

Jake Stephens, Case Officer
The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS16PN

Alexander House
1 Mandarin Road
Rainton Bridge Business Park
Houghton le Spring
DH4 5RA

27 May 2021

Dear Mr Stephens,

Longfield Solar Farm – section 46 notification under the Planning Act 2008

The Secretary of State is hereby notified in accordance with section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”), of Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd’s intention to submit a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) application to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to authorise the construction, operation (which includes maintenance) and decommissioning of the proposed Longfield Solar Farm (the “Scheme”). Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd intends to make this application in Autumn 2021.

We have previously provided notification pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 that the Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development (“EIA development”), as defined by those regulations and an Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

The submission of the application will follow a period of statutory pre-application consultation carried out pursuant to section 42, section 47 and section 48 of the Act, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the “APFP Regulations”), and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The consultation will commence on 1 June 2021 and end on 13 July 2021.

Summary of the Scheme

The Longfield Solar Farm will comprise the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility and energy storage facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) and export connection to the National Grid (“The Scheme”). The Scheme would be located on farmland north east of Chelmsford, and north of the A12 between Boreham and Hatfield Peverel, covering an area of approximately 474 hectares (ha) (“the DCO Site”). Of the DCO site, around 60% is likely to be used for the location of the PV Arrays, with other areas being used for the BESS, substations and underground cabling, access tracks, some ancillary buildings, as well as areas of landscaping.

The proposed DCO will, amongst other things, authorise:

- construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of ground mounted PV Arrays, Solar Stations and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), along with various underground Distribution Cables;
- associated and/or ancillary works including a new substation, known as the Longfield Substation which will be connected to the PV Arrays and BESS via underground Distribution Cables. The Longfield Substation will then link into the existing Bulls Lodge Substation, operated by National Grid. The Scheme includes an extension to the existing Bulls Lodge Substation. Other works will include primary and secondary access tracks, and ancillary buildings such as offices. There will also be parts of the DCO Site used for landscape works which will include features such as biodiversity improvement measures and fencing;
- the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights and the taking of temporary possession of land;
- the overriding of easements and other rights over or affecting land;
- the application and/or disapplication of legislation relating to the Longfield Solar Farm; and,
- such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licences, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

Consultation documents

Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Applicant to send to the Secretary of State the information that it intends to provide to consultees under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, on or before commencing section 42 consultation. As such, please find enclosed the information that is being sent to the section 42 consultees identified:

- A covering letter sent to those consultees pursuant to section 42(1)(a) and section 42(1)(b) and a cover letter sent to those consultees pursuant to section 42(1)(d) – enclosing:
 - A consultation booklet, which provides more information about the Scheme and includes a plan showing the proposed red-line boundary of the Scheme;
 - A consultation questionnaire which may be used to provide feedback on the proposals; and,
 - Notice of the proposed application which has been publicised in accordance with section 48 of the Act and the requirements set out in regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations (for section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees only).

These documents, as well as a Preliminary Environment Information (PEI) Report and accompanying non-technical summary, will be available using the following link from the start of the consultation period on 1 June 2021: <https://www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk/downloads/>.

We are providing this information in an electronic form to minimise the provision of paper or electronic documentation which has to be physically handled during the COVID-19 pandemic. If, however, the Secretary of State requires the material in an alternative form, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In addition to these documents, there will be additional information on our website, www.longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk and through a virtual public exhibition accessible by the same link. We will also offer consultees the opportunity to speak to the consultation team directly in a manner compliant with Government guidance on COVID 19. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the section 48 notice.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on info@longfieldsolarfarm.co.uk or by calling 08081687925.

Yours faithfully,



James Pateman
Project Manager