

Cottam Solar Project - Change Application

Anglian Water Consultation Response – Relevant Representation

Anglian Water Services (AWS) is the statutory water and wastewater services provider for the area in Lincolnshire where the project is located. AWS agreed a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with the applicant in October 2023. AWS understands based on the 18 December 2023 consultation that the Scheme now requires additional land and that these five changes have been accepted as changes to the Order limits.

AWS recognises that the changes are merited in principle so that the works can be better aligned to the preferences of landowners, to ensure access arrangements meet necessary safety specifications and to minimise the risk to existing infrastructure.

AWS land agent has reviewed our land holdings and above ground assets and advised that AWS has no above ground assets, land ownership or formal easements which are within the additional areas of land. AWS's land agent notes that some assets are in close proximity. As summarised in the SoCG, AWS considers that our assets are appropriately protected by the Protective Provisions within the draft DCO Order. These are principally contained within Schedule 16, Part 7 and include stand-off distances to protected AWS apparatus including buried pipelines.

AWS notes that the changes and works include locations where AWS buried assets will be crossed over or under including, for example, mains pipes in Stow Park Road in Marton parish (Change Request Land Plan Sheet 16 of 20). We therefore request that the applicant agree the following detailed steps to ensure that water and water recycling assets are not damaged as a result of the project works. AWS requires that for mobilisation, pre construction and construction works:

1. Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm mains depth prior to works commencing
2. Safe dig techniques to be followed for the trial holes and main works (after 500mm depth hand dig is required until the AWS main has been located)
3. The use of excavators without teeth on the buckets
4. No more than 2m of the mains to be exposed
5. If a joint is found, AWS network teams may need to call in additional engineering advice to attend to review the need for support
6. Network Team representative to be onsite for the duration of the excavation works at crossing points or if works are proposed within standoff distances

Our standard approach on standoff distances requires that these are as a minimum starting point:

- (a) 4 metres both sides of the pipe where the diameter of the pipe is less than 250 millimetres;
- (b) 5 metres both sides of the pipe where the diameter of the pipe is between 250 and 400 millimetres, and
- (c) where the diameter of the pipe exceeds 400 millimetres for the Cottam Project AWS proposes a 7 metres stand off distance both sides of the pipe

Approved by Darl Sweetland, Spatial Planning Manager, AWS.