

Date: 27 September 2021
DWD Ref: 15349



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Dear Sir or Madam,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)

PROPOSED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FARM, BATTERY STORAGE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE –VICARAGE DROVE SOLAR FARM, LAND NORTH-WEST OF BICKER

We write on behalf of Renewable Connections Developments Ltd (the 'Applicant') to submit a planning application for the following:

"The construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm, battery storage and associated infrastructure, including inverters, batteries, substation compound, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping."

The proposal is subsidy-free, with no assistance from the UK Government. Planning permission is being sought to operate for 40 years, at which point it would be decommissioned and the land returned to its previous agricultural state. The proposal is hereafter collectively referred to as the 'Proposed Development' and the project is known as 'Vicarage Drove Solar Farm'.

The Site comprises approximately 80.36 hectares ('ha') of agricultural land located to the north-west of Bicker. The Site comprises 80.46 ha with the access track. The majority of the Site comprises Grade 3a land (good quality) and a smaller proportion of Grade 2 land (very good quality). It follows that the Site is farmed as a unit of Grade 3a land and is classed as such for the purposes of this planning application.

The application is submitted to the Council in its capacity as local planning authority under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (the 'TCPA 1990').

Renewable Connections

Renewable Connections Developments Ltd ('Renewable Connections') are one of the most experienced renewable energy teams in the UK having developed over 1GW of solar projects globally since 2010. Renewable Connections work in partnership with European Energy, one of the largest operators of renewable energy plants across Europe.

Partners

R J Greeves BSc (Hons) MRICS
G Bullock BA (Hons) BPL MRTPI
A Vickery BSc MRICS IRRV (Hons)
S Price BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI

A R Holden BSc (Hons) FRICS
G Denning B.Eng (Hons) MSc MRICS
B Murphy BA (Hons) MRUP MRTPI
A Meech BSc MRICS

S Page BA MA (Cantab) MSc MRTPI
P Roberts FRICS CEnv
T Lodeiro BA (Hons) PGDip MSc MRICS



Pre-application consultation

The Applicant has carried out a comprehensive and meaningful pre-application consultation exercise in respect of the Proposed Development, primarily focused on the local community, but also including consultation with the Council and other key consultees.

The Applicant has listened to the views expressed by consultees, including the local community, and has made a number of changes and additions to the Proposed Development.

The approach taken to consultation has been informed by discussions with the Council and reference to the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee Statement of Community Involvement (2012).

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Applicant submitted a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') Screening Opinion from the Council on 8th March 2021. The Council issued its Screening Opinion on 26th March 2021 which confirmed that an EIA is not required.

Planning Application Submission

The application submission consists of the following documents:

- Application Cover Letter;
- Application Form and Certificates;
- Community Infrastructure Levy ('CIL') form;
- Planning, Design and Access Statement (PDAS);
- Consultation Report;
- Alternative Site Assessment;
- Plans (the full of list of plans is itemised at Appendix A of the PDAS);
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment including photomontages;
- Cultural Heritage Assessment;
- Geophysical Survey;
- Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy;
- Transport Report;
- Ecological Assessment;
- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment; and

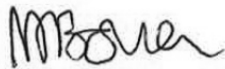
- Agricultural Land Classification Survey

The application has been submitted electronically via the Planning Portal and is accompanied by the necessary fee of £127,049 payable to the Council.

We trust that everything has been submitted to allow you to validate the application and look forward to receiving confirmation of this in due course.

In the meantime, if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me using the following details.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Bowen'.

Nick Bowen MRTPI

Senior Associate

DWD

Nick.Bowen@dwdllp.com

020 7489 1175