

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROVISION FOR POWERS OF COMPULSORY ACQUISITION IN RESPECT OF ADDITIONAL LAND

COTTAM SOLAR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 7 AND 8 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (COMPULSORY ACQUISITION) REGULATIONS 2010 AND REGULATION 20 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

An application for a development consent order ("the DCO application") was submitted by Cottam Solar Project Limited to the Secretary of State c/o the Planning Inspectorate on 12 January 2023 pursuant to section 14(1) (a) and 15(1) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 and was accepted for examination on 9 February 2023. The reference number applied to the DCO application is EN010133.

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero has accepted a request by Cottam Solar Project Limited of Unit 25.7, Coda Studios, 189 Munster Road, London, SW6 6AW ("the Applicant") to make changes to the DCO application ("the Change Application") to include additional land within the Cottam Solar Project ("the Scheme"). The Change Application includes new environmental information to that contained within the Environmental Statement submitted with the DCO application. The Applicant is treating this environmental information as if it were "further information" as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

On 8 December 2023 the Applicant submitted the Change Application to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate which included a request for the DCO application to include authorisation for the compulsory acquisition of interests in and rights over additional land for the Scheme ("the Proposed Provision"). The Change Application was accepted for Examination on 18 December 2023.

SUMMARY OF THE SCHEME

The Scheme will be partly situated in the administrative boundary of West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council and the administrative boundary of Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The Scheme comprises a number of land parcels described as Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b which accommodate ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) generating stations (incorporating the solar arrays); grid connection infrastructure and energy storage; cable route corridors; accesses and environmental mitigation and enhancement measures. Cottam 1 is centred on the village of Coates. Cottam 2 sits to the north of Cottam 1 and is located to the east of the village of Corringham. Cottam 3 is located to the north of Cottam 2 and is further divided into Cottam 3a and 3b. Cottam 3a is located to the east of the village of Blyton. Cottam 3b is located to the east of Pilham. Electricity cables will run between each of these sites and then to a grid connection at a substation at Cottam Power Station.

Development consent is required to the extent that development is or forms part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP") pursuant to sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008, as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity greater than 50 MW. It is for this reason that the Scheme falls within the remit of the Secretary of State's decision-making powers.

The DCO, if granted, would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily. The DCO would also authorise alterations to the layout of streets, the construction of accesses to the Scheme, the temporary stopping up or management of the public rights of way, street works, removal of hedgerows and the application and disapplication of legislation.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES

Proposed Provision

The Proposed Provision seeks powers of compulsory acquisition and temporary use in respect of additional land at the following locations ("the Additional Land"):

Plots	Description of Land
14-284a	33496 square metres of agricultural land (east of Stone Pit Lane)
14-284b	2196 square metres of hard standing (east of Stone Pit Lane)
14-284c	2631 square metres of public road and verges (Stone Pit Lane)
14-284d	7780 square metres of agricultural land (west of Stone Pit Lane)
14-284e	7339 square metres of agricultural land, hard standing and access track (south of Cot Garth Lane)
14-284f	21 square metres of public road (Cot Garth Lane)
14-284g	1862 square metres of public road and verges (Cot Garth Lane)
14-289	1171 square metres of agricultural land, hedgerow and access track (East Farm, east of Normanby Road, B1241)
14-291	15 square metres of hedgerow and access track (East Farm, east of Normanby Road, B1241)
14-292a	18 square metres of public road (Normanby Road, B1241)
14-292b	1456 square metres of public road and verges (Normanby Road, B1241)
14-292c	1195 square metres of public road and verges (Normanby Road, B1241)
14-292d	2947 square metres of public road and verges (Normanby Road, B1241)
14-292f	29148 square metres of agricultural land and hedgerows (west of Normanby Road, B1241)
14-292g	262 square metres of watercourse and track (west of Normanby Road, B1241)
14-292h	14882 square metres of agricultural land and hedgerows (west of Normanby Road, B1241)
14-293a	26 square metres of verge (west of Normanby Road, B1241)
17-334a	352 square metres of public road, verges (High Street) and footpath (Mton/68/1)
19-394	6290 square metres of public byways open to all traffic (117/13/2 and 117/13/3), public footpaths (117/10/1, 117/10/2) and private road and verges (Torksey Ferry Road)
19-395	24059 square metres of agricultural land (south of Torksey Ferry Road)
19-396	605 square metres of footpath (117/20/1) and private road (Nightleys Road)
19-397	9552 square metres of agricultural land and pylon (south of Torksey Ferry Road)
19-398	9773 square metres of agricultural land (south of Torksey Ferry Road)
19-399	798 square metres of public byway (117/12/1) and private road and verges (Shortleys Road)
19-400	24845 square metres of agricultural land (south of Torksey Ferry Road)
19-401	8483 square metres of public byway (117/13/4) private road, drain and verges (Torksey Ferry Road)
19-402	24172 square metres of agricultural land, drain and access track (north of Torksey Ferry Road)
20-403	2368 square metres of public byway (117/13/4) private road and verges (Torksey Ferry Road)

A map showing the location of the Additional Land can be found in Appendix A: Plan of Proposed Changes of the Change Request Application available here:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010133/documents>
On Sheets 14, 15, 17, 19, 20 of the Land Plans available here:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010133/documents>

STATEMENT OF REASONS RELATING TO THE ADDITIONAL LAND

In accordance with good practice as well as the requirements of compulsory acquisition guidance, the Applicant has continued to engage with interested parties, including affected landowners and stakeholders, since the submission of the DCO Application.

The Additional Land included within the Proposed Provision is required as a consequence of ongoing consultation with landowners and statutory undertakers. The Additional Land is required to:

- Change 1: Extend the Order Limits immediately to the south of Torksey Ferry Road, for works to construct and operate the 400kV cable and associated development in consultation with the landowner of Cottam Power Station.
- Change 2: Extend the Order limits to the east and west along Torksey Ferry Road to accommodate access during construction and (for some parts of the road) during operation in consultation with the landowner of Cottam Power Station.
- Change 3: Extend the Order Limits along A156 High Street to increase the size of the visibility splay for access AC108 and coordinate with the access points for the Gate Burton Energy Park.
- Change 4: Change to the Order limits to enable Work No. 6 to run to the south of West Farm, Normanby by Stow in response to comments from landowners.
- Change 5: Extend the Order Limits to the east of Stone Pit Lane to allow for flexibility in the location of the construction access for the transportation of abnormal loads to avoid an underground storage tank.

Further details are provided in the Change Request Application (which is available at the link above).

An updated Statement of Reasons forms part of the application for Additional Land and can be accessed via the link below.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010133/documents>

STATEMENT OF FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND

The details of the Funding Statement submitted as part of the DCO Application remain relevant in relation to the Proposed Provision and the acquisition of interests in and rights over the Additional Land.

The Funding Statement sets out how the compulsory acquisition of rights over land will be funded and the same mechanisms for funding will apply to the compulsory acquisition of rights over the Additional Land.

An updated Funding Statement forms part of the Change Application and can be accessed via the link below: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010133/documents>

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

The Applicant has reviewed and appraised each of the proposed changes in the context of the likely significant environmental effects previously reported in the Environmental Statement submitted in support of the DCO application, to ascertain whether any of the proposed changes, either individually or cumulatively, would give rise to any new or different likely significant effects, beyond those previously reported in the Environmental Statement. The outcome of this work for each proposed change is summarised in the Supporting Environmental Information Report: Change Application [CR1/C9.3].

In respect of Change 5, new or different likely significant effects, beyond those previously reported in the Environmental Statement, were identified at paragraphs 3.4.18 to 3.4.21 inclusive and paragraph 3.4.27 of the Supporting Environmental Information Report: Change Application [CR1/C9.3] and can be accessed via the link below:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010133/documents>

COPIES OF THE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Copies of the application for the Change Application together with details of the Proposed Provision including the following documents can be found online and free of charge until at least 28 January 2024 under the "documents" tab on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/cottam-solar-project/?ipcsection=docs>

- The application for Additional Land (Change Request Application) which includes a map showing the location of the Additional Land at Appendix A.
- Supporting Environmental Information Report – including further environmental information in respect of Change 5.
- Statement of Reasons which includes revisions to make provision for the Additional Land.
- Book of Reference identifying affected land interests in the Additional Land.
- Revised plans to make provision for the Additional Land including revised Land Plans.
- A copy of the Draft DCO which includes revisions to make provision for the Additional Land.

An electronic or paper copy of the Documents listed above can be requested by emailing info@cottamsolar.co.uk, writing to FREEPOST CAWB SOLAR PROJECTS (free of charge; no need for a stamp) or calling 0800 169 1848 (free of charge). Subject to reasonable requests, these documents will be provided free of charge.

The full suite of DCO Application documents can be made available in hard copy format on request at a cost of £5,000 per copy. For any bespoke document requests, please contact the Applicant using the contact details at the bottom of the notice, and the cost will be provided. Copies of individual documents are also available on request and a reasonable copying charge may apply.

MAKING REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE CHANGE APPLICATION

Any representations (giving notice of any interest in or objection to the Proposed Provision or any representations relating to the further environmental information relevant to Change 5) must be made on the Planning Inspectorate's Registration and Relevant Representation Form which can be accessed and completed online by following the instructions at the relevant link on the Planning Inspectorate's webpage: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/cottam-solar-project>

If you require guidance on, or other methods of, obtaining and completing a Planning Inspectorate Registration and Relevant Representation Form, please contact the Case Team at CottamSolarProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or by calling 0303 444 5000. The Planning Inspectorate reference for the DCO application (EN010133) should be quoted in any correspondence.

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination, provides further guidance on how to register and make a relevant representation and can be accessed via the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-2-how-to-register-to-participate-in-an-examination/>

Please note that representations must be received by the Planning Inspectorate by 11.59pm on 28 January 2024.

It should be noted that personal data, such as the name of persons over 18, will be published alongside a representation. If you do not wish personal data to be made publicly available, you should state why when submitting the representation. If necessary, the Planning Inspectorate will publish the representations with your name and personal data redacted. Please note that all representations submitted will be published on the Planning Inspectorate's website and will be subject to their privacy policy, found online here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice/customer-privacy-notice>.