



OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR PARK

Applicant: Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd

The Applicant's Comments on the Report on The Implications for
European Sites

December 2024

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1.1 COMMENTS BY THE APPLICANT ON THE RIES

- 1.1.1 Oaklands Farm Solar Limited (“the Applicant”) is applying to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“SoS”) 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 (“the Proposed Development” or “the Application”).
- 1.1.2 On the 12th November 2024 the ExA published his Report on the Implications on European Sites (“the RIES”) [PD-013], for comment by the Applicant and Interested Parties at Deadline 7.
- 1.1.3 The Applicant has reviewed the RIES and does not have any substantive comments.
- 1.1.4 As recorded in the RIES, Natural England originally expressed concerns about a potential pathway for chemicals and sediment between the Proposed Development and the River Mease SAC catchment. During the course of the Examination the Applicant updated the OCEMP [REP6-018] to confirm the type of chemicals to be used to clean the solar panels, which would be similar to a household detergent. The Applicant has also committed within the OCEMP and OLEMP [REP4-040] to seeding the area of the Proposed Development within the River Mease SAC catchment as soon as practically possible, to minimise the potential for any sediment run off.
- 1.1.5 The draft SoCG between the Applicant and Natural England which was submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 6 [REP6-040] records Natural England’s agreement of those mitigation measures, and that position has been referenced in the RIES. As noted in the RIES the Applicant is continued to advance discussions with NE in order to be able to submit a final signed SoCG at Deadline 8.
- 1.1.6 The RIES references otter, which are a qualifying feature of the SAC but not a primary reason for site selection. The Applicant confirmed at Deadline 6 in its response to ExQ3 – 7.7 that Section 2.8.11 of the OCEMP [REP6-018] was amended at Deadline 6 to provide for an updated otter survey to be undertaken prior to the start of site preparation works, in order to allow for a subsequent update of mitigation measures within a species protection plan. The Applicant is advancing discussions with SDDC regarding a final version of a SoCG which would be submitted no later than Deadline 8 and which would cover ecological matters.
- 1.1.7 Based on the context above the Applicant concurs with the conclusions drawn by the ExA in the RIES.