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Mr John Wheadon
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

16th August 2024

Dear Mr Wheadon,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Cottam Solar Project Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Cottam Solar Project (“the Proposed Development”).

Thank for providing West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) the opportunity to comment on the amended application documents submitted in connection with the above application.

Our response to the key issues that affect WLDC are set out on turn below.

Thorpe in Fallows Scheduled Monument

The removal of solar panels and associated infrastructure from the land between the Thorpe in Fallows Scheduled Monument (1016978) and the historic east-west boundary is welcomed by WLDC. The removal of the panels from this area addresses the concerns previously expressed during the examination.

We note, however, that the relevant works plans (Sheet 12 (Rev D) and Sheet 13 (Rev D)) (Application reference C2.4_D) authorises Work Numbers 1A(iv) and 7A.

Work Number 1A(iv) relates to ‘electrical and communications cabling’ connecting conversion units to Work Number 4A the ‘substation’. Whilst it is not clear as to why such works would be required within the remaining area, our interpretation is that such works would be below ground and mitigation can be managed (e.g. through the Landscape Environmental Management Plan (LEMP)).

Work Number 7A relates to a range of development that could readily require mitigation to ensure the impacts of the scheme are acceptable (e.g. boundary treatments, lighting, access tracks, earthworks, acoustic barriers and construction laydown areas). WLDC remains unclear as to why such works are required in the area and why they remain authorised in the draft Development Consent Order (DCO). WLDC recognises the amendments made to the outline LEMP (Rev F) and Figure 8.16.5 ‘Cottam South (Sheet 2)’ which shows the proposed use of the land in question. On the basis that the above

Works will be retained, WLDC would expect the area to be avoided by development as far as possible and would seek control through the LEMP when approving subsequent details.

Discharge of Requirements

WLDC maintains its position and reasoning expressed during the examination of the Application.

The key concern with regard to approval timescales for WLDC is the likely cumulative demands that will require the consideration and determination of DCO 'requirements'. WLDC will be responsible for the approval of the majority of 'requirements' for each of the DCOs, which will relate to the assessment of technical information, relating to mitigation for EIA development, and that will require consultation with external stakeholders.

It is for the above reasons that we maintain our request for a 16 week approval period to enable a reasonable timescale to assess and determine significant and complex information to ensure impacts are controlled in environmental and public interests.

Yours sincerely,

Russell Clarkson
Development Management Team Manager
On behalf of West Lindsey District Council

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