
FENWICK SOLAR FARM

Fenwick Solar Farm
EN010152

Covering Letter

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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
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Prepared for:
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Prepared by:
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Fenwick Solar Project Limited

Unit 5e Park Farm | Chichester Road |
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31 October 2024

Dear Ms Norris,

Planning Act 2008 – Application for a Development Consent Order for Fenwick Solar Farm

Application Ref: EN010152

On behalf of Fenwick Solar Project Limited (the Applicant) I am pleased to enclose an application for a Development Consent Order (the DCO Application) pursuant to section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) for the proposed Fenwick Solar Farm (the Scheme).

1.1 Subject of the DCO Application

- 1.1.1 The Application is for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate and maintain, and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility and associated development. The associated development proposed includes, but is not limited to, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); On-Site Substation; underground cabling to provide export and import connection to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS); and areas of landscaping and biodiversity enhancements. The connection to the NETS will be either via underground cabling along a corridor in which three 400 kV cables would run for approximately 6.3 km from the Solar PV Site to the Existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation; or via underground cabling between the On-Site Substation and existing overhead power lines within the Solar PV Site, which also connect to the Existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation.
- 1.1.2 A non-technical description of the Scheme is included within the **Guide to the Application [EN010152/APP/1.2]** and the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement **[EN010152/APP/6.4]**. A more detailed



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technical description of the Scheme is included within **ES Volume I, Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]** and the **Design and Access Statement [EN010152/APP/7.2]**.

1.1.3 The Scheme is located entirely within the City of Doncaster Council's administrative area. The Scheme is located on land close to the small rural villages of Fenwick, Moss and Sykehouse, as well as the hamlet of Topham.

1.1.4 The Scheme will generate a significant amount of renewable energy with an anticipated export capacity of approximately 237.5 megawatts (MW) although as is now standard practice the generating capacity of the Scheme is not proposed to be capped. The DCO Application is accompanied by a **Statement of Need [EN010152/APP/7.3]** which provides further detail on the need for the Scheme. The **Statement of Need [EN010152/APP/7.3]** concludes:

"The Scheme will, if consented, provide an essential progression to meeting the governmental objectives of delivering sustainable development to enable decarbonisation. By doing so, the Scheme will address the climate change emergency that affects everyone's lives and the environment, by ensuring our energy supply is secure, low-carbon and low-cost."

1.1.5 The DCO Application is required because the Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the PA 2008, as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 MW. As such, the decision whether to grant development consent will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the Secretary of State). The NSIP and associated development are formally described in Schedule 1 of the **Draft DCO [EN010152/APP/3.1]**.

1.2 Application Fee and Documentation Enclosed

1.2.1 A fee of £8,796 has been submitted by BACS Transfer to the account of the Planning Inspectorate on 9 October 2024. The Planning Inspectorate confirmed via email on 21 October 2024 that the fee had been received.

1.2.2 The DCO Application has been submitted electronically using Sharepoint as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate in advance of submission.

1.2.3 In accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents, a GIS shapefile showing the Order limits for the Scheme was issued to the Planning Inspectorate via email on 10 October 2024 more than 10 working days in advance of the submission of the DCO Application. The **Electronic Application Index [EN010152/APP/1.5]** was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate via email on 10 October 2024. The final version is submitted alongside this Application.



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- 1.2.4 A completed **Section 55 Checklist [EN010152/APP/1.4]** has been included with the DCO Application to assist with the Planning Inspectorate's compliance check of the DCO Application.

1.3 Application Formalities

- 1.3.1 This Application is made in the form required by section 37(3)(b) of the PA 2008 and the application documents comply with the requirements in section 37 of the PA 2008 and those set out in:

- a. The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the APFP Regulations);
- b. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations);
- c. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (April 2024);
- d. The DLUHC 'Planning Act 2008: Nationally significant infrastructure projects – Application form guidance' (June 2013); and
- e. The Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (August 2024).

- 1.3.2 The Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development and therefore the DCO Application is accompanied by an **Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010152/APP/6.1]**, in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

- 1.3.3 It was agreed with the Planning Inspectorate in an email on 9 October 2024 that the DCO Application will be published (with any necessary redactions and excluding any confidential documents) as soon as practicable after submission, on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning Scheme's webpage. The Applicant intends publish the DCO Application documents on its project website on 6 November 2024.

- 1.3.4 The following Application documents within **ES Volume III [EN010152/APP/6.3]** contain confidential information and therefore redacted versions are also provided:

- a. **Appendix 8-4 Badger Report** (including a Confidential Annex); and
- b. **Appendix 8-7 Breeding Birds Report** (including a Confidential Annex).

- 1.3.5 These documents have been marked as red in the **Electronic Application Index [EN010152/APP/1.5]** and the **Guide to the Application [EN010152/APP/1.2]** to highlight their confidentiality.



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- 1.3.6 The Applicant also wishes to bring to the Planning Inspectorate's attention that there are no statutory sites of nature conservation affected by the Scheme and therefore only non-statutory sites are shown on the **Non-Statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation, and Important Habitats Plan [EN010152/APP/2.6]** submitted to accord with Regulation 5(2)(l) of the APFP Regulations.

1.4 Consent Flexibility

- 1.4.1 The Scheme will use ground mounted solar PV panels to generate electricity from the sun. Solar PV is a rapidly evolving technology and as a result, the **Draft DCO [EN010152/APP/3.1]** and supporting **Works Plan [EN010152/APP/2.2]** propose a degree of flexibility to allow the latest technology to be utilised and incorporated at the time of construction.
- 1.4.2 A number of the design aspects and features of the Scheme cannot be confirmed until the tendering process for the design and construction of the Scheme has been completed. The **Outline Design Parameters Statement [EN010152/APP/7.4]** therefore sets out the design parameters within which the Scheme is proposed to be constructed and operated, presenting a likely worst-case assessment of potential environmental effects of the Scheme that cannot yet be fixed. The EIA undertaken in support of the DCO Application has considered and reflected the flexibility sought in the **Draft DCO [EN010152/APP/3.1]**. The maximum design parameters and principles set out in the **Outline Design Parameters Statement [EN010152/APP/7.4]** have been assessed in the ES, reporting likely worst-case impacts wherever an element of flexibility is maintained, and are secured by the **Draft DCO [EN010152/APP/3.1]**.
- 1.4.3 The EIA has therefore been undertaken adopting the principles of the 'Rochdale Envelope', as described in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 9: Rochdale Envelope (July 2018). The involves assessing the maximum (and, where relevant, minimum) parameters for the Scheme where flexibility needs to be maintained.

1.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.5.1 The DCO Application includes a **No Significant Effects (NSE) Report [EN010152/APP/7.12]**. The NSE Report considers whether the Scheme is likely to have an effect on areas that have been internationally designated for nature conservation purposes (termed 'European Sites'). This has been prepared in accordance with and Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations and the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Habitats Regulations Assessments published in September 2024. The **NSE Report [EN010152/APP/7.12]** concludes that:



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“there will be No Significant Effects to European sites either from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme or in combination with other plans and projects.”

1.6 Compulsory Acquisition

- 1.6.1 The land over which the Applicant is seeking powers of compulsory acquisition of land, rights and interests and powers of temporary possession in the **Draft DCO [EN010152/APP/3.1]** for the purposes of the Scheme is listed in the **Book of Reference [EN010152/APP/4.3]** and shown on the **Land Plan [EN0101052/APP/2.1]**. The **Statement of Reasons [EN010152/APP/4.1]** also provides details of the powers sought and the **Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [EN010152/APP/4.4]** sets out negotiations to date with respect to land matters.
- 1.6.2 The **Book of Reference [EN010152/APP/4.3]** has been prepared and is submitted in compliance with Regulation 5(2)(d) of the APFP Regulations, and in accordance with DLUHC’s guidance ‘Planning Act 2008: Guidance related to procedures for compulsory acquisition of land’ (September 2013).
- 1.6.3 Details of the adequacy of the funding for compensation are provided in the **Funding Statement [EN010152/APP/4.2]**. The Statement of Reasons and Funding Statement are submitted in compliance with Regulation 5(2)(h) of the APFP Regulations.

1.7 Other Consents and Licences

- 1.7.1 A summary of other consents and licences likely to be required in addition to those being requested as part of the **Draft DCO [EN010152/APP/3.1]** is provided in the **Consents and Agreements Position Statement [EN010152/APP/3.3]**.

1.8 Pre-application Consultation

- 1.8.1 The Applicant has had careful regard to the pre-application consultation requirements of the PA 2008, the guidance on pre-application consultation issued by the DLUHC and the Planning Inspectorate, and its pre-application discussions held with the Planning Inspectorate, as required by Section 50(3) and 55(4) of the PA 2008.
- 1.8.2 As required by Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008, the DCO Application is accompanied by a **Consultation Report [EN010152/APP/5.1]** and supporting **appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**, which provide details of the Applicant’s compliance with sections 42, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008, the APFP Regulations, the EIA Regulations, and the relevant guidance.
- 1.8.3 The **Consultation Report [EN010152/APP/5.1]** sets out the responses of statutory and non-statutory consultees and how the Applicant has had regard



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to the relevant responses received through the design iteration and evolution of the Scheme and the DCO Application in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008.

1.9 Other Matters

- 1.9.1 In accordance with Regulation 5(5) of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant retains all responses to the consultation carried out under Part 5 of the PA 2008 and can make them available at the request of the Planning Inspectorate and/or the Secretary of State.
- 1.9.2 The Applicant will keep all application documents under review and will endeavour to provide updates (where it considers it necessary to do so) during the examination of the DCO Application considering questions and comments received from the Examining Authority and Interested Parties.
- 1.9.3 The Applicant also confirms that Artificial Intelligence has not been used to create or alter any part of the application documents, information or data submitted with the DCO Application.

We look forward to hearing from you in relation to a formal acceptance of this DCO Application. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Standing

Project Manager, Boom Power

On behalf of Fenwick Solar Project Limited | Unit 5e Park Farm | Chichester Road |
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