

# Springwell Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Appendix 15.1: WFD

Waterbodies Stage 1 Screening  
Technical Note

Volume 3

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Springwell Energyfarm Ltd

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)  
Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms  
and Procedure) Regulations 2009



25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Springwell Solar Farm – Water Framework Directive Waterbodies Stage 1 Screening – Technical Note

### Introduction

The ES scoping response received from the Planning Inspectorate for the Springwell Solar Farm noted that the Applicant's attention should be drawn to Advice Note Eighteen: The Water Framework Directive (WFD).

On review of the guidance provided within Advice Note Eighteen, a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) (dated 07.03.2024) was requested to establish the required level of assessment of the WFD waterbodies. At the request of the EA this Stage 1 Screening technical note draws on the information provided within the Springwell Solar Farm Preliminary Environmental Information Report<sup>1</sup> (PEIR) to summarise the pathways and potential effects of the Proposed Development on any WFD classified waterbodies that have been identified.

### Site Review

The Site is broadly located across land within the area of Scopwick. Chapter 13 – Water of the PEIR identifies the three closest WFD designated waterbodies closest to the site, these are; Metherringham Beck, Dorrington Dike and Ruskington Beck. Dorrington Dike and Ruskington Beck are significantly far from the site boundary, at 2km and 2.5km east from the site respectively, to not be effected by development proposals at Springwell Solar Farm.

Metherringham Beck is located approximately 100m north outside of the northern boundary of the site and therefore has been considered further within the PEIR.

### Assessment of WFD Waterbodies

The PEIR outlines the baseline conditions of Metherringham Beck, with an overall moderate ecological status at baseline conditions as per the Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer, and is classified in the PEIR as a medium sensitive receptor. Surface water flood mapping identified a flow path between the site and the watercourse

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<sup>1</sup> Springwell Solar Farm Preliminary Environmental Information Report, Phase 2 Consultation, Springwell Energyfarm Ltd, 2023



which could suggest an overland pathway which links surface water runoff from the site to Metheringham Beck.

The current masterplan shows that the Proposed Development will include solar panels within the runoff catchment of Metheringham Beck. During the operational phase of the Proposed Development there are not considered to be any effects on Metheringham Beck as rainfall runoff from the panels will be clean rainwater. The Proposed Development is to be planted with grassland below solar arrays to stabilise soils which will reduce the risks of soil erosion.

The PEIR outlines in Table 13.09 and 13.11 that the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development could temporarily increase the risk of soil erosion and silt mobilisation therefore temporarily degrading the quality of surface water runoff from the site. However, with the implementation of an appropriate construction management plan measures will be taken which will control silt/soil laden runoff from the site, therefore mitigating the risks resulting in a negligible impact.

In Section 13.7.1 it is identified that the cessation of agricultural activities in the fields with solar panels will reduce the impacts on soil erosion associated with ploughing and harvesting. Additionally, the reduction in the application of herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers as a result of changes in land management from agricultural producer to solar farm is reasonably assumed to result in an improved quality of surface water runoff from the site.

It is confirmed that the Proposed Development will not result in any new structures being constructed within the WFD classified waterbodies as these are outside of the Site boundary.

Mapping of the features described above is provided in Figure 1, please note that the masterplan of solar panels is subject to change, however it is confirmed that only solar plans will be located here and as development proposals progress they are likely to reduce the number of panels in this location.



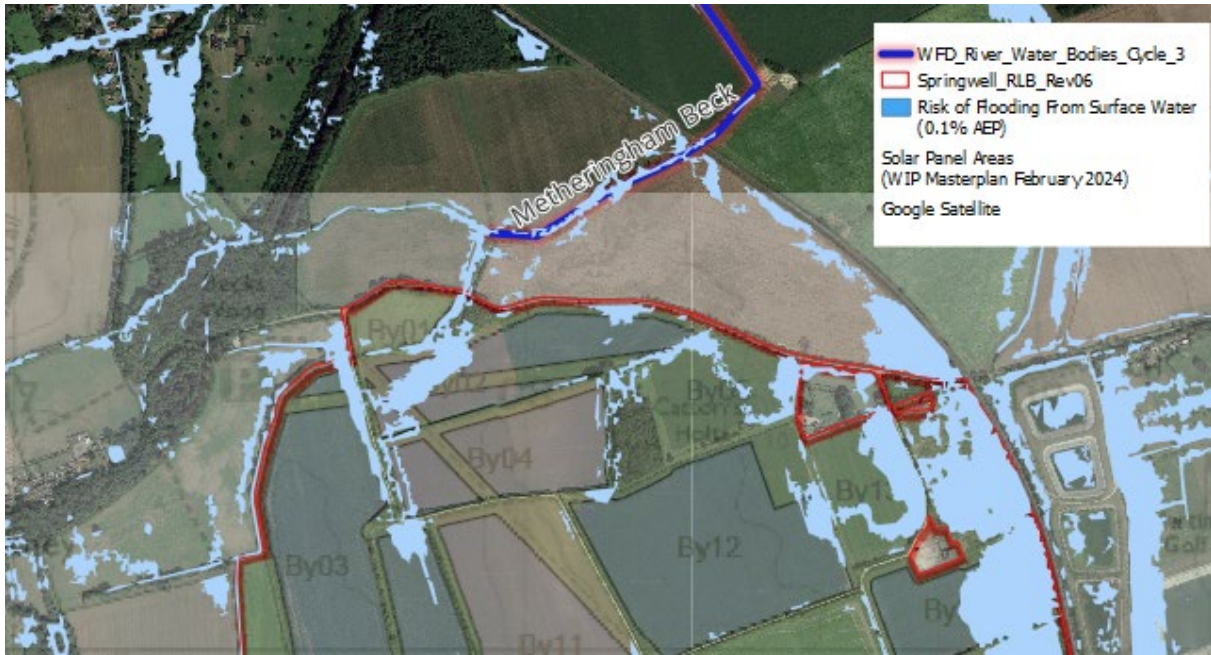


Figure 1: Metheringham Beck in relation to the proposed Springwell Solar Farm.

## Conclusions

It is concluded that with the appropriate mitigation measures that the significance of effect from the solar development on the WFD classified watercourses is considered to be negligible and not significant based on the information provided above. With relation to Advice Note Eighteen: The Water Framework Directive, we trust the information is suitable to confirm that no WFD Stage 2 Scoping or Stage 3 Assessment is required for the DCO Application for Springwell Solar Farm.

We trust the information supplied within this Stage 1 Screening technical note as above has provided the Environment Agency with the additional information to inform their assessment of the proposed development with regards to the WFD assessment; however; please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you require any further information.





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