



**Request for a Screening Opinion: 49.99MW Solar  
PV development on land at Knowl Green, Bakers  
Road, Belchamp, Essex  
C010 7DF**

Issued by: RSK ADAS Ltd

Date: May 2022

## Quality Assurance

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Checked By:</b>	<b>Issued By:</b>
Jacques Carboni BSc (Hons)	Kenny Dhillon	Jacques Carboni BSc (Hons)

## Disclaimer

RSK ADAS Ltd (ADAS) has prepared this report for the sole use of the client, showing reasonable skill and care, for the intended purposes as stated in the agreement under which this work was completed. The report may not be relied upon by any other party without the express agreement of the client and ADAS. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report.

Where any data supplied by the client or from other sources have been used, it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by ADAS for inaccuracies in the data supplied by any other party. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on the assumption that all relevant information has been supplied by those bodies from whom it was requested.

No part of this report may be copied or duplicated without the express permission of ADAS and the party for whom it was prepared.

Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK ADAS Ltd.

## Version History

Version	Date	Amendments
0.1	27/04/2022	Internal Draft
0.2	10/05/2022	Client Draft
0.3	17/05/2022	Final Issue

# Contents

- 1 Introduction ..... 4
- 2 Site Location and Proposed Development ..... 5
  - 2.1 Site Location ..... 5
  - 2.2 Planning History..... 6
  - 2.3 Proposed Development ..... 6
- 3 Consideration against Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations ..... 8
  - 3.1 Assessment..... 8
  - 3.2 Location of the Development ..... 11
  - 3.3 Characteristics of the Potential Impact..... 14
  - 3.4 Proposed Mitigation Measures..... 15
  - 3.5 Ecology and Landscape ..... 16
  - 3.6 Traffic Management ..... 16
  - 3.7 Pollution and Waste Prevention Measures ..... 16
  - 3.8 Pollution Prevention ..... 17
  - 3.9 Storage of Plant and Machinery..... 17
  - 3.10 Dust Control Methods..... 17
  - 3.11 Wheel Wash Facility..... 18
  - 3.12 Dust Monitoring..... 18
  - 3.13 Waste Monitoring..... 18
  - 3.14 Noise and Vibration Control ..... 19
- 4 Scope of Planning Application documents ..... 20
- 5 Conclusion ..... 22



## 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Screening Request has been prepared by ADAS Planning (Agent) on behalf of BSR Energy (Applicant) and is submitted in relation to a proposal for a 49.99MW PV Solar PV development on land at Knowl Green, Bakers Road, Belchamp, Essex CO10 7DF.
- 1.1.2 An Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) Screening Opinion is requested from the Local Planning Authority, under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the 2017 Regulations”), to determine whether the proposal constitutes EIA development and therefore if an Environmental Statement (ES) would be required for the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3 A Pre-application Enquiry was submitted to Braintree District Council in March 2022 and a formal response is due to be issued by the Case Officer (Ref. 22/60086/PREAPP).
- 1.1.4 A Site Layout Plan has been appended to this Report (Appendix 1). This plan is indicative at this stage and details relating to the layout may vary following the Pre-application Enquiry. This report sets out the background to the proposed development and assesses the potential for likely environmental effects resulting from the proposed development.
- 1.1.5 Table 1 below sets out the documents submitted alongside this screening request:

Title	Description
Site Location Plan	Plan showing the location of the site at 1:2500 scale, providing context to the immediate surrounding area.
Site Layout Plan	A Plan showing the proposed layout of the proposed development at 1:500 scale.
Landscape Strategy Plan	A Plan showing an indicative landscape strategy (not to scale).

*Table 1: Documents Accompanying the Screening Request*

## 2 Site Location and Proposed Development

### 2.1 Site Location

- 2.1.1 The site measures 49.7 hectares in size and is located 1 km north west of Belchamp St. Paul Village in Essex. There is an existing access point to the south of the site, off Baker's Road.
- 2.1.2 The location of the site is demonstrated in the Figure 1 below:

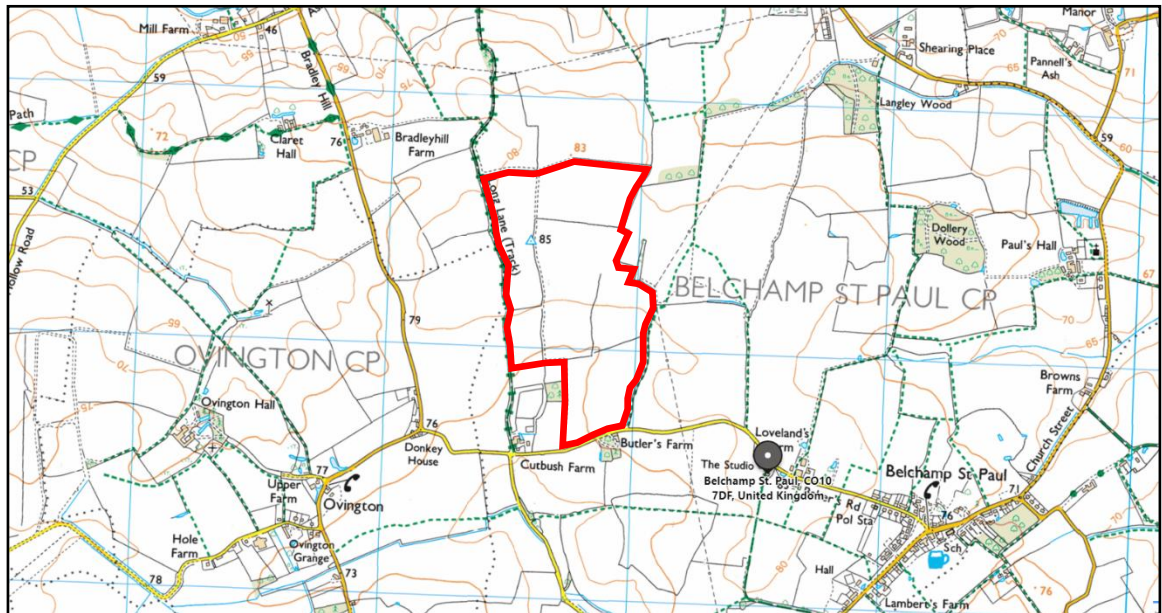


Figure 1: Site Location

- 2.1.3 The site is located within the countryside and is mostly formed of open agricultural fields (arable) with boundary hedgerows and trees scattered throughout. The topography of the site is gently undulating, with the highest point being located toward the northern end of the site.
- 2.1.4 The village of Belchamp St. Paul is 1 km to the south east (and is a recognised settlement within the Local Plan), whilst the hamlet of Knowl Green is 1.2 km to the south. To the south west of the site is Cutbush Farm, which comprises a farmstead and several barns.
- 2.1.5 There is a Byway (referred to as 'Long Lane'), which starts at Cutbush Farm and runs down the entire western flank of the site. There is also a Public Right of Way (PRoW) running from the south eastern corner of the site along part of the eastern flank.
- 2.1.6 The site is located wholly within Flood Risk Zone 1, which is at the lowest risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. In terms of risk of flooding from surface water, the site is mostly within Flood Risk Zone 1, with some small sections of Flood Risk Zone 2 and 3 in the southern section of the site.
- 2.1.7 The nearest designated heritage assets are located to the south west of the site and comprise of the following:

- 'Cutbush Farmhouse' (Grade II) (Ref.1166321)
- 'Barn approximately 70 m north of Cutbush Farmhouse' (Grade II) (Ref. 1122390)

2.1.8 There are no landscape or ecological designations on the site and the site is not within a Conservation Area (or adjacent to one). The nearest Conservation Area is located 1 km south east in Belchamp St. Paul.

## 2.2 Planning History

2.2.1 A search of the Council's Public Access System shows that there is not any relevant planning history for the site. Consequently, there have been no refusals for comparable developments and there is no extent planning permission for Solar development on the site.

## 2.3 Proposed Development

2.3.1 The proposal is for the erection of a Solar photovoltaic (PV) array, with a total export capacity of up to 49.99MW. The proposal may also include the following standard elements of a Solar proposal of this nature:

- Solar PV arrays
- Transformer stations
- String inverters
- CCTV, private switch and DNO substation
- Boundary fence
- Internal access tracks
- Other associated infrastructure

2.3.2 The application will also include a substation connected via an underground cable route, that is sited to the north west of the site. This area of development is 0.6 hectares and would be sited adjacent to an existing substation along Hickford Hill.

2.3.3 With respect to the design of the array, each of the Solar panels will be mounted on a fixed system. The panels are covered by high transparency Solar glass with an anti-reflective coating which minimises glare and glint, whilst also allowing maximum absorption of the available sunlight. The panels are dark blue in colour.

2.3.4 The Solar PV panels will be erected on posts and the soil beneath would consequently still be available for the infiltration of rainwater. The substation to the north west of the site would be sited along Hickford Hill, adjacent to the existing large substation and associated infrastructure. There is hedgerow along the highway and a block of mature vegetation to the south of the proposed substation, providing screening in the wider area. Access would be taken via a newly created access point, through the removal of a section of hedgerow, along this boundary treatment. This would connect into the north east of the site via an underground cable.

2.3.5 The final layout for this development will be refined to ensure that there are no adverse impacts arising from the proposal. The proposal will be designed to minimise and

mitigate any limited impact it may have on the character of the area and will incorporate enhancement measures into the scheme.

- 2.3.6 The site will be accessed from the existing agricultural access to the field from Bakers Road. This runs along the southern boundary of the Solar development. The site access will be maintained for the life of the development. A temporary construction compound will be constructed on the opposite side of Bakers Road to the south and then removed after construction with the site being restored to its original form.
- 2.3.7 The development would have a lifespan of approximately 40 years. At the end of the useful life of the facility, it will be decommissioned, and all the associated equipment will be removed. The land can then be easily reverted to agricultural use.

### 3 Consideration against Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations

#### 3.1 Assessment

3.1.1 Part 2 of the 2017 Regulations provides thresholds for development for which an EIA is a mandatory requirement (Schedule 1) and where it is a discretionary requirement (Schedule 2).

3.1.2 The proposed development is not listed in Schedule 1. Schedule 2 (see extract below in Table 2) sets the following advisory threshold at which an EIA may be required.

Description of proposed development	Applicable thresholds and criteria
3) Energy Industry	
(b) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (unless included in Schedule 1).	The area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectares.

*Table 2: Schedule 2 Development*

3.1.3 The development exceeds 0.5 hectares in area and is therefore a Schedule 2 development and the indicative screening thresholds set out in Paragraph 58 of the Planning Practice Guidance (2019). The development therefore needs to be assessed against the criteria listed in Schedule 3.

3.1.4 Schedule 3 of the regulations provides criteria which should be used to assess Schedule 2 projects, together with the applicable thresholds, to determine if an EIA is required. These criteria are summarised as follows:

- Characteristics of the development.
- Location of the development.
- Characteristics of the potential impact.

3.1.5 An assessment of the proposal against these criteria is therefore made in the following tables 3-5:

The characteristics of the development must be considered, with particular regard to:	
Applicable threshold/criteria	Assessment
The size and design of the whole development	The development footprint will be limited to 5 field parcels partially bounded by hedgerows. Access will make use of existing tracks where possible. Developed components will be located as close to



	each other as possible to reduce the overall footprint of the built area.
Cumulation with other existing/approved development	The proposed development does not form part of a wider development proposal, nor is it positioned adjacent to any existing Solar PV development.
The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;	<p>Although the proposed development would use natural resources at the site, with electricity being generated using Solar energy, the proposal would result in fewer natural resources being used elsewhere such as fossil fuels and there will be a significant reduction of Co2 gas emissions into the atmosphere.</p> <p>An ALC Assessment has been undertaken on the site which indicates that the site is comprised of Grade 2 (6.1%), Subgrade 3a (54.7%) and Subgrade 3b (39.2%).</p> <p>The NPPF defines 'best and most versatile agricultural land as falling within Grades 1, 2 or 3a – as such, the development of the site will result in the temporary loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>In relation to ecology and biodiversity, the site is not subject to any statutory local or national ecology designations. The nearest statutory designated site is Glemford Pits (SSSI) which is 5.7 km away. The impact on the above designated site will be fully assessed as part of the Planning Application to ensure that any impacts are appropriately mitigated.</p> <p>The proposal will be subject to a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) walkover survey to review any potential for ecology and any further assessments which may be required. These assessments will be agreed beforehand with Braintree Council and submitted with the Full Planning Application.</p> <p>Overall, it is considered that the proposed Solar PV array and associated landscaping will provide significant ecological benefits than the current agricultural use of the site, subject to mitigation, and it is considered that the proposal will result in no significant harmful impacts to the species located within the wider area.</p>

<p>The production of waste</p>	<p>The development will produce no waste whilst operational. Upon decommissioning the development components would be recycled where possible. During construction there will be some waste generated from site operatives installing the Solar PV development, all of this waste will be collected and recycled. There will be no waste left at the site or in the vicinity of the development area.</p> <p>The construction waste management will follow the principles of the waste hierarchy which is to prevent/reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and finally dispose. Where possible waste materials will be reused on site or recycled off-site. The reuse and recycling of waste will be facilitated by segregating waste as it arises. Separate waste containers will be provided onsite for the different waste types. However, it must be noted that these would be minimal and would be controlled through the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Mitigation measures have also been discussed in Section 3.4 below.</p>
<p>Pollution and nuisances</p>	<p>The scheme does not result in any complex or hazardous effects during either the construction or operational phase of the development. The arrays and inverters will not generate any significant noise and the materials to be used in the array's construction are designed to absorb the light rather than reflect it.</p> <p>It is expected that the landscape screening will preclude all or partial views of the development from the road users and the limited number of neighbouring dwellings nearby.</p> <p>During construction, the movement of plant and vehicles will result in limited air pollution and noise and the clearance of vegetation and ground works will also result in dust and could result in water pollution. The movement of maintenance vehicles will result in some noise and air pollution. However, these would be minimal and would be controlled through the CEMP. Mitigation measures have also been discussed in Section 3.4 below.</p>
<p>The risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in</p>	<p>The construction works will not require the use of significant quantities of hazardous or toxic material. The installation of the Solar panels would be carried out by standard tried and tested methods and will adhere to the current health and safety legislation. The technology has a good safety record.</p>

accordance with scientific knowledge	
Risk to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution)	<p>A CEMP will be prepared in relation to the on-site construction works. This is a site-specific plan written with the aim of ensuring that environmental management practices are identified and applied throughout the construction of the proposed Solar Park.</p> <p>The CEMP will be used by the construction contractors, including all sub-contractors, to ensure compliance with their legal and contractual obligations, as well as implement best practice in construction environmental management. Mitigation measures have also been discussed in Section 3.4 below.</p>

*Table 3: Characteristics of the development*

### 3.2 Location of the Development

3.2.1 An assessment of the proposal against the criteria for consideration of the location of development is provided in Table 4 below:

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development must be considered, with particular regard:	
Applicable threshold/criteria	Assessment
The existing and approved land use;	The land is currently used for agricultural purposes, specifically arable farming. Outside of the development footprint, land will remain in agricultural production, the area between the Solar PV panels can still be used for grazing by agricultural livestock.
The relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;	<p>The site is not located adjacent to any statutory designated sites for nature conservation.</p> <p>The site currently consists of farmland, and it is considered that generally the site has limited ecological value due to it being actively managed by farm machinery and human intervention for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>The proposal site will be subject to an Ecology PEA walkover survey to review any potential for Ecology and any further assessments which may be required. These assessments will be agreed beforehand with the</p>

	<p>Braintree Council and submitted with the full Planning Application.</p> <p>Overall, it is considered that the proposed Solar PV array and associated landscaping will provide more ecological benefits and strengthen ecological networks than the current agricultural use of the site. Subject to appropriate mitigation, it is not considered that any effects will be significant.</p> <p>Further to this, the applicant considers that taking the site out of agricultural use would further increase the bio-diversity benefits of the proposal, as there would be no need for the intensive use of fertiliser's, herbicides and pesticides on the land and there will be opportunities for significant net gains in biodiversity.</p>
<p>The absorption capacity of the natural environment with particular reference to certain defined areas</p> <p>The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas—</p> <p>(i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;</p> <p>(ii) coastal zones and the marine environment;</p> <p>(iii) mountain and forest areas;</p> <p>(iv) nature reserves and parks;</p> <p>(v) European sites and other areas classified or protected under national legislation;</p> <p>(vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in</p>	<p><i>(i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths &amp; (ii) coastal zones and the marine environment;</i></p> <p><u>Ecology</u></p> <p>The impacts on ecological designations will be fully assessed as part of an Ecology PEA walkover survey to review any potential for Ecology and any further assessments which may be required. These assessments will be agreed beforehand with the Council and submitted with the full Planning Application. We can confirm that the site is free of any statutory national and local ecological designations.</p> <p><u>Flood Risk</u></p> <p>The site is located within an area of Flood Risk Zone 1 and is therefore considered to be at low risk of flooding from rivers and the sea.</p> <p>The proposal would be temporary and would have no lasting impact on the ground infiltration ability.</p> <p>A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy will also be submitted with the Planning Application given the size of the proposal site (NPPF requirement for site of 1 hectare or more) and will ensure that the proposal does not increase flood risk elsewhere.</p> <p><i>(ii) Coastal Zones and the Marine Environment</i></p> <p>The proposal would not be located within or within close proximity of a coastal zone or marine environment.</p>

<p>which it is considered that there is such a failure;</p> <p>(vii) densely populated areas;</p> <p>(viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance</p>	<p><i>(iii) Mountain and Forest areas</i></p> <p>Mapping from Natural England indicates that there are no designated or non-designated mountain or forest areas on or adjacent to the site.</p> <p><i>(iv) Nature reserves and parks</i></p> <p>Mapping from MAGIC indicates that there are no designated nature reserves and parks on or adjacent to the site.</p> <p><i>(v) European sites and other areas classified or protected under national legislation</i></p> <p>The site is not subject to any statutory designation for ecological value.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the proposal will be subject to a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) walkover survey to review any potential for ecology and any further assessments which may be required. If any impacts are identified as a result of this work, suitable mitigation measures will be proposed and agreed with Braintree Council.</p> <p><i>(vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards</i></p> <p>The site is not considered to be in an area where there has been a failure to meet environmental quality standards in relation to air or water quality.</p> <p>The Environment Agency will be consulted as part of the Planning Application and pollution and waste control and mitigation measures will be outlined within the CEMP, to ensure there are no significant effects.</p> <p><i>(vii) densely populated areas</i></p> <p>The site is situated in a rural area with no sensitive receptors. It is not sited within or adjacent to any densely populated areas.</p> <p><i>(viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance</i></p>
---	--

	<p>The site does not fall under any statutory or non-statutory designations for landscape quality.</p> <p>The proposal, by nature of the development and the location in the countryside, will have some effects in relation to landscape. A Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) will be undertaken for the proposed development, considering the effects of the proposed scheme on the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right. The LVA would consider the potential visual change of views of the area, in addition to assessing the impact of the proposal on visual amenity.</p> <p>The site is not in a Conservation Area and there are no heritage assets on the site. The nearest Heritage Asset to the site is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cutbush Farmhouse (Grade II) (Ref.1166321) and</li> <li>• Barn approx. 70 m north of Cutbush Farmhouse (Grade II) (Ref. 1122390).</li> </ul> <p>Due to the distance to the listed buildings, and natural screening which intercepts views between the two locations, it is unlikely that there would be any harm to their significance by a change to their setting. However, the Planning Application will be supported by a full Archaeology and Built Heritage Assessment to demonstrate that this is the case.</p>
--	---

*Table 4: Location of the development*

### 3.3 Characteristics of the Potential Impact

3.3.1 An assessment of the proposal against the criteria for consideration of the characteristics of development is provided in Table 5 below:

The likely significant effects of the development on the environment must be considered with regard to the impact of the development on the factors specified in regulation 4(2), taking into account:	
Applicable threshold/criteria	Assessment:
(a) The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population)	The development will be sited within mostly enclosed field boundaries with limited views available to the surrounding area. While the topography of the site is slightly undulating, longer-distance views will be restricted by existing and proposed boundary vegetation. The extent and size of the impact is likely

	to be restricted to the local vicinity and population. There will be no cross frontier impacts whatsoever.
(b) The nature of the impact	Given the nature of the development proposals, it is considered that whilst there may be some localised effects upon the environment as a consequence of the proposed development, these effects will be appropriately managed through the design and the Layout of the Solar PV development, the incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures and with the adoption of best practice measures. The proposal is not considered to result in more wide-ranging effects.
(c) The transboundary nature of the impact	There will be no transboundary impacts.
(d) The magnitude and complexity of the impact	The complexity of the development is low, as it is consisting of one single main component (the panels) with a small amount of associated infrastructure. Aspects of the environment affected will be limited to localised impacts; therefore the magnitude of the impact is considered to be low. There is unlikely to be any potential for significant effects.
(e) The probability of the impact	The impacts are predictable and can be reduced with careful design and mitigation. The effects will be appropriately managed through the design of the road layout, incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures and with the adoption of best practice measures.
(f) The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact	The proposed development has a life span of 40 years, after which the Solar panels and ancillary infrastructure can be removed, and site returned to its previous condition.
(g) The cumulation of the impact with the nature of other existing and/or approved development	There are no other Planning Applications approved for development on this site. The site is surrounded by a combination of open agricultural fields and shrubbery/woodland in all directions.
(h) The possibility of effectively reducing the impact	Mitigation has been considered and discussed below in section 3.4 to reduce any limited impacts from the proposal.

*Table 5: Characteristics of the potential impact*

### 3.4 Proposed Mitigation Measures

3.4.1 Given the nature of the development proposals, it is considered that there may be some limited localised effects upon the environment. These effects will be appropriately

managed through the design of the scheme, incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures and with the adoption of best practice measures. This includes consideration of the following:

- Ecology and Landscape
- Traffic Management
- Air Quality and Dust
- Waste Management
- Noise and Vibration Control

### 3.5 Ecology and Landscape

3.5.1 A landscape and visual appraisal (LVA) will be undertaken for the proposed scheme. The landscape appraisal would consider the effects of the proposed scheme on the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and the visual appraisal would consider the effect of visual change on people's views and visual amenity. A set of figures relevant to landscape and visual matters, will be included with the report:

- Figure 1: Topography
- Figure 2: National Landscape Character
- Figure 3: District Landscape Character
- Figure 4: Designations
- Figure 5: Landscape Context
- Figure 6: Viewpoints and ZTV

3.5.2 The LVA will identify mitigation proposals to reduce any adverse effects of the proposed development. This may include features such as landscape buffers and new boundary treatments to reduce landscape and visual impacts.

3.5.3 The proposal will also be subject to a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) walkover survey to review any potential for ecology and any further assessments which may be required. These assessments will be agreed beforehand with the Council and submitted with the full Planning Application for the Solar PV development.

### 3.6 Traffic Management

3.6.1 A draft Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be submitted with the application in order to safeguard the amenity of nearby villages and in the interests of highway safety. This will establish the principal mitigation measures that would be incorporated into the scheme to address potential impacts of construction activities and establish the principles of the management of working areas, temporary accesses and construction traffic routing.

3.6.2 The application will also be supported by a Transport Statement that will set out the changes in traffic flows in further detail and the implications for those in capacity terms.

### 3.7 Pollution and Waste Prevention Measures



- 3.7.1 A CEMP will be submitted to accompany the Planning Application. This will provide the broad principles of on-site construction methods and environmental mitigation, which would be taken into account in the more detailed method statements and risk assessments to be prepared by the Principle Contractor. In order to reduce any impacts from pollution the following measures would be employed.

### 3.8 Pollution Prevention

- 3.8.1 The Principle Contractor (or other 'responsible person' managing the site) is responsible for both the protection of "controlled waters" from pollution and for the prevention of pollution of the environment, harm to human health and detriment to local amenity by waste management activities under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Further protection for the environment is afforded under the Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended), which outlines the functions of the Environment Agency and sets out offences relating to water, discharge consents, and possible defences to the offences.
- 3.8.2 Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) no deterioration may be allowed to occur to controlled waters, including surface and ground water. Therefore, no contaminated runoff may be allowed to enter either surface water drainage or be allowed to infiltrate the ground.
- 3.8.3 All construction activities will be carried out in accordance with good practice, paying particular attention to the Environment Agency (EA) published Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP).
- 3.8.4 No silt, or other debris from works, shall be allowed to enter any watercourse (including the field boundary ditches). An emergency protocol will be put in place to deal with any spills or other potentially contaminating incidents.

### 3.9 Storage of Plant and Machinery

- 3.9.1 The site will predominantly operate with a 'just in time' delivery protocol and materials will not to be stored within 8m of any watercourse (including the field ditches). Fuels will be stored in a double-skinned, locked, and bunded fuel bowser as far away from watercourses as possible and away from the regular passage of site traffic. Refuelling will be carried out over a bespoke drip tray, which will be regularly maintained and inspected for the presence of rainwater. Any rainwater must be removed for specialist disposal. A spill kit will be located next to the bowser. Any other potentially hazardous material will also be stored within designated impermeable, bunded areas.
- 3.9.2 Materials, plant, vehicles, spill kits and fuel storage areas will be protected from vandalism and inspected regularly for signs of tampering or damage. All keys will be removed from unattended vehicles/plant.

### 3.10 Dust Control Methods

- 3.10.1 The rural location of the development means that there are no sensitive receptors in close proximity to the site. There is a PRoW within the eastern boundary of the site, users of the PRoW will be protected from dust by appropriate dust control measures.

- 3.10.2 Dust impacts can arise from on-site construction works such as earthworks as well as from dust deposited on the public highway by construction vehicles which then becomes re-suspended. Construction dust may lead to an adverse impact in terms of elevated particulate concentrations at neighbouring sensitive receptors or nuisance impacts, such as soiling of clean surfaces. Dust deposition may also affect sensitive habitats and fauna (e.g. foraging on habitats).
- 3.10.3 Dust impacts will be controlled by good housekeeping and by following best practice. The CEMP will identify the potential sources of dust during the construction works and the measures that will be employed to control the dust emissions. The responsibility for ensuring that the dust control measures are carried out lies with the Principle Contractor's Site Manager.

### 3.11 Wheel Wash Facility

- 3.11.1 A proprietary wheel cleaning bay will be provided on site at the exit of the construction compound. The specific equipment employed will be dependent on availability during the construction phase.
- 3.11.2 The wheel wash facilities will be securely constructed with no overflow and the effluent will be contained for proper treatment and disposal.

### 3.12 Dust Monitoring

- 3.12.1 Dust emissions will be monitored by carrying out daily on and off-site visual inspections of dust emissions, particularly focusing on any visible dust being carried towards or across the site boundary. Inspection results will be logged.
- 3.12.2 Regular site inspections will be undertaken by the Site Manager or their representative to monitor compliance with the dust control measures.
- 3.12.3 All dust complaints and any exceptional incidents causing dust emissions will be logged, along with the actions taken to resolve the situation.

### 3.13 Waste Monitoring

- 3.13.1 All wastes will be removed from site using a registered waste carrier. Waste will only be disposed of at facilities/sites authorised to receive it, which have an appropriate permit, licence or registered exemption. Waste management licence, permit or exemptions must be obtained from the facility/site.
- 3.13.2 The storage of hazardous waste prior to its removal will also be subject to the appropriate requirements.
- 3.13.3 The construction waste management will follow the principles of the waste hierarchy which is to prevent/reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and finally dispose.

3.13.4 Where possible waste materials will be reused on site or recycled off-site. The reuse and recycling of waste will be facilitated by segregating waste as it arises. Separate waste containers will be provided onsite for the different waste types and will use the National Colour Coding Scheme.

3.13.5 No waste will be left on-site following the completion of works.

### 3.14 Noise and Vibration Control

3.14.1 Noise and vibration nuisance could come from the operation of machinery on site and vehicle movements to and from the site as well as within the site.

3.14.2 All works will be carried out in accordance with British Standard 5228 (BS 5228).

3.14.3 Best Practicable Means (BPM) of noise control, as defined by Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, will be applied during construction works to minimise noise (including vibration) at neighbouring residential properties and other sensitive receptors arising from construction activities.

## 4 Scope of Planning Application documents

4.1.1 The Planning Application will be submitted with the assessments and reports set out in Table 6 below in accordance with Braintree's Councils Validation Checklist.

Title	Description
Planning, Design and Access Statement	Document outlining the planned development of the site, its benefits, and the context of the surrounding area and compliance with planning policy.
Site Location Plan	Plan showing the location of the site at 1:2500 scale, providing context to the immediate surrounding area. This Plan has been included with the submission of this report.
Site Layout Plan	A Plan showing the proposed layout of the proposed development. This plan has been included with the submission of this report.
Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy	An assessment completed to evaluate and assess the potential flood risk of the site, and how this may impact the proposed development.
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment	A desk-based assessment regarding any potential archaeological significance of the site.
Heritage Statement	A report to identify and assess the impact the proposed development may have on the setting and heritage significance of designated heritage assets (Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas etc.) and protected views.
Preliminary Ecological Assessment	A preliminary assessment of the ecological context of the site, in addition to this assessment recommending any further ecological assessments.
Landscape and Visual Appraisal	An assessment focusing on the potential impact that the proposed development will have on the landscape and visual amenity of the surrounding area.

<p>Transport Statement and Draft Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)</p>	<p>Provide details of construction and operation, along with an appraisal of the permanent site access arrangements.</p> <p>A CTMP will be submitted with the application in order to safeguard the amenity of nearby villages and in the interests of highway safety. This will establish the principal mitigation measures that would be incorporated into the scheme to address potential impacts of construction activities and establish the principles of the management of working areas, temporary accesses and construction traffic routing.</p>
<p>Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)</p>	<p>A CEMP will be prepared in relation to the on-site construction works. This is a site-specific plan written with the aim of ensuring that environmental management practices are identified and applied throughout the construction of the proposal.</p>
<p>Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey</p>	<p>This assessment will examine the ALC grade of the land which is to be used for the proposed Solar PV Development.</p>
<p>Arboriculture Report</p>	<p>An assessment focusing on the potential impacts of the proposed development on existing trees and hedgerows on the site.</p>
<p>Noise Assessment</p>	<p>An assessment of the potential noise impacts of the proposed development to ensure that there are no unacceptable impacts from noise.</p>

*Table 6: Documents Accompanying the Planning Application*

## 5 Conclusion

- 5.1.1 The proposal will not result in any significant effects on the environment, and it is therefore concluded that an EIA is not required. A Screening Opinion is requested from Braintree Council to confirm this matter.
- 5.1.2 The proposal is not sited within or adjacent to any sensitive areas as defined by the '2017 Regulations'. Supporting documents will accompany any forthcoming Planning Application to provide information on the following matters:
- Visual Impacts
  - Heritage
  - Archaeology
  - Transport
  - Flood Risk and Drainage
  - Noise
  - Agricultural Land Classification
  - Ecology
- 5.1.3 Given the nature of the development proposals, it is considered that whilst there may be some localised limited effects upon the environment as a consequence of the proposed development, these effects will be appropriately managed through the design of the layout, incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures and with the adoption of best practice measures. The proposal is not considered to result in more wide-ranging effects.
- 5.1.4 The above screening request demonstrates that the proposed development will not have any significant effects in line with Schedule 3 of the "2017 Regulations". We therefore respectfully request that you issue a Screening Opinion which confirms that this application is not 'EIA Development'. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.