

The Secretary of State  
c/o Eleanor Church  
Case Manager

The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Directorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Sent via email to: [eleanor.church@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:eleanor.church@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) (cc: [tillbridgesolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:tillbridgesolarproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk))

Date: **Wednesday 24 May 2023**

Your Reference: **EN010142**

Dear Eleanor,

**Tillbridge Solar – notification under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended)**

The Secretary of State is hereby notified in accordance with section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”), of Tillbridge Solar Ltd’s intention to submit a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) application to the Secretary of State to authorise the construction, operation (which includes maintenance) and decommissioning of the proposed Tillbridge Solar Farm Project (the “Scheme”). Tillbridge Solar Ltd anticipates making this application towards the end of 2023.

This will follow a period of statutory pre-application consultation carried out pursuant to section 42, section 47 and section 48 of the Act, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the “APFP Regulations”), and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “EIA Regulations”). The consultation will commence on **30 May 2023** and last until **23:59** on **11 July 2023**.

**Summary of the Scheme**

The “Scheme is a new solar farm proposal being brought forward by Tillbridge Solar Ltd (company number 12887594) (the “Applicant”), a joint venture partnership between Tribus Clean Energy and Canadian Solar. The Scheme comprises two distinct sections, which are “the Principal Site” and “the Cable Route Corridor” (these are explained in more detail below).

The Scheme is proposed to be located approximately five kilometres to the east of Gainsborough and approximately 13 kilometres to the north of Lincoln. The new solar farm is to be located to the south of Harpswell Lane (A631), to the west of Middle Street (B1398) and largely to the north of Kexby Road and to the east of Springthorpe. This will cover an area of approximately 1,400ha and is located entirely within the administrative area of West Lindsey District Council. The solar farm will

connect to the national grid via underground cables (the Cable Route Corridor) connecting to the National Grid Cottam Substation located approximately 16 kilometres to the south-west of the Principal Site.

The Scheme comprises a generating station of above 50 megawatts and therefore qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) the Act . In accordance with the Act, we are required to make an application for a DCO to get the consent we need to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Scheme.

The DCO application (the Application) will be made by the Applicant to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the Secretary of State) via the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who will appoint an Examining Authority to examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. After examination, the Examining Authority will make its recommendation on the Application to the Secretary of State, who will make the final decision on whether or not to make a DCO for the Scheme. The Applicant intends to submit the Application towards the end of 2023.

The Scheme comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panel arrays to generate electricity, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and infrastructure to export and import electricity to the national electricity transmission network.

The BESS is associated development to ensure that energy can be stored when it is generated and not demanded. The BESS will have a direct relationship with the solar PV panels and it will support the operation of this by storing electricity produced during times of peak capacity until it needs to be released. Details of design of the BESS elements, including their power and energy ratings, and their dimensions and appearance, are currently in development.

Supporting electrical infrastructure on the Principal Site will include up to two substations, operating at a 400 kilovolt (kV)/33kV voltage. Substations will consist of infrastructure such as transformers and switchgear and equipment to help facilitate the export/import of electricity from/to the Principal Site to/from the national grid. A 400 kilovolt (kV) underground cable circuit will be required within the Principal Site to interconnect the two substations. A security fence will enclose the PV panel areas of the Principal Site and pole mounted CCTV systems are also likely to be deployed around the perimeter of the operational areas of the Scheme.

The Principal Site will have four points of access, three located along the A631 Harpswell Lane and one located on the B1398 Middle Street. A series of internal access tracks are also proposed within the Principal Site to facilitate construction and the operation of the Scheme, including the use of existing farm tracks and upgrading of surfaces as required.

An indicative site layout plan has been produced to provide an initial indication of the location of areas for solar PV panels and green infrastructure, including proposed areas for woodland planting, ecological enhancement and the provision of new and enhanced hedgerows. There are also areas within the Principal Site where existing woodland and hedgerows will be retained. This plan can be found as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report, which can be accessed through the Scheme's website from **30 May 2023** ([tillbridgesolar.com/documents-library](https://tillbridgesolar.com/documents-library)).

The Cable Route Corridor will comprise the underground electrical infrastructure (400 kV cables) to export and import electricity to and from the national electricity transmission network at National Grid's Cottam substation in Nottinghamshire. The length of the cables to connect the Principal Site to the National Grid Cottam Substation is approximately 16 km, and crosses the administrative areas of West Lindsey District Council and Bassetlaw District Council falling within Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire respectfully. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being developed in terms of construction methods and requirements. This includes details of whether the cable will be placed in an open trench (which will be refilled and reinstated following completion of cable placement) or laid using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to cross existing infrastructure such as roads, rivers and railways, the location of jointing bays, temporary storage compounds and access points.

### Consultation documents

Section 46 of the Act requires the Applicant to supply the Secretary of State with such information that it intends to provide to consultees under section 42 of the Act, on or before commencing section 42 consultation. The Applicant hereby supplies the Secretary of State with the same information that is being supplied to all relevant consultees identified in accordance with section 42 of the Act.

The full set of consultation documents ("the consultation materials") being supplied to the section 42 consultees is listed below. These documents will be available using the following link from the start of the consultation period on **30 May 2023** until **23:59 on 11 July 2023**:

**[tillbridgesolar.com/documents-library](https://tillbridgesolar.com/documents-library)**. If the Secretary of State requires the material in printed or alternative form, please do not hesitate to contact us.

- Statutory consultation leaflet, which is being posted to all addresses within a defined Primary Consultation Zone (as described in the Statement of Community Consultation (the "SoCC")). This document provides introductory information about the Scheme, the consultation, and where more detailed information can be found.
- Project information booklet, which provides a more detailed overview of the Scheme, including a summary of some of the potential effects, as explained in the PEI Report.
- Statutory consultation feedback questionnaire, which may be used to provide a response on the Scheme.
- Exhibition banners, which are being displayed in person at the consultation events (as listed below);
- Maps and plans showing the overall location of the Scheme;
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document;
- PEI Report and NTS; and
- SoCC, which has been publicised in accordance with section 47 of the Act.

The Applicant has included as enclosures with this letter the templates of the letters being sent to statutory consultees under section 42 of the 2008 Act and a copy of the Applicant's statutory notice prepared in accordance with section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations. These are:

- Section 42(1)(a) consultee letter - prescribed consultees
- Section 42(1)(aa) consultee letter – Marine Management Organisation
- Section 42(1)(b) consultee letter – local authorities

- Section 42(1)(d) consultee letter – land interests
- Section 48 – copy of notice confirming that the proposed application has been publicised in the prescribed manner

A copy of the section 48 notice is also an enclosure to the section 42(1)(a), section 42(1)(aa) and section 42(1)(b) letters. Inclusion of the notice with these letters meets the Applicant's obligations under section 48 of the Act, Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations. An electronic copy of the consultation leaflet is also an enclosure to all of the above letters. **As per our previous correspondence, enclosures of these letters, section 48 notice and consultation leaflet are provided electronically and can be provided in hard copy (and to the Secretary of State) if required.**

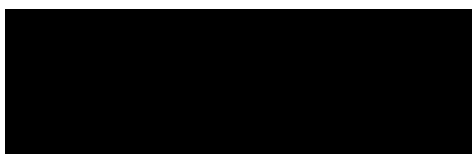
In addition to the publication of the consultation materials as listed above, we will also be holding a series of public consultation events and online webinars (including a short presentation and live question and answer session between **30 May 2023** and **11 July 2023**). Further details of these consultation events and webinars can be found in the section 48 notice, which can be found online ([tillbridgesolar.com/consultation](https://tillbridgesolar.com/consultation)) and enclosed.

Responses to this consultation must be received no later than **23:59** on **11 July 2023**.

If you have any queries or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on **info@tillbridgesolar.com** or **0800 046 9643**. Please acknowledge that this notice has been received as a record of compliance.

**We would appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this information in writing as soon as possible.**

Yours sincerely,



Luke Murray  
Project Director, Tillbridge Solar Ltd

Enclosed:

- Copy of section 42(1)(a) letter (prescribed consultees).
- Copy of section 42(1)(aa) letter (Marine Management Organisation).
- Copy of section 42(1)(b) letter (local authorities).
- Copy of section 42(1)(d) letter (land interests).
- Copy of section 48 notice.
- Copy of the Consultation Leaflet