf of the Secretary of State

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our Privacy Notice before sending information to the Planning Inspector