OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR PARK

Applicant: Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd

Grid Connection Statement
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GRID CONNECTION STATEMENT

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

1.1.1 Oaklands Farm Solar Limited ("the Applicant") is applying to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008") for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of ground mounted solar photovoltaic arrays and an associated Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS") on land west of the village of Rosliston and east of Walton-on-Trent in South Derbyshire.

1.1.2 The Oaklands Farm Solar Park project comprises a proposed solar farm with an associated Battery Energy Storage System ('the Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development would have a generating capacity of over 50MW and would be situated on 191 hectares of land at Oaklands Farm to the south-east of Walton-on-Trent and to the west of Rosliston in south Derbyshire. The solar farm itself, comprising photovoltaic panel arrays, a central electricity substation and Battery Energy Storage System together with access, landscaping and other works would be located on 135 hectares of agricultural land currently in use for arable production and grazing. New high voltage 132kV underground electricity cabling would be installed by The Applicant from the Project Substation located within the proposed development on Oaklands Farm through land to the north at Fairfield Farm and Park Farm to connect the Proposed Development to the national grid at Drakelow electricity substation, located at the former Drakelow Power Station which sits south of Burton-upon-Trent.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

1.2.1 Regulation 6(1)(a)(i) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ("the APFP Regulations") requires an Applicant seeking Development Consent for an onshore generating station to provide a statement as to who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the electricity grid. This Statement provides that information, and should be read as necessary alongside the other documents which form the application for Development Consent.

1.2.2 This Statement describes the context to the grid connection and explains the responsibilities for the designing, consenting and construction of the grid connection together with the necessary land and rights required for making the connection to the grid.

1.3 DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

1.3.1 This document uses the following specific terminology:

Project substation – the new substation to be constructed as part of the proposed development on land at Oaklands Farm;

Drakelow substation – the existing substation located at the former Drakelow Power Station which is operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission.

2 GRID CONNECTION

2.1 CONTEXT

2.1.1 The solar photovoltaic panel arrays within the Oaklands Farm Solar Park scheme would generate electricity which would be collected and directed to the Project Substation, to be constructed in the centre of the solar array area at Oaklands Farm.

2.1.2 The Proposed Development includes a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) which would be located adjacent to the Project Substation. The BESS would be used to store electricity generated by the solar photovoltaic arrays in order to then release that to the national electricity grid when appropriate. The BESS would also be capable of importing and storing electricity from the national grid, before then releasing that back to the grid at appropriate times. BESS facilities perform an important role in managing supply and demand across the national grid and improving grid resilience in performing that storage role.

2.1.3 The Project Substation would be connected to the national grid via an underground 132kV cable which would run northwards through land at Oakland Farm, passing under Rosliston Road before passing through land at Fairfield Farm and Park Farm and reaching Walton Road. The cable would also pass under a number of minor watercourses, through the use of trenching or directional drilling. The cable would be routed underneath Walton Road and into land at the National Grid Electricity Transmission Drakelow Substation. The cable would be routed underground through woodland adjacent to Drakelow before entering the substation itself, at which point it would be connected into the substation infrastructure and the national electricity grid.

2.1.4 The Proposed Development makes provision for various permanent and temporary tracks and construction laydown areas and compounds for the purpose of constructing the Project Substation within the Oaklands Farm Area and for the laying of the cable. To lay the cabling at Drakelow substation a new vehicular access would be constructed to the north of Walton Road to provide access into National Grid's "non-operational" land surrounding the Drakelow substation compound. This land consists of existing woodland. That access and associated track would be retained for the inspection and maintenance of the cable route during the lifetime of the development. National Grid's existing Drakelow substation compound vehicular access from Walton Road into the Drakelow substation would be used for the purposes of the work within the substation itself to connect the cable with the national grid. That same access would then be used as necessary for any maintenance and monitoring of the connection infrastructure within the Drakelow substation compound.

2.2 WORKS

2.2.1 There are a number of key works which relate specifically to the grid connection:

- Work No.3 – works in connection with a new 132/33kV Project Substation within Oaklands Farm, which provides for the construction of the substation itself;

- Work No.4 – works to trench and lay 132kV electrical cables connecting Work No.3 to Work No.5;

- Work No.5 – connection installation works to the existing transmission network substation;

- Work No.5A – construction, operational maintenance and decommissioning access for Work No.5;

- Work No.5B – access to National Grid operational compound land for the construction, maintenance and decommissioning of Work No.5.

2.2.2 The spatial location of those Works is shown on the Works Plan [Document 2.3].

2.2.3 Works 3, 4 and 5 therefore provide for the Project Substation within Oaklands Farm, the installation of cables between the Project Substation and Drakelow substation, and the connection of that cable into the existing electrical infrastructure within Drakelow substation.

2.2.4 There are further Works which are also relevant to the grid connection, including Works No.4A and 4C, which provide for the crossing of Rosliston Road and Walton Road respectively with electrical cabling. Work No.4B provides for the works needed to cross the watercourses present with electrical cabling.

2.2.5 Work No.6 provides for temporary construction and decommissioning access tracks and compounds across the site, which would include those used for the purpose of constructing the grid connection. Work No.5A relates to the provision of an access for construction and maintenance of the access needed to install the grid connection cable in the land adjacent to the Drakelow substation. Work No.5B specifically provides for use by the Applicant of National Grid's existing Drakelow substation access for installation and maintenance of connection infrastructure within the Drakelow substation compound.

2.3 GRID CONNECTION AGREEMENT AND GENERATION LICENCE

2.3.1 The solar photovoltaic arrays and the BESS within the Proposed Development would supply electricity to National Grid, who are the electricity transmission system operator responsible for supplying electricity to Great Britain.

2.3.2 The Proposed Development would connect to the electricity system via the Drakelow Substation which is infrastructure operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission ("NGET") on land which is owned by E.ON UK PLC.

2.3.3 Due to the generating capacity of the Proposed Development being greater than 50MW, the Applicant made an application to the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets authority (OFGEM) on the 11th July 2022 for an electricity generation

licence under the Electricity Act 1989. Notice was given on the 26th September 2022 that the electricity generation licence had been granted.

2.3.4 The Applicant has separately secured a grid connection agreement with NGET to import and export the full electrical capacity of the Proposed Development.

2.3.5 The Applicant therefore confirms that the electricity generated by Work No.1 (the solar photovoltaic panel arrays) and the electricity imported and exported by Work No.2 (the BESS) would be transmitted to the National Grid, via the Drakelow Substation which is owned and operated by NGET.

3 DESIGN, CONSENT AND CONSTRUCTION RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR LTD

3.1.1 The Applicant, and those contractors it appoints to construct the Proposed Development, would be responsible for designing, building and commissioning each element of the grid connection in accordance with National Grid specification, as follows:

- The Project Substation (Work No.3);
- The cable connection between the Project Substation and the Drakelow Substation (Works No.4, 4A, 4B and 4C)
- The connection point of the cable to the Drakelow substation infrastructure (Work No.5)
- Associated works including construction laydown compounds and access (Works No. 5A and 6).

3.1.2 The Applicant would also have the responsibility of decommissioning the same infrastructure identified above at the end of the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development.

3.1.3 The construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, including the grid connection, would be undertaken in accordance with a Construction Environmental Management Plan, Operational Environmental Management Plan and Decommissioning Management Plan respectively. The application includes an Outline CEMP, OEMP and DEMP (Appendices 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 of the Environmental Statement, Document 6.1) Requirements 5, 9 and 20 of the draft Development Consent Order then require full versions of those Management Plans to be provided, in accordance with the Outline Management Plans, prior to works commencing.

3.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL GRID

3.2.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) will be responsible for facilitating the physical connection to the Drakelow substation via the infrastructure present, which is sufficient to allow for that connection to be made without any expansion of the Drakelow substation. NGET are expected to be responsible for some elements of works within the Drakelow substation to make that connection.

3.3 ACQUISITION OF LAND RIGHTS

3.3.1 The 132/33kV Project Substation sits within Oaklands Farm. The underground 132kV cabling will travel north through Oaklands Farm, will cross Rosliston Road

via horizontal directional drilling or trenching, then pass through Fairfield Farm and Park Farm, before crossing Walton Road with trenching or directional drilling to enter into the land surrounding Drakelow Substation. Watercourse crossings will be made by trenching or directional drilling.

3.3.2 The Statement of Reasons [Document 4.1] provides detail of the engagement of the Applicant with those parties who would be affected by the Proposed Development. As detailed in that Statement the Applicant has sought to secure voluntary option agreements with landowners for all land required to install, maintain and decommission of the cable route, including those parties at Oaklands Farm, Fairfield Farm, Park Farm and National Grid for the land at the Drakelow Substation. As part of the Development Consent Order, the Applicant is seeking compulsory acquisition of all land required to deliver the Proposed Development to the extent that those rights would be necessary for the installation, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development.

3.4 CONSENT FOR THE GRID CONNECTION WORKS

3.4.1 The Grid Connection forms part of the Proposed Development for which development consent is being sought via the DCO Application, and is reflected in the various works identified in Section 2.2 of this Statement.

3.4.2 As such if the DCO is granted on the same terms as set out in the draft DCO [Document 3.1], then development consent for all aspects of the electrical connection will have been secured.

4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

4.1.1 Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd is required to submit a statement pursuant to Regulation 6(1)(a)(i) of the APFP Regulations, stating who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the electricity grid.

4.1.2 This Grid Connection Statement confirms the following:

- The Applicant has secured an electricity generation licence for the proposed scheme under the Electricity Act 1989;
- The Applicant has secured a grid connection agreement from NGET to connect the Oaklands Farm Solar Park project to the national electricity grid at Drakelow substation;
- The connection will be made from the Project Substation within the solar park site to the NGET Drakelow Substation via a new underground 132kV cable to be installed by the Applicant;
- The Applicant will be responsible for designing and building the Project Substation (Work No.3), the grid connection cable (Work No.4) and the connection to the Drakelow substation (Work No.5). NGET will conduct some works within the Drakelow substation compound to facilitate connection to the existing electrical infrastructure;
- The Applicant has, or will have, the ability to obtain the necessary land and rights in order to provide for the grid connection between the Proposed Development and the Drakelow substation electrical infrastructure;
- Consent for the grid connection would be provided through the Development Consent Order, as the grid connection forms part of the Proposed Development for which Development Consent is being sought.