Stonestreet Green Solar

Environmental Impact Assessment Technical Note

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Deadline 5
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Planning Act 2008
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Purpose

1.1.1 EPL 001 Limited (the 'Applicant') has submitted an application to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero for the Project (the 'DCO Application). The Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') as defined in the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008')[1].

1.1.2 This Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') Technical Note has been prepared by Quod in response to an increase in the minimum distance that BESS Units (Works No 2 - Balance of Systems and BESS) can be sited from residential receptors from 150m to 200m. This increased distance is now reflected in revised versions of the following documents:

- **Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5(C));**
- **ES Volume 2, Chapter 3: Project Description (Doc. Ref. 5.2(B))**; and
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.16(A))**.

1.1.3 This EIA Technical Note considers whether the increased minimum distance introduces new, or materially different, likely significant effects on the environment to those reported in **ES Volume 2** and supporting appendices.

2 EIA Review

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This EIA Technical Note considers whether the increased minimum distance and revised documents referred to at paragraph 1.1.2 introduce new, or materially different, likely significant effects on the environment to those reported in **ES Volume 2** and supporting appendices.

2.2 Relevant Revised DCO Application Documents

2.2.1 A revised version of the **ES Volume 2, Chapter 3: Project Description (Doc. Ref. 5.2(B))** has been submitted at Deadline 5 to align to the revised **Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5(C))**. The only amendment is at paragraph 3.6.20 which now states *'BESS Units will also be at least ~~150m~~ 200m from residential properties'.*

2.2.2 The **Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5(C))** and **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (Doc Ref. 7.16(A))** have also been revised to reflect this change although these documents do not form part of the ES.

2.3 Construction and Decommissioning Phases

2.3.1 The assessment of environmental effects associated with the construction and decommissioning phases of the Project assumed notional "likely worst case" scenarios with respect to the envisaged construction and decommissioning methods, activities and distance to receptors.

2.3.2 Assumptions regarding plant lists and distance made in the construction noise assessment in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)** [APP-038] were made by using worst case assumptions. The increased minimum distance of BESS Units from residential receptors means that the assessment of construction noise effects presented in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)** [APP-038] is a conservative worst case.

2.3.3 The increased distance would not affect new receptors or give rise introduce new, or materially different, likely significant effects on the environment and sensitive receptors to those reported in ES Volume 2 for both the construction and decommissioning stages of the Project.

2.4 Operational Phase

2.4.1 Table 2.1 sets out the minimum BESS distance which is referred to in assessments for the operational phase of the Project for each ES chapter.

Table 2.1: ES Review

ES Chapter	Reliance on BESS Unit distance	Implications of the Change
ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage (Doc Ref. 5.2(A)) [AS-011]	Not relied on although assessed as part of Project. BESS Units are proposed to be located outside areas of potential archaeological significance and this remains the case.	None.
ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2(A)) [AS-012]	Not relied on - assessed as part of Project.	The assessment considers impacts on residential visual receptors arising from the Project's components, including BESS Units. Increased minimum distances of the BESS Units from residential units by 50m would not give rise to new or materially different likely significant effects on the environment to those reported in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Landscape and Views (Doc Ref. 5.2(A))** [AS-012] and the supporting appendices.
ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Biodiversity (Doc Ref. 5.2) [APP-033]	Not relied on - assessed as part of Project.	None.
ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Environment (Doc Ref. 5.2(B)) [REP1-022]	Not relied on - assessed as part of Project. BESS Units will be located in areas that are at low risk of flooding and this remains the case.	None.
ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Land Contamination (Doc Ref. 5.2) [APP-035]	Not considered.	None.
ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics (Doc Ref. 5.2(B)) [REP1-024]	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics (Doc Ref. 5.2(B))** [REP1-024] considered the impacts on noise emissions of plant associated with the Project, including BESS on amenity and human health.	As set out below, the noise assessment remains valid. The socio-economic assessment therefore presents a worst case scenario and remains valid for assessment.

	The effect was considered to be Negligible to Minor Adverse (not significant). The assessment chapter does not make specific reference to the location of the BESS from residential receptors, local residents have been considered in relation to effects on amenity and human health.	
ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 5.2(D)) [REP3-012]	Not relied on - assessed as part of Project.	None.
ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2) [APP-038]	Noise modelling was informed by the **Illustrative Project Drawings – Not for Approval (Doc Ref 2.6(B))** [REP3-004] which assumed a minimum 150m distance.	The increased distance of the BESS Units from the residential receptors by 50m is likely to lead to slight reductions in noise compared to the figures reported in Table 14.16 and Table 14.17 of the **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)** [APP-038]. However, the assessment is a robust worst case assessment and remains valid. During operation, the Project will be operated in line with the noise mitigation / enhancement measures outlined within the Table 3.8 of the **Outline Operational Management Plan ('OMP') (Doc Ref. 7.11(A))** [REP1-050], with further details provided in the subsequent Detailed OMP(s). The **Draft DCO (Doc Ref. 3.1(F))** includes a requirement obliging the Applicant to prepare an Operational Noise Mitigation and Monitoring Scheme ('ONMMS') that

		requires demonstration that the authorised development is not likely to result in any materially new or materially different noise effects from those assessed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Noise (Doc Ref. 5.2)** [APP-038]. This ONMMS will consider the increased distance of the BESS units from the residential receptors.
ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Climate Change (Doc Ref. 5.2) [APP-039]	Not relied on - assessed as part of Project.	None.

2.5 Conclusion

2.5.1 In conclusion, the increased minimum distance from 150m to 200m between residential receptors and BESS Units is considered to be non-material since it does not fundamentally alter the nature of the Project and does not introduce any new, or materially different, likely significant effects on the environment. Updated assessments to those provided in ES Volume 2 are therefore considered necessary not required for decision making.

References

[1] His Majesty's Stationery Office (2008). Planning Act 2008.