



09 January 2025

Dear Sir / Madam,

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Statutory Pre-Application Consultation: 09 January 2025 – 20 February 2025

Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”), Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, and Regulations 11 and 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the 2017 Regulations”)

This letter has been sent to you as part of a statutory consultation exercise being carried out pursuant to section 42 of the 2008 Act by Elements Green Trent Ltd (“the Applicant”), in respect of proposals for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park.

The Applicant

The Applicant for this project will be Elements Green Trent Ltd, a solar and energy storage developer with a 15-year development track record in the UK, EU and internationally.

The Project

The Applicant intends to build a new solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station (“Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park”) within the district of Newark and Sherwood and the county of Nottinghamshire. The Development would be located on land to the north-west of Newark-on-Trent, the west of the A1, north of the A617, east of Eakring, and south of Egmanton, occupying two main areas to the north and north-west of Staythorpe.

When built, Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park would have an anticipated solar electricity generation capacity of approximately 1,120 megawatts (MW) Direct Current (DC) / 800 MW Alternating Current (AC), to be connected into the existing National Grid Staythorpe Substation. In doing so, the scheme has the potential to provide enough clean, affordable energy to meet the power needs of approximately 400,000 homes.

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park would comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, an on-site energy storage facility and the infrastructure needed to connect the scheme into the national grid at Staythorpe substation.

The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

- Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating station with a capacity of over 50 MW;
- Associated and/or ancillary works including the construction of an energy storage facility, grid connection infrastructure including onsite substations and underground cabling linking the intermediate substations to the main grid connection point at the

National Grid Staythorpe Substation, landscaping, biodiversity and mitigation areas, access tracks, construction facilities, and the creation of permissive paths;

- The permanent compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights;
- The temporary possession of land;
- The overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land;
- The application and/or disapplication of legislation; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) as the amount of electricity it could generate exceeds 50 MW. To be consented, it will require a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) from the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (“DESNZ”) under the 2008 Act.

The DCO application will contain full details of the proposals for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park and will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement in accordance with the 2008 Act and the 2017 Regulations. The Applicant intends to make this application in Summer 2025.

Consultation on Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park is currently in the pre-application phase of the DCO application process. As part of that process, the Applicant is required to carry out consultation on the proposed DCO application before it is submitted. Your feedback as part of this consultation will be considered before the Applicant finalises its DCO application and details of how the consultation has influenced the final proposals will be explained in the Consultation Report to be submitted with the application.

We are writing to you as you have been identified as a consultee for the purpose of section 42 of the 2008 Act and/or Regulation 11 of the 2017 Regulations, or it has been decided it would be appropriate to consult you in any event.

This consultation includes:

- Consultation with prescribed bodies, host and neighbouring authorities (under section 42 and section 43 of the 2008 Act);
- Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (under section 42 and section 44 of the 2008 Act);
- Consultation with the local community in the vicinity of Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (under section 47 of the 2008 Act); and
- General public consultation on Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (under section 48 of the 2008 Act).

This consultation is running from Thursday 09 January 2025 to Thursday 20 February 2025.

The approach to consultation set out in this document has been discussed with the relevant host local planning authority, as required by Section 47(2) of the Act, and regard has been had to the comments they have made. Details of how this consultation is being carried out can be found in the Applicant’s Statement of Community Consultation, which was published in December 2024. This document is available to view and download from the document library on the Applicant’s website at: www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk

In addition, section 48 of the 2008 Act and Regulation 13 of the 2017 Regulations require the Applicant to publicise its proposed DCO application. A formal notice publicising the proposed application is therefore **enclosed** with this letter which includes a summary of the key elements of the proposals for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park and provides details of the consultation.

Consultation materials

As Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park is an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) development for the purposes of the 2017 Regulations, the Applicant has prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”). This has been informed by the Scoping Opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate and reports the results of the EIA process that has been carried out to date. The PEIR forms the basis of this consultation and also includes a non-technical summary. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park and to help inform consultation responses. It should be noted that the EIA is an ongoing process.

In addition to the PEIR, the Applicant has produced a Central Booklet and Feedback Form. These consultation documents provide information and invite feedback on the proposals for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park.

The consultation materials include:

- The PEIR (including appendices, plans and figures);
- A non-technical summary of the PEIR;
- Additional documents including the Central Booklet and Feedback Form.

Consultation materials are available free of charge online at www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk

Consultation materials will also be provided in paper copy or on USB by request to the Applicant. Please note that a reasonable charge up to £500 may apply to providing printed copies of the PEIR, but other documents are free of charge. Details of how to request these documents and the related charges, if any, are set out in the enclosed section 48 notice.

Consultation events

The Applicant will also be holding public information events in-person and online throughout the consultation period, details of these events can be found in in the enclosed section 48 notice. If you would like to register for the online webinar, this can be requested through the project contact details below, which can also be found on www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk

How to respond to this consultation

When providing a response, please include your name and contact details (a postal or email address) and confirm the nature of your interest in Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park. Completed responses may be submitted:

- a) By emailing: info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk
- b) Online at: www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk
- c) By writing to: FREEPOST GNR SOLAR

Responses must be received between **Thursday 09 January 2024** and **Thursday 20 February 2025** (on or before this date).

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during the consultation period. Responses received after this time may not be considered. Responses and representations will form the basis of a Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the DCO application, and therefore may become public. Personal details will be held securely and solely for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, DCO process and further development of Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park. Please see the enclosed section 48 notice for further details.

Further information

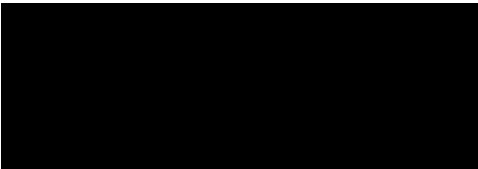
If you would like further information about this letter, the consultation or Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, please visit our website or contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided below:

- Email: info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk
- Online: www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk
- Post: FREEPOST GNR SOLAR
- Phone: 0808 175 4054 (open 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday. A voicemail service will operate for out of office hours)

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Noone,



Project Director

On behalf of Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park