



The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

28 November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Botley West Solar Farm

Notice of proposed application for a Development Consent Order pursuant to section 46 of the Planning Act 2008.

Photovolt Development Partners GmbH ("**PVDP**"), on behalf of SolarFive Ltd ("**the Applicant**") intends to build a new solar energy generation station ("**Botley West Solar Farm**") on three land parcels located within the administrative areas of Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

If approved, Botley West Solar Farm could generate renewable electricity using ground-mounted solar arrays to provide up to 840MW of reliable, low-cost electricity to the national grid. The location of Botley West Solar Farm extends from an area of land in the north (the Northern Site), situated between the A4260 and the Dorn River Valley near Tackley and Wootton, through a central section (the Central Site), situated broadly between Bladon and Cassington, and connecting to a section further south near to Farmoor Reservoir and north of Cumnor (the Southern Site), where Botley West Solar Farm will connect to the National Grid transmission network. A plan showing the location of the proposed application is included as an enclosure to this letter.

It will consist of:

- Solar PV Modules;
- Onsite cabling;
- Power Converter Stations (i.e. project substations and control buildings) and supporting equipment;
- High Voltage Transformers, including feeders, switchgear and supporting equipment;
- Fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure;
- Accesses from the highway and tracks, including temporary and permanent accesses;
- Green infrastructure (GI); and
- Underground electricity export cables connecting the Northern, Central and Southern Sites that will connect into the National Grid Transmission Network.
- Associated infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works, for example, fencing, security, highway works, temporary works compounds and work sites.





The Applicant intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero for a Development Consent Order (“**DCO**”) for Botley West Solar Farm. This is because Botley West Solar Farm is considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“**NSIP**”) due to the amount of renewable energy that Botley West Solar Farm would generate exceeding 50 MW.

The DCO application will contain full details of Botley West Solar Farm and will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 (“**the 2008 Act**”) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“**the 2017 Regulations**”).

Notice under section 46 of the 2008 Act

Please treat this letter as notice to the Planning Inspectorate, under section 46 of the 2008 Act, of the Applicant’s proposed application in relation to Botley West Solar Farm, and please find enclosed:

1. Example covering letter to statutory consultees under section 42(1)(a)/(b) of the 2008 Act and Regulation 13 of the 2017 Regulations;
2. Example covering letter to persons who may have an interest in the relevant land under section 42(1)(d) and section 44 of the 2008 Act;
3. Example covering letter to persons who may have a sub-soil interest in the relevant land under section 42(1)(d) and section 44 of the 2008 Act;
4. Copy of the notice publicising the application under section 48 of the 2008 Act. The notice is published in the Oxford Times on 23 and 30 November 2023, Witney Gazette on 22 and 29 November 2023, the Guardian on 29 November 2023 and the London Gazette on 24 November 2023; and
5. A site plan showing the location of the proposed application, which is enclosed with the letters referred to under points 1 – 4 above.

Consultation Materials

In accordance with section 46 of the 2008 Act, and pursuant to the Applicant’s duty to consult under sections 42 and 44 of the 2008 Act, the documents listed as points 6 – 9 below are available to consultees on the project website document library: https://botleywest.co.uk/document_library.html and free of charge on a USB device upon request during the consultation between 30 November 2023 – 8 February 2024:

6. Notice publicising the proposed DCO application under section 48 of the 2008 Act;
7. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“**PEIR**”);
8. A non-technical summary of the PEIR;
9. Community consultation materials including the Community Consultation Leaflet, Feedback Form and the Statement of Community Consultation (“**SoCC**”).





Hard copies of the Community Consultation Leaflet, Feedback Form and SoCC are also available free of charge on request. A hard copy of the PEIR can be also provided upon request, and details of how to request these documents and any related charges are provided in the enclosed section 48 notice.

The consultation will run from 30 November 2023 – 8 February 2024. **Responses must be received no later than 11:59 pm on 8 February 2024.** Responses received after this time may not be considered.

If you have any queries or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us by using one of the contact methods below:

Emailing at: info@botleywest.co.uk

Calling our Freephone: 0808 175 3085

Writing to us at: FREEPOST BWSF

Visiting our website at: www.botleywest.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

Peter Gerstmann
Managing Director
Photovolt Development Partners