

Longfield Solar Farm

Chelmsford City Council

Unique reference: LOSF - 002

ExQ1 - Responses to Written Questions

Abbreviations used:

CCC Chelmsford City Council

LIR Chelmsford City Council Local Impact Report dated August 2022

SoCG Statement of Common Ground prepared between Longfield Solar Farm Limited (as the Applicant) and Braintree District Council, Chelmsford City Council and Essex County Council referred to as the Host Authorities.

ExQ	Respondent	Question	Chelmsford City Council response
Air Quality			
1.1.3	Applicant and Host Authorities	ES Chapter 14 (Air Quality) [APP-046] states that dust monitoring will be carried out during construction and decommissioning activities in order to confirm the assessment conclusions. ES Chapter 9 explains that this will be outlined in the Dust Management Plan (DMP). Table 3-9 of the oCEMP[APP-214] includes a commitment to develop and implement a DMP, which "...may include monitoring of dust deposition...". Can the Applicant and local authorities comment on the extent to which monitoring of dust deposition as part of a	Chelmsford City Council (CCC) has no objections in principle to the Dust Management Plan (DMP). Please also refer to the Local Impact Report (LIR); Noise, Vibration, Air Quality and Contamination section, (paragraphs 6.236 - 6.239 refer) and the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) (Section 10 Air Quality, Table 10.1).

		DMP is adequately secured in the application documents?	
4. Battery Storage Technology			
1.4.3	Host Authorities HSE Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Environment Agency	Please comment on the suitability and content of the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [APP-210].	CCC understand that the applicant has been pursuing this matter separately Essex County Fire and Rescue and the UK the Protection Agency and defers to them in this regard. Please note further detail is included in the LIR; Noise, Vibration, Air Quality and Contamination section (paragraph 6.234) and the SoCG (Section 11 Human Health, Table 11.1).
5. Draft Development Consent Order			
1.5.26	Host Authorities	Schedule 2 (General) -Please comment on the requirements set out in Schedule 2 and highlight any proposed changes suggested by the Host Authorities.	A meeting is scheduled to be held on 5 th September 2022 between the Applicant and Host Authorities to discuss the Requirements and drafting changes. Please also refer to the LIR which comments on the adequacy of the DCO under the appropriate topic sections and the SoCG in relation to requirements.

1.5.29	Host Authorities Health and Safety Executive The Environment Agency Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.	Schedule 2, R8 –Please comment on the drafting of this requirement and overall approach to battery safety management set out in the outline battery safety management plan [APP-210]. See also ExQ1.4.3 above.	A meeting is scheduled to be held on 5 th September 2022 between the applicant and Host Authorities to discuss the Requirements and drafting changes. Please also refer to the LIR; Noise, Vibration, Air Quality and Contamination section (paragraphs 6.234, 6.236 - 6.239) and the SoCG (Section 11 Human Health, Table 11.1 and Section 13 Others, Table 13.1).
1.5.31	Host Authorities Historic England	Schedule 2, R12 & R25 –please comment on the wording of these requirements and the approach to the WSI set out in the oCEMP [APP-214]. See also ExQ1.9.3 below.	CCC defers to Essex County Council in respect of archaeology. A meeting is scheduled to be held on 5 th September 2022 between the applicant and Host Authorities to discuss the Requirements and drafting changes.
1.5.32	Host Authorities The Environment Agency	Please confirm whether or not the wording of R13 and R14 and the contents of the oCEMP [APP-214] and oOEMP [APP-215] is agreed. If not, please provide further details.	CCC are currently content in principle with the wording of R13 and R14 and the contents of both OCEMPS. However, these

			<p>remain under discussion and consideration with the applicant.</p> <p>A meeting is scheduled to be held on 5th September 2022 between the applicant and Host Authorities to discuss the Requirements and drafting changes.</p> <p>A further update will be provided subsequent to the meeting.</p>
1.5.47	Host Authorities	Please comment on the provisions of Schedule 16 including on the 6-week period specified for the notification of decision.	<p>A meeting is scheduled to be held on 5th September 2022 between the applicant and Host Authorities to discuss the Requirements and drafting changes.</p> <p>CCC disagrees with the proposed specified 6-week period for notification of the decision, and considers that a minimum of an 8-week period, as is standard with the discharge of planning conditions on planning applications should be specified.</p>

			<p>CCC considers that Schedule 16 should contain provisions for extending the decision-making period, to enable further consideration of the Requirements where appropriate.</p> <p>CCC wishes to undertake further review of Schedule 16 and will provide further response and agreement to the acceptability of the Schedule as part of on-going discussion with the Applicant to the SoCG.</p>
6. Environmental Statement General Matters			
1.6.9	Host Authorities and NE	Please confirm whether you are content that all other developments, plans and projects which have potential to result in cumulative or in combination effects together with the Proposed Development have been identified by the Applicant (Appendix 5A [APP-055]) and appropriately assessed in the Environmental Statement and Habitats Regulations Assessment?	<p>CCC are content with the approach to cumulative impacts in principle.</p> <p>Please also refer to the LIR and the SoCG where the matters are further considered under the appropriate topic sections.</p>
7. Historic Environment			
1.7.3	Historic England Host Authorities	The Applicant considers there is no further mitigation that can be implemented to minimise the effect on the setting of the Grade I listed Ringers Farmhouse, which is assessed as significant adverse. Do Historic England and the Host Authorities consider there are any	Ringers Farmhouses rural setting is a feature which contributes to its significance. It would be possible to further reduce the impacts by setting back the

		additional mitigation measures which could reduce the significant of effect on Ringers Farmhouse?	<p>development further to give more breathing space and proving additional landscape screening. The development could be set back further on the north/northwest and deeper planting belts provided, which would reduce the harm further, but not avoid it.</p> <p>Please also refer to the LIR; Historic Environment section (paragraphs 6.150 - 1.173) and and the SoCG (Section 3 Cultural Heritage, Table 3.1).</p>
8. Landscape and Visual Impacts			
1.8.1	Applicant/Host Authorities	<p>A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has not been carried out, with the Applicant stating in paragraph 10.4.48 of E Chapter 10 (APP-042) that this was agreed with Wynne Williams Associates on behalf of Essex County Council, Chelmsford City Council and Braintree District Council via email on 15 October 2021. The Applicant is requested to provide the email dated 15 October 2021 agreeing to the methodology that excludes the RVAA and the Host Authorities are requested to provide conformation that that are content with the approach adopted or / record the position within the SoCGs.</p>	<p>CCC confirm it is content with the methodology.</p> <p>Please refer to the LIR; Landscape and Visual amenity section (paragraphs 6.6 -6.96) and Residential Living Environment section (paragraphs 6.178-6.211) and the SoCG (Section 6 Landscape and Visual Amenity, Table 6.1).</p>

1.8.3	Host Authorities	Could the relevant Host Authorities confirm whether they are in agreement with the proposed landscaping mitigation measures and (as relevant) monitoring proposals, as set out in the Outline Landscape Masterplan [APP-179], the oCEMP [APP-214], oOEMP [APP-215] and the oLEMP[APP-217]?	<p>CCC confirm it is content in principle subject further to further discussion on the following three items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approach to vegetation removal / management on Noakes Farm Lane (protected lane) 2. Screening of view from Viewpoint 45 (Essex Way north of River Ter) 3. Advance planting of PDA 1 scrub area
1.8.5	Host Authorities	Please provide confirmation that the visual receptors and representative viewpoints identified in ES Chapter 10 (Landscape and Visual Resources) [APP-042] been agreed. See also ExQ 1.10.1 above.	CCC can confirm that these have been agreed.
9. Land Use, Agriculture and Socio -economics			
1.9.2	Applicant/Host Authorities	Please provide an update on the section 106 agreement (as referenced in the planning statement [APP-204]) and provide expected timescales for its completion. Please confirm that an executed agreement will be provided prior to the close of the Examination.	<p>The S106 agreement is under discussion with the applicant, and they will provide an update on timescales.</p> <p>CCC confirms that an executed agreement will be provided prior to the close of the Examination.</p>
10. Noise and Vibration			

1.10.1	Host Authorities	Please state whether the Host Authorities agree with the assessment methodology and conclusions set out in ES Chapter 11 (Noise and Vibration [APP-043]).	<p>CCC confirms its agreement to this.</p> <p>Please refer to the LIR; Noise, Vibration, Air Quality and Contamination section, (paragraphs 6.212 - 6.239) and the SoCG (Section 7 Noise and Vibration, Table 7.1).</p>
1.10.2	Host Authorities	Do the Host Authorities agree that the locations set out in Figure 11-1 [APP-187] and Table 11-3 [APP-043] are representative of the nearest NSR's?	<p>CCC confirms its agreement to this.</p> <p>Please refer to the LIR; Noise, Vibration, Air Quality and Contamination section, (paragraphs 6.212 - 6.239) and the SoCG (Section 7 Noise and Vibration, Table 7.1).</p>