

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

FAO: Ms Naoual Margoum, Case Manager

Date
31st October 2024

Dear Ms Margoum

EN010122 – APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER FOR OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR PARK, SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED) – DEADLINE 5 SUBMISSION BY THE APPLICANT

13.1 – THE APPLICANT’S COVERING LETTER AT DEADLINE 5

I write to provide the submissions by the Applicant at Deadline 5 of the Examination, as requested in the Examining Authority’s (ExA’s) Rule 8 letter of the 16th July 2024.

In summary, the submissions by the Applicant at Deadline 5, which are detailed fully in this Cover Letter, comprise comments by the Applicant on Responses by Interested Parties (IPs) to the ExQ2 and submissions by IPs at Deadline 4, summaries of oral submissions made by the Applicant at ISH1, OFH2 and CAH1 on the 22nd and 23rd October 2024 and the Applicant’s updates which are as detailed in Appendix D of the Rule 6 letter of the 4th June 2024, together with amended versions of other application documents where necessary.

The Applicant notes that during OFH2 on the 22nd October 2024 the ExA asked the IPs who participated in tOFH2 to provide at Deadline 5 a written summary of their submissions at that Hearing. The Applicant confirms that it will review those submissions carefully once those are published, following Deadline 5, and will respond to those where necessary and appropriate at Deadline 6.

This submission is accompanied by a Deadline 5 version of the Application Guide which lists the new documents submitted at this deadline together with identifying any amended documents.

Deadline 5 – New Documents

The following new documents are submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 5:

- 13.1 – The Applicant’s Deadline 5 Covering Letter (this document);
- 13.2 – The Applicant’s Comments on Responses by IPs to the ExQ2;
- 13.3 – The Applicant’s Comments on submissions by IPs at Deadline 4;
- 13.4 – The Applicant’s Written Summary of Oral Submissions at ISH1;
- 13.5 – The Applicant’s Written Summary of Oral Submissions at OFH2;
- 13.6 – The Applicant’s Written Summary of Oral Submissions at CAH1;
- 13.7 – Indicative Cable Trench Plan;
- 13.8 – Habitat Constraints Plans;
- 13.9 – Response by the Applicant on Ecology Matters;
- 13.10 – Natural England Letter of No Impediment - Badger Licence;

- 13.11 – Response by the Applicant on Landscape and Visual Matters;
- 13.12 – Response by the Applicant on Glint and Glare Matters;
- 13.13 – Response by the Applicant on Active and Sustainable Travel Enhancements Matters;
- 13.14 - Additional Land Classification Survey at Park Farm.

Deadline 5 – Applicant’s Updates

Further versions of the following documents have been submitted and form the Applicant’s updates at Deadline 5:

- 3.3 – Consents and Agreements Position Statement;
- 3.4 – Schedule of Draft Development Order Changes Report;
- 3.5 – Schedule of Progress – Statutory Undertakers and Protective Provisions;
- 4.5 – Schedule of Progress on land rights in respect of Affected Persons; and
- 8.0 – SoCG – Status Document

Deadline 5 – Amended Documents

Amended versions of the following documents are submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 5:

- 1.4 – The Deadline 5 Application Guide;
- 3.1 – draft DCO;
- 3.2 – Explanatory Memorandum;
- 6.1 – ES Chapter 4 – Project Description;
- 6.1 – ES Appendix 4.3 – Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan;
- 6.1 – ES Appendix 4.4 – Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan;
- 6.1 – ES Appendix 4.5 – Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan;
- 6.1 – ES Appendix 8.1 – Flood Risk Assessment;
- 7.2 – Design Statement.

For each of the amended documents a clean version and a version showing tracked changes made at this Deadline has been supplied so that changes can be easily identified.

The dDCO and Explanatory Memorandum have been amended to reflect further changes to the dDCO arising from the Applicant’s submissions at Deadline 5.

The Statement of Reasons and Book of Reference have not been provided at Deadline 5 as there are no changes to those documents since Deadline 4.

Amendments have then been made to parts of the ES, particularly the various management plans, primarily to reflect the Applicant’s submissions at the October Hearings and ongoing discussions with different statutory bodies.

Further work being progressed by the Applicant

The Applicant confirms that immediately following Deadline 5 it will be continuing to progress the following work:

- **Arboricultural Survey Report and amended ES Chapter 6** – the Applicant is finalising its work to provide more clarity on the approach to the woodland at Drakelow and to respond to the ExA’s ISH1 Action Point 5 b) and will provide those submissions at Deadline 6;
- **EIA Cumulative Developments** – the Applicant continues to expect to be able to provide an updated summary of the position in respect of EIA cumulative developments prior to Deadline 6;

- **Flood Risk Sequential Test** – the Applicant is progressing work regarding the Sequential Test and will provide an update at Deadline 6;
- **SDDC/DCC SoCG** – the Applicant is engaged in ongoing discussions with SDDC and DCC and expects to be able to provide a further version of the SoCG with those parties ahead of Deadline 6;
- **Natural England SoCG** – the Applicant continues to seek engagement with Natural England following their submission prior to the October hearings and will be providing NE with a revised SoCG shortly after Deadline 5. The Applicant will provide an update on those discussions at Deadline 6;
- **Historic England SoCG** – the Applicant is engaged in further discussions with Historic England following ISH1. The Applicant anticipates being able to provide a further version of the SoCG with HE at Deadline 6;
- **Outline CTMP** – the Applicant has continued to have positive ongoing dialogue with Staffordshire County Council, which it expects will result in further amendments to the OCTMP, with those discussions continuing at Deadline 5. The Applicant will therefore continue those discussions and expects to be in a position to submit a consolidated final draft of the OCTMP at Deadline 6;
- **Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan** – the Applicant has amended the dDCO at Deadline 5 to refer to such a plan and is producing that document for submission at Deadline 6.

The Applicant will progress the above as quickly as it can and will take the opportunity to make submissions to the Planning Inspectorate on these matters ahead of Deadline 6 where that is possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding this submission at Deadline 5.

Yours sincerely



Ashley McInnes

Oaklands Farm Solar Limited