



30th October 2024

To: Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

By email to greenhill@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

Green Hill Solar Farm – PINS Reference EN010170

Notice of proposed application for a Development Consent Order pursuant to Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (2008 Act)

Green Hill Solar Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) intends to build a solar and energy storage project with grid connection infrastructure located within the administrative boundary of West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes City (“the Green Hill Solar Farm”).

1. The Green Hill Solar Farm will cover a combined area of approximately 1,200 hectares and will consist of the following sites:
 - a. Green Hill A, A.2, B, C, D, E, F, G and BESS: eight solar array sites and a dedicated battery energy storage system site, located between Northampton, Wellingborough and Milton Keynes. Green Hill A, A.2 and B are located within the area of West Northamptonshire Council, Green Hill C, D, E, F and BESS are located within the area of North Northamptonshire Council, and Green Hill G is located within the area of Milton Keynes City Council. The solar array sites will include solar panels, conversion units, inverters, and 132kV substations in Green Hill A, B, E, F and G and two 400kV substations in Green Hill C and Green Hill BESS.
 - b. A battery energy storage system located within Green Hill BESS. A second location for energy storage is also being considered at Green Hill C.
 - c. A cable route search area has been identified for the underground electricity cables connecting the sites, substations and the energy storage system to the National Grid substation at Grendon; and
 - d. Associated infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works, for example, fencing, security, local grid connections, temporary access roads, permanent means of access, highway works, temporary works compounds and work sites.
2. Green Hill A, A.2 and B are located within the administrative area of West Northamptonshire Council, Green Hill C, D, E, F and Green Hill BESS are located within the administrative area of North Northamptonshire Council, and Green Hill G is located within the administrative area of Milton Keynes City Council.
3. The sites are located across several parishes:



- Green Hill A and A.2 are situated in the parishes of Old and Walgrave in West Northamptonshire, approximately 600m south of Walgrave.
- Green Hill B is located within the parish of Holcot in West Northamptonshire, approximately 1.2km north of Moulton.
- Green Hill C is located within parishes of Sywell and Mears Ashby in North Northamptonshire, approximately 2km west of Wellingborough.
- Green Hill D is located within the parish of Mears Ashby in North Northamptonshire, approximately 2km west of Wellingborough.
- Green Hill E is located within the parish of Mears Ashby and Wilby parishes of North Northamptonshire, approximately 500m north of Earls Barton.
- Green Hill F is located within the parish of Easton Maudit and Bozeat in North Northamptonshire, approximately 300m west of the village of Bozeat.
- Green Hill G is located within the parishes of Warrington and Lavendon in Milton Keynes, approximately 600m north of Lavendon.
- Green Hill BESS is located within the parish of Grendon, North Northamptonshire, approximately 600m north of Grendon.
- The precise location of the cable route will be developed and identified following additional technical surveys.

The Applicant is part of Island Green Power.

Green Hill Solar Farm is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The Environmental Statement will provide a detailed description of the Green Hill Solar Farm and its likely significant environmental impacts. Information compiled so far about the Green Hill Solar Farm’s likely significant environmental effects is set out for consultation in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (the PEIR) and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary.

The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

- Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the solar PV electricity generating station and associated development including grid connection and energy storage facility;
- Compulsory acquisition of land, including interests in land, rights over land and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and powers for the temporary use of land;
- The application, modification and/or disapplication of legislation including legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.



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 Green Hill Solar Farm, and please find enclosed:

1. Example covering letter to statutory consultees under section 42 of the 2008 Act and Regulation 13 of the 2017 Regulations;
2. Example covering letter to land interests under section 44 of the 2008 Act;
3. Copy of the notice publicising the application under section 48 of the 2008 Act. The notice is published in the Daventry Express, Northampton Chronicle & Echo, Northamptonshire Telegraph, Milton Keynes Citizen, London Gazette and The Guardian on 31 October and 7 November, and in The Bucks Herald on 30 October and 6 November.

Consultation materials

In accordance with section 46 of the 2008 Act, the documents listed as points 4-7 below are available to consultees free of charge during the consultation between 7 November – 19 December 2024 at the information points detailed in the section 48 notice, and on the project website document library www.greenhillsolar.co.uk pursuant to the Applicant's duty to consult under section 42 and 44 of the Act:

4. Notice publicising the proposed DCO application under section 48 of the 2008 Act;
5. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR");
6. A non-technical summary of the PEIR; and
7. Additional documents including the Project Information Leaflet, Feedback Questionnaire and Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

Hard copies of the Project Information Leaflet, Feedback Questionnaire and the non-technical summary of the PEIR are also available free of charge on request. Please note there will be a £750 charge per copy for printing and delivery of a hard copy of the PEIR. Details of how to request these documents and any related charges are set out in the section 48 notice.

Responses to this consultation must be received no later than 11.59pm on 19 December 2024. Responses received after this time may not be considered.

If you would like further information about this letter, the consultation or the Green Hill Solar Farm, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided below:

Emailing: info@greenhillsolar.co.uk

Calling our Freephone: 0800 012 9882

Writing to us at: FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM

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



Yours faithfully,

Lesley Giles
Project Development Manager
On behalf of Green Hill Solar Farm Limited