

**OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR PARK**

**RESPONSE TO DEADLINE 1: WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS**

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
(IP REF NO 20048197)**

**AUGUST 2024**

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 In response to Deadline 1, this document sets out Leicestershire County Council's (LCC) Written Representation on an application by Oaklands Solar Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for Oaklands Farm Solar Park.
- 1.2 LCC in its statutory capacity as Local Highway Authority has reviewed the submissions supporting the DCO application and raises a number of concerns as set out below.

## **2 Summary of Concerns – Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) Movements**

- 2.1 The submitted Environmental Statement (APP-155) states that AIL are proposed to use the Leicestershire Local Road Network (LRN) (A444) between the M42 and Acresford.
- 2.2 Whilst these AIL movements are predicted to be limited in number to two (APP-155, paragraph 10.154), and are proposed to be Police escorted (APP-155, paragraph 10.156), the submission identifies that surface protection, culvert reinforcement, and temporary removal of street furniture will be required at locations along the route (APP-155, paragraph 10.157).
- 2.3 However, the extent and location of such work within the public highway in Leicestershire is unclear. The supporting swept path analysis (APP-154) of which drawing numbers DWG/3299/001 - DWG/3299/005 are relevant to Leicestershire, is labelled as indicative and includes a drawing note which simply states, '*specific vehicle configuration to be checked by specialist haulage company*'. Furthermore, the drawings do not appear to be based on a topographical survey and therefore don't identify street furniture etc; neither do they indicate locations of structures e.g., culverts.

- 2.4 LCC therefore request that the Applicant engages at the earliest opportunity within this Examination process and confirms the vehicle specification, the associated highway impacts, and the necessary mitigation measures on the LRN in Leicestershire.
- 2.5 The Applicant should be aware that the A444 is a Diversion Route for Unplanned Events (DRUE) on the Strategic Road Network (M42) and consideration should be given when planning and programming abnormal load movements.
- 2.6 LCC seeks protection of its assets and recovery of any associated costs through provisions within the Development Consent Order. The draft as submitted (APP-016) does not appear to contain the necessary provisions. Indeed, no reference is made to Leicestershire.

### **3 Conclusion**

- 3.1 LCC has concerns about the potential impact of AIL movements associated with this development proposal on the LRN within Leicestershire. The information submitted in support of the application is lacking in this regard.
- 3.2 LCC note from our attendance at the Preliminary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 that there was a commitment from the Applicant to engaging with Interested Parties, and LCC would welcome engagement as soon as possible to address these concerns.