



CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

VOLUME 1 - CHAPTERS

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

November 2018
Revision A

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www.clevehillsolar.com



CLEVE HILL
SOLAR PARK

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1. This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared on behalf of Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd (the Applicant) in relation to an application (the Application) to be made to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
2. The Application is for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of Cleve Hill Solar Park, a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility and electrical storage facility, with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), and an export connection to the National Grid (hereafter referred to as 'the Development'). Therefore, the Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required to be undertaken for the Development and as such The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) apply.
3. This chapter outlines the purpose and structure of the ES, and provides an overview of the Applicant and the Development.
4. This chapter is supported by the following figure provided in Volume 2:
 - Figure 1.1 Development Site Location.

1.2 The Purpose of the ES

5. This ES has been produced to accompany the Application, as required under The EIA Regulations¹.
6. The purpose of the ES is to:
 - Provide a description of the Development, including its location, the physical characteristics, scale and design of the Development (Chapter 5);
 - Provide a description of the reasonable alternatives considered, including the reasons for selecting the chosen option (Chapter 4);
 - Set out the baseline scenario (the current state of the environment and its evolution in the absence of the Development) (Chapters 7 to 17);
 - Examine the existing environmental character of the application site and the area likely to be affected by the Development, where this is relevant to the possible significant environmental effects of the Development;
 - Predict and describe the likely significant effects of the Development, including the methods used in their assessment;
 - Describe measures which would be taken to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse environmental impacts; and
 - Provide the public, the SoS, the planning authorities and other consultees with information on the Development, which would assist the SoS in the determination of the DCO application.
7. The methodology used to define and assess the significance of the environmental impacts is described in Chapter 2: Environmental Impact Assessment and in the technical chapters (7 to 17) of this ES.

¹ HMSO (2017). S.I. 2017/572: The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents/made> [accessed on 14/08/2018].

1.3 The Structure of the ES

8. The ES consists of three volumes, the authors and contributors to each chapter and the structure of the document is set out in Table 1.1.
9. In line with Regulation 14(4) of the EIA Regulations, the ES and all technical assessments have been undertaken by suitably qualified 'competent experts' within the project team. Details of their relevant expertise are set out in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Content of the PEIR

Document		Author / Contributors	Lead Author's Expertise
Non-Technical Summary		Arcus Consultancy Services	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Registered EIA Practitioner
Volume 1 – Main Text			
Chapter 1	Introduction	Arcus Consultancy Services	IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner
Chapter 2	Environmental Impact Assessment		
Chapter 3	Consultation	Arcus Consultancy Services Counter Context	IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner
Chapter 4	Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives	Arcus Consultancy Services Hive Energy	IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner
Chapter 5	Development Description	Arcus Consultancy Services Hive Energy Wirsol Energy Curtins Xero Energy	IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner
Chapter 6	Legislative and Planning Policy Context	Arcus Consultancy Services	Chartered Town Planner of Royal Town Planning Institute (MRTPI)
Chapter 7	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Arcus Consultancy Services	Chartered Member of Landscape Institute (CMLI)
Chapter 8	Ecology	Arcus Consultancy Services AECOM	Member of Chartered Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (MCIEEM)
Chapter 9	Ornithology	Arle Ecology Arcus Consultancy Services	MCIEEM
Chapter 10	Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Ground Conditions	Arcus Consultancy Services JBA Consulting	Member of Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental

Document		Author / Contributors	Lead Author's Expertise
			Management (MCIWEM)
Chapter 11	Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	Wessex Archaeology Cotswold Archaeology ARCA	Member of Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIFA)
Chapter 12	Noise	Arcus Consultancy Services	Member of Institute of Acoustics (IoA)
Chapter 13	Socio-Economics, Tourism, Recreation and Land-use	Regeneris Arcus Consultancy Services	IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner
Chapter 14	Access and Traffic	Curtins	Member of Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (MCIHT)
Chapter 15	Climate Change	Arcus Consultancy Services	IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner
Chapter 16	Air Quality	Arcus Consultancy Services	IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner
Chapter 17	Miscellaneous Issues, including glint and glare, human health, telecoms and waste	Arcus Consultancy Services Pager Power	IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner
Chapter 18	Interaction and Accumulation of Effects	Arcus Consultancy Services	IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner
Volume 2 - Supporting Figures and Drawings			
Volume 3 – LVIA Visualisations			
Part 1	Viewpoints – winter	Arcus Consultancy Services	Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI)
Part 2	Viewpoints - summer		
Part 3	Photomontage Existing Views - winter		
Part 4	Photomontage Year 1 - winter		
Part 5	Photomontage Year 5 - winter		
Part 6	Photomontage Year 10 - winter		
Part 7	Photomontage Existing Views - summer		
Part 8	Photomontage Year 1 - summer		
Part 9	Photomontage Year 5 - summer		
Part 10	Photomontage Year 10 - summer		
Volume 4 - Technical Appendices (e.g., baseline survey reports)			

1.4 The Applicant

10. Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd is a joint venture formed by two solar industry specialists: Hive Energy Ltd and Wirsol Energy Ltd.

1.4.1 Hive Energy

11. Founded in 2010 by Giles Redpath, Hive Energy has become established as one of the largest and most experienced solar PV developers in the UK, responsible for the installation of in excess of 300 MW of solar PV generating capacity across the country.
12. Hive developed the Southwick Estate Solar Farm in Hampshire, energised in March 2015, and at the time the largest solar park in the UK with an installed capacity of 48 MW. Hive is now commencing the roll out of a pipeline of subsidy-free solar parks in the UK.
13. Building on its UK experience, Hive has opened a number of overseas offices and is currently developing a pipeline of international projects across Europe, South America, Africa and Asia, including an operational site in Turkey and a 58 MW solar park in Cuba about to commence construction.
14. Hive is committed to using the knowledge and expertise gained in the UK to develop large-scale, low-cost solar, across the world.

1.4.2 Wirsol Energy

15. Wirsol Energy is a highly experienced solar park developer, constructor and operator across the UK, Europe and Australia. Globally, Wirsol has developed 1.9 gigawatts (GW) of solar electricity generating capacity.
16. Wirsol's global experience of particular relevance to the Development includes the construction and operation of a 25 MW / 50 MW hour (MWh) energy storage project in Gannawarra, Australia² and a solar PV facility with east-west facing arrays in Delfzijl, Netherlands³.
17. Wirsol has built and operates 24 solar parks in the UK with a combined capacity of 159 MW. The UK development portfolio includes 470 MW of new generating capacity.
18. Wirsol takes great pride in the quality of its solar parks.

1.5 The Development

19. In summary, the Development will comprise an array of solar PV modules, energy storage and associated development infrastructure. A description of the physical characteristics of the whole Development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases is given in ES Chapter 5: Development Description.

² Gannawarra Energy Storage System <https://wirsol.com.au/portfolio/gannawarra-energy-storage-system/> [accessed 17/10/2018]

³ SunPort Delfzijl Solar Energy Park <https://wirsol.com/en/final-agreement-on-realization-of-the-largest-solar-energy-park-in-the-netherlands/> [accessed 17/10/2018]