



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —

Neva Johnson
Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Central Operations
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

oneearthsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Our Ref: 23/01423/PREAPP

Please ask for: Amanda Broadhead

Email: planning@bassetlaw.gov.uk

Dear Neva

11 December 2023

- Location** Land at either side of the River Trent, extending broadly to the A57 to the north, South Clifton to the south, Skegby to the west, Thorney to the east.
- Proposal** Scoping Opinion – The construction and installation of solar panels, battery energy storage systems and associated grid connections to generate 740 MW of renewable energy/electricity across 1,500 hectares in Lincolnshire, Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood

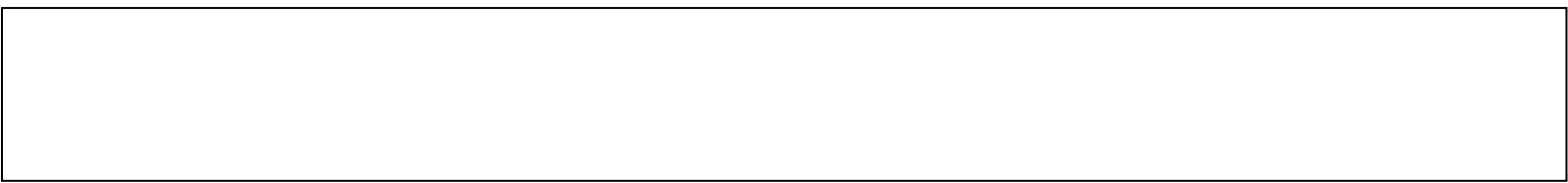
Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11
Application by One Earth Solar Farm Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the One Earth Solar Farm (the Proposed Development)

Thank you for your letter dated 13th November 2023 requesting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping opinion for the above development proposal.

The District Council acknowledges the request for an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Assessment under the terms of Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Health Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017(as amended), in relation to proposed development outlined above.

The proposed development is not outlined in Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

In terms of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 the proposed development falls within the following description:



3 – Energy Industry

- a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water.

The threshold outlined in Schedule 2 for this type of development is 0.5ha.

The proposed development site is approx. 1,500 ha across Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire and would allow for the generation of 740 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The site therefore exceeds the threshold as outlined in Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

Whilst no formal screening opinion was submitted to the Local Planning Authority, the applicant has undertaken their own screening opinion which concluded that an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the proposed development. The Council is in agreement to this approach.

The purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment, is to establish the nature of the development and the environment in which it is to take place during the construction and operational phases, to identify likely significant effects on the environment that may arise. The EIA regulations require that any development falling within the description of Schedule 2 development will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, where the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of such factors as its nature, size or location.

Obviously the proposed Environmental Statement will need to contain the general principles set out in Schedule 4 of the Town and County Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations.

The purpose of the submitted scoping report is to establish the following:

1. Identify the nature of the proposed development including its purpose, physical characteristics, land use requirements and any alternatives that have been considered
2. Identify and describe the key environmental topics that the EIA proposes to consider
3. Identify any environmental topics that are not relevant to the EIA and if these are proposed to be scoped out
4. Define the extent to which the key environmental topics need to be investigated and the methodology for assessment; and
5. Enable and initiate preliminary consultation with stakeholders

I will address the above in turn.

- 1) Identify the nature of the proposed development including its purpose, physical characteristics, land use requirements and any alternatives that have been considered

It is considered that the nature of the proposed development including its purpose, physical characteristics and land use requirements have been set out in the submitted scoping report.

- 2) , 3) and 4) Proposed topics to be scoped in and out of the assessment and methodologies

The submitted scoping report lists a comprehensive list of the topics to be scoped.

Chapter 18 lists the following environmental matters that are scoped out and these are as follows:

Glint and Glare

Waste

Wind Microclimate

The District Council's Environmental Health Officer has commented that the Scoping Report (November 2023) scopes out the possible impact from lighting schemes during the construction/decommissioning and operational phases of the project. The potential for light nuisance during the construction phase is not dissimilar to the potential for noise nuisance, which has been scoped in. It may be appropriate to scope lighting during construction into the Environmental Impact Assessment, rather than relying on the later, proposed, Construction Environmental Management, and Demolition Environmental Management Plans.

Nottinghamshire County Council Highway Authority has commented that the proposal would have a significant impact on the existing transportation network mainly during the project's construction phase. Therefore a detailed Transport Assessment (TA) and supporting studies to assess the additional traffic demands and any required mitigation to the highway network would be required. These should be prepared in accordance with current Planning Practice Policy, Nottinghamshire County Council's Design Guide and other industry accepted guidance on TA's. The HA will need to consider the detail of the transportation impacts once the planning application (s) is/(are) made and is likely to secure any necessary mitigation measures through planning condition and S106 obligations. Their detailed comments are attached.

Whilst some topics have been scoped out it is considered that there is a degree of overlap with the topics that are proposed to be scoped in eg Glint and glare will to a degree impact landscape and visual. Likewise cumulative effects will relate to all of the above topics and therefore there will need to be some cross reference with the documents that are submitted with the planning application per se.

A full round of consultation has been undertaken in respect of the submitted scoping report and it is considered that this approach is acceptable based on the very limited consultation comments that have been received to date (some responses have not yet been received; however if these do come back I will of course forward them onto you).

The submitted scoping report does acknowledge that a series of technical reports will be required to accompany the planning application and therefore I attach a copy of the consultation responses that have been received so that these can inform your future submission, these have been received from the following bodies:

BDC Environmental Health
NCC Highways

In terms of the topics proposed to be scoped in the local planning authority is generally in agreement with these and comments are made as follows:

Cumulative and Combined Effects

It is considered that there are some developments missing from the list that have been provided in the scoping report and the applicant's attention is brought to the following link which sets out the relevant energy developments in the District. From here the applicant will

be able to see which ones will need to be considered for this Environmental Statement.

[Energy developments | Bassetlaw District Council](#)

5) Enable and initiate consultation

The Council has undertaken consultation on this scoping opinion and the received responses are attached to this letter which outline the main consultees and their details. There are a number of consultations outstanding and the Council will forward a copy of these responses if they are forthcoming. The Council is happy to facilitate meetings with any consultee as the applicant feels is necessary.

This forms the Council's formal scoping opinion under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Wrought', written in a cursive style.

Development Team Manager