
EAST YORKSHIRE SOLAR FARM

**East Yorkshire Solar Farm
EN010143**

Environmental Statement

**Volume 2, Appendix 12-2: Communication with Mineral Planning Authorities
Document Reference: EN010143/APP/6.2**

Regulation 5(2)(a)
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Regulations 2009

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Prepared for:
East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited

Prepared by:
AECOM Limited

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	East Riding of Yorkshire Council.....	2
3.	North Yorkshire County Council.....	7

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix contains copies of the email correspondence between the Scheme and East Riding of Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire County Council (as the relevant Local Mineral Planning Authorities (MPA)) relating to Minerals Safeguarding Areas.
- 1.1.2 Within their Scoping Opinion for East Yorkshire Solar Farm (ID 3.7.1), the Planning Inspectorate agreed that the need for an assessment of the impact of the proposals upon Minerals Safeguarding Areas could be scoped out of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), providing the relevant the MPAs agreed to the suggested approach and that there would not be a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on minerals resources.
- 1.1.3 The Planning Inspectorate also stated that (as referenced in the Scoping Report for the Scheme) a Mineral Safeguarding Report providing details of the land within the Order Limits designated for Mineral Safeguarding should be provided for information within the Environmental Statement. Copies of the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion are provided as **Appendix 1-1** and **Appendix 1-2, ES Volume 3**.
- 1.1.4 The **Planning Statement [EN010143/APP/7.2]** sets out how the Scheme complies with relevant mineral planning policy and will not result in the sterilisation of mineral resources.
- 1.1.5 The correspondence therefore:
 - a. Sets out a request to the MPAs for formal agreement to scope out Minerals Safeguarding Areas from the EIA and explains the rationale for this;
 - b. Contains agreements from both MPAs that Minerals Safeguarding Areas can be scoped out of the EIA.
- 1.1.6 The emails have been redacted to remove personal and contact information.

2. East Riding of Yorkshire Council

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@eastriding.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 November 2022 09:12
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: East Yorkshire Solar Farm: Advice regarding Mineral Safeguarding

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Good Moring

Thank you for your email.

I can confirm that East Riding of Yorkshire Council agrees that Mineral Safeguarding can be scoped out of the ES and instead be covered under a separate document submitted as part of the DCO submission.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Principal Planning Officer - Minerals and Waste
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aecom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:55 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@eastriding.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aecom.com>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aecom.com>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aecom.com>
Subject: East Yorkshire Solar Farm: Advice regarding Mineral Safeguarding

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Dear [REDACTED]

I am working with [REDACTED] on the East Yorkshire Solar Farm scheme and am hoping you could provide some advice on minerals safeguarding.

Within their Scoping Opinion for East Yorkshire Solar Farm (available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/east-yorkshire-solar-farm/?ipcsection=docs>), PINS have agreed that the need for an assessment of the impact of the proposals upon Minerals Safeguarding Areas can be scoped out of the ES providing this approach is agreed by yourself and your

counterpart at North Yorkshire. Should the need for assessment be scoped out, we would still prepare a Mineral Safeguarding Report (appended to the ES) providing details of the of land within the Order Limits designated for Mineral Safeguarding for information. The ES would also detail the measures in place to protect the mineral resources during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme and confirm how these would be secured in the DCO.

PINS' full response (ID 3.7.1) states '*The Inspectorate notes that the site is located within East Riding of Yorkshire's Minerals Safeguarding Area (MSA) EC6 and an (unnamed) area of safeguarded surface mineral resource in North Yorkshire, and that this matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that mineral deposits would not be permanently sterilised by the Proposed Development and could be extracted, if required, after its decommissioning. It is stated that this approach is subject to consultation with the two Councils. The Inspectorate is satisfied that this matter may be scoped out subject to confirmation that the Minerals Planning Authority agree to the suggested approach and that there would not be a LSE on minerals resources. The ES should evidence such agreement. A copy of the Minerals Safeguarding Report (as described at paragraph 16.7.17 of the Scoping Report) should be appended to the ES. The ES should identify the measures required to protect the material resources within the MSA during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and confirm how these would be secured in the DCO*'.

The rationale for scoping out impacts to Mineral Safeguarding Areas, as set out in the Scoping Report, was that although the Site is located within East Riding of Yorkshire's Minerals Safeguarded Area EC6 and an area of safeguarded surface mineral resource in North Yorkshire (the deposits being described as Brick Clay and Sand and Gravel), the deposits will not be permanently sterilised by the Scheme and can be extracted, if required, after its decommissioning. The design life of the Scheme is expected to be at least 40 years.

It is also noted that the Solar Farm is minimally invasive with the frames supporting the solar panels driven into 2 to 3m the ground (as a worst case if tracker panels are used), with the depth depending on local geology. The frames are fully removed (pulled out) on decommissioning. The associated infrastructure of substations and battery storage, access roads etc., are again minimally invasive and would not impact the underlying geology. Due to the flat topography of the proposed site no significant earthworks would be required.

The cabling connecting the PV modules to the battery storage and inverters, and the on-site substations would have maximum depths of between 0.6m and 1.2m depending upon cable type – see image 1.

The two 132 kV circuits linking the solar scheme to the National Grid via Drax Substation will be laid at approximately 1.2m and require trenches of up to 2m depth, although trenchless crossings using horizontal directional drilling (HDD), micro-tunnelling and boring would be deeper. The land above all cabling would be reinstated to its original condition land use following construction.

Therefore, the proposals are not considered to affect the underlying geology and would have no impact on mineral resource.

Please can you confirm that you are happy for impacts to Minerals Safeguarding Areas to be scoped out of the assessment? We would be pleased to provide additional information and /or hold a meeting if you require.

Many thanks

Best regards



Image 1



[REDACTED]
Associate Director, Environment and Sustainability, UK and Ireland
AECOM

[REDACTED]
My normal working days are Tuesday to Friday.

If you receive this email outside of your normal working hours please only respond during your normal working hours

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3. North Yorkshire County Council

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@northyorks.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 January 2023 15:48
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: East Yorkshire Solar Farm: Advice regarding Mineral Safeguarding

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Dear [REDACTED]

Please accept my apologies for not responding sooner.

I can confirm that the impacts to the Surface Mineral Resource Safeguarded Areas can be scoped out of the EIA as the geology will not be affected.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aecom.com>
Sent: 19 January 2023 15:19
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@northyorks.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@northyorks.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aecom.com>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aecom.com>
Subject: East Yorkshire Solar Farm: Advice regarding Mineral Safeguarding

Dear [REDACTED]

I was wondering if you'd had the opportunity to review my query regarding the Scoping Out of impacts to Surface Mineral Resource Safeguarded Areas from the Environmental Impact Assessment for East Yorkshire Solar Farm?

The solar site is entirely located within the administrative area of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, however the Grid Connection is partly within North Yorkshire County Council and we note from the online interactive policies map that the proposed grid connection corridor is partially within an area safeguarded for sand and gravel and brick clay. The works East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited will be undertaking for the Grid Connection will be two 132 kV circuits linking the solar site to the National Grid via Drax Substation and these cables will be laid at approximately 1.2m and require trenches of up to 2m depth, although trenchless crossings using horizontal directional drilling (HDD), micro-tunnelling and boring are proposed and would be deeper. The land above all cabling would be reinstated to its original condition land use following construction, and it is noted that as far as is practicable cabling will be routed in roads and roadside verges. The panel frames are directly driven into the ground (akin to driving in a fence post) to a depth of three to five

metres depending upon local conditions. The design life of the Solar Farm and hence the grid connection is expected to be at least 40 years.

Therefore, as further described in the email below, the proposals for the East Yorkshire Solar Farm are not considered to affect the underlying geology and would have no impact on mineral resource. Consequently, the Scheme has agreed with the Planning Inspectorate that an assessment of the impact of the proposals upon Minerals Safeguarding Areas can be scoped out of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) providing this approach is agreed by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

The minerals planning team at East Riding of Yorkshire Council have confirmed that they do not require an impact assessment to be undertaken.

We would be pleased to provide additional information and /or hold a meeting to discuss if this would assist in your decision making.

We are preparing an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Scheme, and sought a scoping opinion for our Environmental Impact Assessment from the Planning Inspectorate and North Yorkshire County Council were consulted.

The Scoping Opinion is available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/east-yorkshire-solar-farm/?ipcsection=docs>

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 November 2022 16:29
To: [REDACTED]@northyorks.gov.uk; in the email. <[REDACTED]@northyorks.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; P [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aecom.com>
Subject: East Yorkshire Solar Farm: Advice regarding Mineral Safeguarding

Dear [REDACTED]

I have been given your contact details by [REDACTED] as he identified you as the person who can best provide advice regarding minerals safeguarding.

We are preparing an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the East Yorkshire Solar Farm. We recently sought a scoping opinion for our Environmental Impact Assessment from the Planning Inspectorate and North Yorkshire County Council were consulted.

Within their Scoping Opinion for East Yorkshire Solar Farm (available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/east-yorkshire-solar-farm/?ipcsection=docs>), (ID 3.7.1) PINS note that "the site is located within East Riding of Yorkshire's Minerals Safeguarding Area (MSA) EC6 and an (unnamed) area of safeguarded surface mineral resource in North Yorkshire, and that this matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that mineral deposits would not be permanently sterilised by the Proposed Development and could be extracted, if required, after its decommissioning. It is stated that this approach is subject to consultation with the two Councils. The Inspectorate is satisfied that this matter may be scoped out subject to confirmation that the Minerals Planning Authority agree to the suggested approach and that there would not be a LSE on minerals resources. The ES should evidence such agreement. A copy of the Minerals Safeguarding Report (as described at paragraph 16.7.17 of the Scoping Report) should be appended to the ES. The ES should identify the measures required to protect the material resources within the MSA during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and confirm how these would be secured in the DCO'.

We have since agreed with PINS that the need for an assessment of the impact of the proposals upon Minerals Safeguarding Areas can be scoped out of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) providing this approach is agreed by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

The solar site is entirely located within the administrative area of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, however the Grid Connection is partly within North Yorkshire County Council and we note from the online interactive policies map that EYSF's proposed grid connection corridor is partially within an area safeguarded for sand and gravel and brick clay. The works East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited will be undertaking for the Grid Connection will be two 132 kV circuits linking the solar site to the National Grid via Drax Substation and these cables will be laid at approximately 1.2m and require trenches of up to 2m depth, although trenchless crossings using horizontal directional drilling (HDD), micro-tunnelling and boring are proposed and would be deeper. The land above all cabling would be reinstated to its original condition land use following construction, and it is noted that as far as is practicable cabling will be routed in roads and roadside verges. The design life of the Solar Farm and hence the grid connection is expected to be at least 40 years. Therefore, the proposals are not considered to affect the underlying geology and would have no impact on mineral resource.

Although it is noted that policy S02 of the minerals and waste joint plan expects an assessment of the non mineral development impact on safeguarded surface mineral resource areas, we are proposing that, given the nature of the grid connection works, the impact on mineral safeguarding areas is not assessed as part of the EIA for the EYSF. Compliance with mineral planning policy will however be discussed in the Planning Statement to be submitted with the DCO application. The ES would also detail the measures in place to protect the soil and material temporarily excavated during the construction and these would be secured in the DCO.

Please can you confirm that you are happy for impacts to the Surface Mineral Resource Safeguarded Areas can be scoped out of the EIA? We would be pleased to provide additional information and /or hold a meeting to discuss if you require.

Best regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Associate Director, Environment and Sustainability, UK and Ireland
AECOM

[Redacted signature]

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