



Botley West Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 3

Annex 10.6: Surface water and Groundwater

abstractions, pollutions incidents and discharge consents

Report

November 2024

PINS Ref: EN010147

Document Ref: EN010147/APP/6.5

Revision P0

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a); Planning Act 2008; and Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations

Approval for issue

Jonathan Alsop

15 November 2024

The report has been prepared for the exclusive use and benefit of the Applicant and solely for the purpose for which it is provided. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by RPS Group Plc, any of its subsidiaries, or a related entity (collectively 'RPS') no part of this report should be reproduced, distributed or communicated to any third party. RPS does not accept any liability if this report is used for an alternative purpose from which it is intended, nor to any third party in respect of this report. The report does not account for any changes relating to the subject matter of the report, or any legislative or regulatory changes that have occurred since the report was produced and that may affect the report.

The report has been prepared using the information provided to RPS by its client, or others on behalf of its client. To the fullest extent permitted by law, RPS shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by the client arising from fraud, misrepresentation, withholding of information material relevant to the report or required by RPS, or other default relating to such information, whether on the client's part or that of the other information sources, unless such fraud, misrepresentation, withholding or such other default is evident to RPS without further enquiry. It is expressly stated that no independent verification of any documents or information supplied by the client or others on behalf of the client has been made. The report shall be used for general information only.

Prepared by:

RPS
20 Western Avenue,
Milton Park, Abingdon,
Oxfordshire, OX14 4SH
United Kingdom

Prepared for:

Photovolt Development Partners GmbH,
on behalf of SolarFive Ltd.

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	METHODOLOGY	1
	2.1 Sources of Information	1
	2.2 Study area	1
3	DESK STUDY	2
	3.1 Surface water abstraction licences	2
	3.2 Groundwater abstraction licences.....	2

Tables

Table 3.1:	Surface water abstractions.....	2
Table 3.2:	Groundwater abstractions	2
Table 3.3:	Pollution incident categories	3
Table 3.4:	Pollution incidents	3
Table 3.5:	Discharge consents.....	3

Figures (See Volume 2: Figures)

Figure number	Figure title
Figure 1.1	Water abstractions, pollution incidents and discharge consents within the study area

Glossary

Term	Meaning
The Applicant	SolarFive Ltd
The Project	The Botley West Solar Farm (Botley West) Project
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Lead Local Flood Authority	Lead Local Flood Authorities have responsibility for developing a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for their area identifying local sources of flooding. The local strategy produced must be consistent with the national strategy. It will set out the local organisations with responsibility for flood risk in the area, partnership arrangements to ensure co-ordination between these organisations, an assessment of the flood risk, and plans and actions for managing the risk.
Local Authority	An administrative body in local government.
Cable corridor	The corridor within which the cables will be located.
Infrastructure Area	The area within which the transmission cables, substations, ac and 220kV cables and solar panels will be located.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
EA	Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
EPR	Environmental Permitting Regulations
IPC	Integrated Pollution Control
NRA	National Risk Assessment
WRA	Water Resources Act

Units

Unit	Description
km	Kilometres
km ²	Square kilometres
m	Meter

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document forms Volume 3, Annex 10.4: Water abstraction licences, discharge consents and pollution incidents of the Environmental Statement (ES) prepared for the Botley West Solar Farm (the Project). The Environmental Statement presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the Project.
- 1.1.2 This document provides the information on the following:
- surface water abstraction licences which are a good indication of how the surface watercourses are utilised;
 - discharge consents which may affect the baseline quality of the receiving surface water; and
 - pollution incidents where the quality of watercourses may have been affected by pollution.
- 1.1.3 The licences, consents and incidents listed above have been used to inform the baseline and assessment in Volume 1, Chapter 10: Hydrology and flood risk of the ES [EN010147/APP/6.3].

2 Methodology

2.1 Sources of Information

- 2.1.1 Details of the licences, consents and incidents have been obtained from a commercial data supplier (Groundsure Limited) and local planning authorities relevant to the Project (Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council). The information is regulated by the Environment Agency (EA) and the local planning authorities.

2.2 Study area

- 2.2.1 The elements of the hydrology and flood risk study area relevant to this technical report are described below and shown within **Figure 1-1** in Volume 2 of the ES [EN010147/APP/6.4].
- The area of land to be temporarily or permanently occupied during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Project;
 - Flood risk receptors located within 1km of the solar farmland parcels and export cable corridor, 1 km of the primary substation and NGET substation and 250m from the cable corridor. The buffers were chosen primarily to identify any existing receptors, assets or infrastructure that have the potential to be affected by flood risk as a result of the Project.

3 Desk study

3.1 Surface water abstraction licences

3.1.1 There are eight active surface water abstraction licences within the hydrology and flood risk study area listed within Table 3.1 and presented within Figure 1.1 of the ES [EN010147/APP/6.4].

Table 3.1: Surface water abstractions

ID	Start date	Licence Holder	Details	Source
SW01	13/06/1966	Trustees Of The Blenheim Estate	General agriculture – general farming and domestic	Blenheim Park, Woodstock, Oxon - Blenheim Lake
SW02	13/06/1966	Trustees Of The Blenheim Estate	General agriculture – spray irrigation	Blenheim Park, Woodstock, Oxon - Blenheim Lake
SW03	11/12/1996	Earthline Ltd	Other Industrial / Commercial / Public Services – non evaporative cooling	River Cherwell
SW04	30/09/1991	Price	General agriculture – spray irrigation	Tributary of the River Cherwell
SW05	05/12/1978	J P Gee & Sons Ltd	Private non industrial – make-up or top up water	Tributary of the River Thames
SW06	18/09/2002	Thames Water Utilities Ltd	Private water supply – potable water	River Thames
SW07	25/04/2013	Vanbrugh Unit Trust	Electricity – hydroelectric power generation	Bladon Dam
SW08	25/04/2013	Vanbrugh Unit Trust	Other environmental improvements - transfer between sources	River Glyme

3.2 Groundwater abstraction licences

3.2.1 There is one active groundwater abstraction licence within the hydrology and flood risk study area listed within Table 3.2 and presented within Figure 1.1 of the ES [EN010147/APP/6.4].

Table 3.2: Groundwater abstractions

ID	Start date	Licence Holder	Details	Source
SW01	06/12/1977	Price	Private non-industrial amenity use	Great Oolite Thames groundwater

Pollution incidents

3.2.2 Pollution incidents are classified by the EA into one of four categories using the common incident classification scheme. The different categories of pollution incidents are defined in Table 3.3 below.

Table 3.3: Pollution incident categories

Pollution Incident Category	Description
Category 1	Major, serious, persistent or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.
Category 2	Significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.
Category 3	Minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.
Category 4	Substantiated incident with no impact.

3.2.3 Five significant pollution incidents (category 1 and 2) relating to water have been identified within the study area, identified in Table 3.4 and presented within Figure 1.1 of the ES [EN010147/APP/6.4].

Table 3.4: Pollution incidents

ID	Incident Identification	Date	Pollution Categories	Pollutant Type and Description
PL01	79746	19/05/2002	Category 2 (Significant)	Gas and Fuel Oils
PL02	417885	18/07/2006	Category 1 (Major)	Crude Sewage
PL03	552249	21/12/2007	Category 1 (Major)	Pesticides and Biocides
PL04	1034867	06/09/2012	Category 2 (Significant)	Crude Sewage
PL05	1712684	24/06/2019	Category 2 (Significant)	Pollutant not Identified

Discharge consents

3.2.4 There are twenty-two discharge active consents within the study area, listed below in Table 3.5 and presented within Figure 1.1 of the ES [EN010147/APP/6.4].

Table 3.5: Discharge consents

ID	Receiving waterbody	Status	Issue date	Address	Discharge type
DC01	Hanborough Stream	Varied under EPR 2010	31/03/2018	Thames Water Church Hanborough waste water treatment works, Mansell Close, Church Hanborough, OX29 8AU	Sewage discharges – sewage treatment works storm overflow/storm tank - water company
DC02	Hanborough Stream	Varied under EPR 2010	31/03/2018	Thames Water Church Hanborough waste water treatment works, Mansell Close, Church Hanborough, OX29 8AU	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - water company

ID	Receiving waterbody	Status	Issue date	Address	Discharge type
DC03	River Evenlode	New consent (WRA 91, S88 & sched 10 as amended by env act 1995)	04/05/1999	Hewden Plant Hire Ltd, Long Hanborough, OX8 LA	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - not water company
DC04	Limb Brook	Transferred from r(pp)a 1951-1961	12/04/1965	Friars Farm, Stanton Harcourt, OX29 5AE	Trade discharges - process effluent - not water company
DC05	River Thames	Varied under EPR 2010	18/03/2020	Thames Water Farmoor Water Treatment Works, Cumnor Road, Farmoor, OX2 9NS	Trade discharges - process effluent - water company (water treatment works)
DC06	Unnamed tributary of the River Dorn	New issued under EPR 2010	01/06/2011	Wootton Edge Barns, Holly Bank, Wootton, OX20 1AE	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - not water company
DC07	River Thames	New consent (WRA 91, S88 & sched 10 as amended by env act 1995)	23/07/2009	Eynsham Lock, Swinford, OX29 4BY	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - not water company
DC08	River Thames	New consent (WRA 91, S88 & sched 10 as amended by env act 1995)	01/04/2010	Thames Water Swinford Water Treatment Works, Nr Eynsham, OX29 4BZ	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - not water company
DC09	River Glyme	Varied under EPR 2010	20/12/2022	Thames Water Woodstock sewage treatment works, Woodstock, OX20 1JZ	Sewage discharges – sewage treatment works storm overflow/storm tank - water company
DC10	River Glyme	Varied under EPR 2010	20/12/2022	Thames Water Woodstock sewage treatment works, Woodstock, OX20 1JZ	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - water company
DC11	Tributary of the River Thames	New issued under EPR 2010	25/09/2023	1 Lower Whitley Road, Cumnor, OX2 9NU	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - not water company
DC12	River Thames	Varied under EPR 2010	21/11/2018	Thames Water Cassington Waste Water Treatment Works, Yarnton Road, Cassington, OX29 4SZ	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - water company
DC13	Tributary of The River Cherwell	New consent (WRA 91, S88 & sched 10 as	25/07/2000	Shipton Slade Farm, Woodstock, OX20 1QQ	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - not water company

ID	Receiving waterbody	Status	Issue date	Address	Discharge type
		amended by env act 1995)			
DC14	River Thames	Temporary consents (water act 1989, section 113)	25/09/2009	Thames Water Swinford, Combined Effluent via Settlement, Swinford	Trade discharges - process effluent - water company (water treatment works)
DC15	The Worton ditches	New consent (wra 91, S88 & sched 10 as amended by env act 1995)	15/08/2003	M & M Skip Hire Limited Worton Rectory Waste Transfer Stn, Worton Park, Cassington, OX29 4FL	Trade discharges - site drainage
DC16	River Evenlode	Transferred from water act 1989	18/02/1991	Millsdale Corporation, Blenheim Business Park, Long Hanborough, OX29 8LN	Miscellaneous discharges - surface water
DC17	Field ditch	Transferred from COPA 1974	07/12/1987	Runway 02-20, Oxford Airport, Langford Lane, Kidlington, OX5 1RA	Miscellaneous discharges - surface water
DC18	River Evenlode	Transferred from water act 1989	18/02/1991	Darke & Taylor Limited, Blenheim Business Park, Long Hanborough, OX29 8LN	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - not water company
DC19	Tributary of the Filchampstead brook	New consent (WRA 91, S88 & sched 10 as amended by env act 1995)	25/05/2001	Valley Farm, Eynsham Road, Farmoor, OX2 9NL	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - not water company
DC20	Rowel Brook	New consent, by application (WRA 91, section 88)	06/06/1996	Campsfield Farm, Begbroke, OX20 1QG	Sewage discharges - final/treated effluent - not water company
DC21	Culverted tributary of the Rowel Brook	Transferred from COPA 1974	03/11/1987	Solid State Logic Ltd, Begbroke, OX5 1RU	Miscellaneous discharges - surface water
DC21	Farmoor reservoir stage 1	New consent (WRA 91, S88 & sched 10 as amended by env act 1995)	25/09/2009	Thames Water Reservoir Outfall, Farmoor Water Treatment Works, Cumnor Road, Farmoor, OX2 9NZ	Trade discharges - process effluent - water company (water treatment works)