
FENWICK SOLAR FARM

**Fenwick Solar Farm
EN010152**

Consents and Agreements Position Statement

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1. Consents and Agreements Position Statement

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document has been prepared by Fenwick Solar Project Limited (“the Applicant”). It forms part of the application (“the DCO Application”) for a development consent order (“DCO”) that has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“the Secretary of State”) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is developing the Fenwick Solar Farm (“the Scheme”). The Scheme comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) with associated infrastructure including a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and export and import connection to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS), at National Grid’s Thorpe Marsh Substation.
- 1.1.3 Further details on the Scheme are provided in **ES Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

2. Purpose of This Document

- 2.1.1 The purpose of this document is to provide information on the additional consents and licences that are, or may be required to construct and operate the Scheme.
- 2.1.2 Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”) governs the content of an application for a DCO, including the requirements for the necessary accompanying documents specified in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (“APFP Regulations”).
- 2.1.3 Regulations 5 and 6 of the APFP Regulations provide the statutory requirements for what must accompany a development consent application. Guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government: 'Planning Act 2008: Application Form Guidance' (June 2013) (paragraphs 45 and 46) requires that:
- "Where the proposed development will also require other consents, licences, permits, etc, to enable it to be constructed and/or operational, and for which the Secretary of State is not the authorising body under the Planning Act, then the applicant must list and briefly describe these in Box 24. Reference should be made to any that have already been applied for, and a copy enclosed of any that the applicant may already be in the possession of.*
- The applicant should also, either in Box 24 or elsewhere in one of their application documents, set out whether there are, in principle, any reasons why such consents etc. might not be granted. In providing this information the applicant should reference responses received from the relevant authorising bodies regarding the likelihood of such consents etc. being granted."*
- 2.1.4 This document lists those consents which the Applicant currently anticipates could be required for the Scheme.

3. Consenting Requirements Incorporated within the Draft DCO

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 Section 33 (Effect of requirement for development consent on other consent regimes) of the PA 2008 makes it clear that there is no requirement for certain principal conventional consents to be obtained where a DCO is required to authorise a project (as is the case for the Scheme).
- 3.1.2 Part 7 of the PA 2008, in particular section 120 (What may be included in order granting development consent), makes it clear that the following can be included within a DCO:
- a. Ancillary matters (including those listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the PA 2008);
 - b. The application, modification or exclusion of statutory provisions for which the provision may be made in the DCO;
 - c. Amendment, repeal or revocation of any local legislation, where thought necessary or expedient by the Secretary of State in consequence of or in connection with the DCO; and
 - d. Incidental, consequential, supplementary, transitional or transitory provisions and savings
- 3.1.3 Section 150 (Removal of consent requirements) of the PA 2008 states that a requirement to obtain certain prescribed consents, or authorisations, under the Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015 can be removed by the DCO with the relevant consenting body's agreement.
- 3.1.4 From the above, it is clear that the intention of the PA 2008 is to encourage as many consents to be 'wrapped up' in a DCO as possible, creating a 'one-stop shop' approach for construction related consents.
- 3.1.5 The Applicant believes that the approach to including consents with a DCO should apply for both those that do, and those that do not, require the agreement of the relevant body under section 150 in order for them to be included in the DCO. The Applicant envisages the approach being as follows:
- a. The DCO contains an express provision disapplying the requirement for the consent in question.
 - b. In exchange, the DCO includes 'protective provisions' for the benefit of the body concerned.
 - c. These protective provisions are specifically stated to have effect unless otherwise agreed between the Applicant and the body concerned.
 - d. Compliance with the provisions is a matter as between the parties and can be enforced accordingly.
 - e. Either way, the protective provisions provide a means for the body concerned to monitor, enforce compliance and to review the effectiveness of the approval regime enshrined in the protective provisions.

- f. The mechanism of approval being given under the protective provisions allows the body concerned to approach a project in two stages (i) the DCO application stage, where the principle of the project is accepted by the body concerned and the detail of the protective provision is negotiated and (ii) the subsequent approval stages under the protective provisions which cannot be unreasonably refused but when detailed matters for construction can be properly considered.

3.1.6 This is a tried and tested approach adopted in numerous local and public (hybrid) Acts, Harbour Act Orders, Transport and Works Act Orders for many decades and which is now firmly established in the case of DCOs.

3.2 Consents

3.2.1 The principal consent for the Scheme will be a DCO. The DCO process enables land acquisition, along with many consents and powers, to be dealt with at the same time. The DCO application may, however, need to be supplemented by other applications because:

- a. A particular consent cannot be contained in the DCO.
- b. A consenting authority declines to allow a consent to be contained in the DCO
- c. It is not desirable or it is inappropriate to include a consent within the DCO due to the stage of design development and the level of detail available at the time the DCO is made

3.2.2 The majority of consents required are included, or addressed, within the draft DCO, as permitted by various provisions of the PA 2008, although discussions in some of these respects are continuing with the principal stakeholders. These fall into the following categories:

- a. Authorisation of all permanent and temporary works for the Scheme which are described as the "authorised development" in Schedule 1 to the draft DCO (equivalent to planning permission). Article 3 (Development consent etc. granted by this Order) is the principal power in this respect;
- b. Compulsory acquisition of land and of rights over land, and the temporary possession of land. Articles 20 to 33 in Part 5 (Powers of Acquisition) of the draft DCO provide these powers;
- c. Consent to carry out street works. Article 8 (Street works) of the draft DCO provides this power;
- d. Traffic regulation measures required during construction that are equivalent to Traffic Regulation Orders made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Article 15 (Traffic Regulation Measures) of the draft DCO provides this power;
- e. Consent to alter the layout of streets and to form new, or alter or improve existing, accesses to the highway. Article 9 (Power to alter layout, etc., of streets) provides this power;
- f. Article 6 (Application and modification of statutory provisions) provides a number of powers:
 - i. Land drainage consent(s) under section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 for works affecting the flow in ordinary watercourses and the

provision of relevant byelaws (disapplication of that requirement requires the consent of the relevant body);

- ii. Flood risk activity permit(s) from the Environment Agency under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016 (disapplication of that requirement requires the consent of the relevant body);
- iii. Trade effluent consent under the Water Industry Act 1991 for the purposes of discharging trade effluent from welfare facilities during construction (disapplication of that requirement requires the consent of the relevant body);
- iv. Requirement of licence for felling under section 9 of the Forestry Act 1967.

3.2.3 Some of these consents are prescribed in the Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015. As a result, under section 150 of the PA 2008, the relevant consenting body must agree to the inclusion of these consents within (i.e. disappplied by) the DCO. Where this applies, this is indicated in the list above. Discussions between the Applicant and these consenting bodies are ongoing, and the Applicant is confident that the necessary agreements will be obtained before or during the examination of its application, in exchange for the Applicant including in the DCO appropriate protective provisions.

3.3 Other Consents and Licenses

3.3.1 A summary of the additional consents and licences likely to be required is set out in Table 1 below.

3.3.2 **Table 3-1** lists the type of consent or licence required, the relevant consenting body, any agreement that has been reached with that body, actions to be undertaken and the status of the relevant application (e.g. whether the consent or licence has been granted or the anticipated application submission date).

Table 3-1. Summary of additional consents and licences likely to be required

No.	No Nature of Consent/License	Key Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status/ Comment
1	Electricity Generation Licence.	Electricity Act 1989	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	Required for electricity generation. An application for a generation licence was granted on 26 July 2023
2	Bilateral Connection and Construction Agreement	N/A	National Grid	The Bilateral Connection Agreement and Construction Agreement was signed on 3 October 2023.
3	Water abstraction or impoundment licence	Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended by the Water Act 2003), Environment Act 1995, Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006	Environment Agency	If groundwater pumping / dewatering is required, then applications to be made by the contractor before the abstraction or impoundment commences as appropriate.
4	Water discharge	Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016	Environment Agency	If water discharge activities are required, then an application for a water discharge activity environmental permit will be made by the contractor before water is discharged.

No.	No Nature of Consent/License	Key Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status/ Comment
5	Permit for transport of abnormal loads For delivery by road of loads that fall outside standard practice (if required)	Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003 or with authorisation from the Secretary of State under the Road Traffic Act 1988	Department for Transport, National Highways, Local Highway Authority or the police and bridge owners (if any) as appropriate	Applications are typically made post DCO by the relevant contractor. Appropriate applications, in accordance with the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan will be made by the contractor in advance of the delivery of any abnormal loads.
6	Section 61 consent Control of noise on construction sites	Control of Pollution Act 1974	Relevant local authority	This is a voluntary consent process however it is anticipated that applications will be made by the contractor before construction commences.
7	Health and Safety related consents	Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsidiary legislation	Health and Safety Executive	Applications to be made by the contractor before construction commences as appropriate.
8	Protected species licence	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Protection of Badgers Act 1992	The Secretary of State or Natural England	It is proposed that the formal application process will take place and any required ecological licences granted prior to the commencement of construction. The Applicant is not aware of any reason why a licence would not be granted should one be required.

No.	No Nature of Consent/License	Key Legislation	Consenting Authority	Status/ Comment
9	Consent to discharge to foul sewer	Water Industries Act 1991	Sewerage undertaker	Applications are typically made post DCO by the relevant contractor.
10	Hazardous Substance Consent	The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015	Local Planning Authority	In the event that there is the presence of certain quantities of hazardous substances. consent may be required

3.4 Agreements

- 3.4.1 Agreements with third parties may be required in parallel to the DCO process and may take a variety of forms.
- 3.4.2 A fundamental part of the DCO process is the preparation and agreement of Statements of Common Ground with third parties to identify the matters on which the Applicant and a third party are in agreement, in order to narrow the focus for examining the Application concerned and to make the examination process more efficient. These will be progressed by the Applicant where appropriate.

An aerial photograph of a vast solar farm at sunset. The rows of solar panels stretch across the landscape, creating a strong sense of perspective. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue, with the sun low on the horizon, casting long shadows and a warm glow over the entire scene.

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