

Notice of Acceptance of an application for a Development Consent Order by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero) under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008

Byers Gill Solar Development Consent Order

Regulations 8 and 9 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Regulation 16 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

1 NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE

- 1.1 Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“**the Secretary of State**”) has accepted an application by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited (registered company number: 14539260) of Windmill Hill Business Park, Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, England, SN5 6PB (“**the Applicant**”) for a Development Consent Order (“**DCO**”) under the Planning Act 2008 (“**the Application**”). The Application (Reference No. EN010139) was submitted by the Applicant to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 9 February 2024 and was accepted on 8 March 2024.

2 SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1 Byers Gill Solar consists of a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW Alternating Current (AC) of electricity with co-located battery energy storage system (“**BESS**”), located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England (the “**Proposed Development**”). The Proposed Development is approximately 490ha and comprises six Panel Areas (groups of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels) (Panel Areas A-F). The solar PV panels would be mounted on a metal frame in groups, fixed in position with panels facing south. An on-site substation would be located within Panel Area C.
- 2.2 The Proposed Development includes up to 32.5km of 33kilovolt (kV) underground cabling between the Panel Areas and the on-site substation, as well as approximately 10km of 132kV underground cable to connect the Proposed Development to the grid connection at the existing Norton substation (located to the north-west of Stockton-on-Tees). This cabling could be placed either within roads or through off-road options.
- 2.3 A range of supporting infrastructure is required for the Proposed Development, comprising: BESS; transformers and inverters; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measures such as fencing, CCTV and lighting.
- 2.4 As the Proposed Development would be able to generate over 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity, it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) which requires consent through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. This is an application made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and decided by the Secretary of State (SoS) in accordance with the Planning Act 2008.
- 2.5 A map showing the location of the Proposed Development can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website at the following address:
- <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139/documents>
- 2.6 The DCO, if granted, would enable the acquisition new rights over land and contain powers for the possession and use of land on a temporary basis (to facilitate the construction of the Proposed Development). The DCO would also authorise the construction of temporary and permanent accesses

to the Proposed Development, the temporary stopping up or diversion of public rights of way, street works and highway works, and the application and disapplication of certain legislation.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3.1 Due to its nature and size, the Proposed Development is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An EIA has therefore been undertaken for the Proposed Development and the Application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement which reports on the EIA.

4 APPLICATION FORM AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS

4.1 The Application form and its accompanying documents (including accompanying plans, maps, the Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary, and the draft Order) (together, the “**Application Documents**”) can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on the Byers Gill Solar page of the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website under the Documents tab:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139/documents>

4.2 The Application Documents can also be viewed and downloaded free of charge on the Applicant’s project website:

<https://byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/documents/>

4.3 The Application Documents will be available on both above websites until at least the end of the Relevant Representation Period at 23:59 on 17 May 2024.

4.4 An electronic copy of the Application Documents can also be provided free of charge on a USB memory stick, upon request. To request a USB, please contact the Applicant using the contact details provided below.

4.5 All Application Documents are available for public inspection at the following places and times:

Venue	Opening hours*
Darlington Library, Crown St, Darlington DL1 1ND	Monday 9 am – 6 pm Tuesday 9 am – 6 pm Wednesday 9 am – 5 pm Thursday 10 am – 6 pm Friday 9 am – 5 pm Saturday 9 am – 4 pm Sunday - Closed
Norton Library, 87 High Street, Norton, TS20 1AE	Monday 9:30 am – 5 pm Tuesday 9:30 am – 5 pm Wednesday 9:30 am – 7 pm Thursday 9:30 am – 5 pm Friday 9:30 am – 7 pm Saturday 9:30 am – 1 pm Sunday - Closed

*Please note that opening hours are subject to change. Please check and confirm opening times with the venue if planning a visit.

4.6 The full suite of Application documents can be made available in hard copy format on request to the Applicant at a cost of £2,194.00 per copy. For any bespoke or hard copy document requests (for example in large print, audio or braille formats) please contact the Applicant using the contact details

below, who will provide the cost. Copies of individual documents are also available on request and a reasonable copying charge may apply.

Applicant Contact Details

- 4.7 If you have any questions about the Application Documents or wish to request copies on a USB, you can email enquiries@byersgillsolar.com, write to FREEPOST Byers Gill Solar, or contact the Applicant by telephone on 0800 197 0118.

5 MAKING REPRESENTATIONS

- 5.1 Any person may submit a Relevant Representation on the Application during the representation period, which must be made directly to the Planning Inspectorate. By submitting a Relevant Representation you will become an Interested Person, which gives you the right to make further representations about the Application during the examination process.

- 5.2 Any Relevant Representations (giving notice of any interest in, or objection to, the Application) must be made on the [Planning Inspectorate's Registration and Relevant Representation Form](#). The Registration and Relevant Representation Form can be accessed and completed online from 21 March 2024 on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139>

- 5.3 Forms completed in hard-copy should be sent to The Planning Inspectorate, National Infrastructure Directorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. The Planning Inspectorate reference for the Application (EN010139) should be quoted in any correspondence.

- 5.4 **Please note that Relevant Representations must be received by the Planning Inspectorate by 23:59 on 17 May 2024.**

- 5.5 If you require guidance, or other methods to obtain and complete a copy of the Planning Inspectorate's Registration and Relevant Representation Form, please contact the Planning Inspectorate by telephone 0303 444 5000 or email byersgillsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

- 5.6 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/>

- 5.7 Relevant Representations will be made public and will be subject to the Planning Inspectorate's privacy policy at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notices>