Screening Opinion Checklist Case Officer: Julie Castree-Denton.. Date: 25 May 2016 F2

PA/PAD No. SCE.219/153 W		**Site / Location:** : Biddulph Waste Water Treatment Works, Marsh Green Road, Biddulph		
Description of development: Request for an EIA Screening Opinion in respect of the proposed installation of photovoltaic arrays				
PART 1* - *Is a Screening Opinion Required? (ref: EIA Regulations 2011***, and*** Planning Practice Guidance – Screening Schedule 2 projects			**Yes**	**No**
1	Development Description	Do you have enough information to define the size and type of development (a plan, description of type/nature/ purpose and possible effects)?** • **Yes** (proceed to step 2) Request for Screening Opinion SCE.219/153 W • **No** - *either take the precautionary principle and assume the worst case or, request more information confirming 3 week deadline not commence until received*; ***Note - **Changes or extensions may also need an EIA!** (Schedule 2, category 13)*	✔	
2	Is it a Schedule 1 development?	• **Yes/No** (explain) **YES** – The development is category…… and a **screening opinion is not required as an EIA mandatory!** **NO** – *If the development is not listed in Schedule 1 it may be listed in Schedule 2* (proceed to step 3)		✔
3	Is it a Schedule 2 development? (Schedule 2, Col 1)	• **Yes/No** (explain) • **YES -** The development falls/could fall within category 3 (a) 'Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water' (proceed to step 4). • **NO** – If the development is not listed in Schedule 2 a **screening opinion is not required and EIA not required**!	✔	
4	4(a) Does the development fall within the absolute threshold/criteria? (Schedule 2, Col 2)	• **Yes/No** – (explain) The threshold/criteria is the area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectare. and the proposal is 0.6 hectares. (proceed to step 4b)	✔	
	4(b) Is the proposal within/near to a 'sensitive area'? (e.g. SSSI, NP, AONB, SAC, RAMSAR, Scheduled Monument)	• **Yes/No –** (explain) **YES** – The development falls within/near to the following designated site(s) Within or …… metres from …… Within or …… metres from…… (OR)		✔
		• *If you have answered **'Yes'** to the threshold/criteria **a screening opinion is required** – proceed to Part 2* • *If you have answered **'No'** to the threshold/criteria and the development **is** within/near a sensitive area **a screening opinion is required** – proceed to Part 2* • *If you have answered **'No'** to the threshold/criteria and the development **is not** within/near a sensitive area **a screening opinion is not required**.*		
5	**Conclusion**	**Screening opinion required?**	✔	

PART 2 – Is an EIA Required? (ref: Schedule 3 - EIA Regulations 2011 and Planning Practice Guidance – Screening Schedule 2 projects***)*** EIA usually required for (i) major developments of more than local importance; (ii) development in particularly environmentally sensitive or vulnerable locations; (iii) developments with unusually complex and potentially hazardous environmental effects. This checklist should be used to determine whether significant effects are likely to arise from the development. **REMEMBER** – the Regs also apply to changes to EIA development and reserved matters / subsequent approvals			
1	Indicative thresholds/criteria	Does the development fall within the indicative thresholds/criteria? (see Indicative screening thresholds)	No. The indicative criteria and threshold for 3(a) 'Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water ' is 'thermal output of more than 50 MW'. In this case the proposal is for installed capacity up to 250 kilowatts which is equivalent to 0.25 megawatts. The indicative criteria and threshold for 3(a) however also states that 'Small stations using novel forms of generation should be considered carefully'. The key issue to consider is 'Level of emissions to air, arrangements for the transport of fuel and any visual impact'. See considerations below.
2	Characteristic of the development:	Size of the development:	An area of approximately 0.6 hectares is proposed comprising ground mounted solar panels on stands (maximum height 3 metres). No concrete foundations are required and little excavation is necessary. An electrical substation would be located close to existing buildings within the existing wastewater treatment works.
		Cumulation with other developments	None. There are no other solar panel developments in the vicinity of the Site and the Site is not located in a 'sensitive area' as defined by the EIA Regulations.
		Use of natural resources	Most components can be recycled on decommissioning and materials used to construct and operate the solar panel facility are not in short supply. The facility is designed to generate renewable energy thus helping to reduce the demand for energy minerals / non-renewable resources.

		Production of waste	Limited to any waste materials during the construction and decommissioning phases.
		Pollution and nuisances	The only pollutants that might be released to air would be exhaust emissions from vehicles delivering to site and working on site. Any nuisance could potentially occur through noise impacts on nearby residents however this could be mitigated through careful siting of the transformer unit. Construction and decommissioning noise impacts would be temporary. Inverter fans would produce very low-level noise during daylight hours.
		Risk of accidents	Established technology so risks are likely to be known and limited – with build in controls and appropriate health and safety procedures.
3	Location of the development (the environmental sensitivity of area likely to be affected):	Existing land use (*include past, present and future (allocated land)*)	Existing land use is scrubby open land which forms part of the operational land associated with the waste water treatment works. Infrastructure associated with the treatment works are immediately to the north and residential properties are located to the south
		Relative abundance, quality, regenerative capacity of natural resources	It is reasonable to expect that the panels could be easily removed when the site is decommissioned, allowing the site to be restored to its former condition.
		Absorption capacity of natural environment (particularly wetlands, nature reserves/parks; SSSIs and international designations; areas where environmental quality standards have been exceeded; densely populated areas; landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance).	The site is not in a 'sensitive area' as defined by the EIA Regulations nor is it in a densely populated area and there are no landscape designations or cultural heritage designations of particular significance within the site boundary or in the vicinity.
4	Characteristics of the potential impact	Extent of the impact (area and size of affected population)	The southern part of the site abuts the residential properties located at the northern end of Essex Drive. Other residential properties are located approximately between 100-150m from the proposed solar panel facility (Portland Drive to the east and Long Valley Road to the west).
		The magnitude and complexity of the impact	Solar parks / Solar panel facilities are well established technology.

		The probability of the impact		The impacts are likely to be known as the technology is well established. It is reasonable to expect that the visual effects can be predicted with a reasonable degree of accuracy.			
		The duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact		This would be a temporary use of the land (25 year operational life). It is reasonable to expect that the panels could be easily removed when the site is decommissioned, allowing the site to be restored to its former condition.			
5	Can the significant effects be addressed by proposed mitigation measures?	Are the mitigation measures: • Modest in scope • Plainly and easily achievable		For the reasons stated above it is reasonable to expect that the mitigation measures likely to be required would be modest in scope, and plainly and easily achievable.			
6	**Conclusion**	**ES required?**		NO			
	Signed and dated	**Case Officer**	**Julie Castree-Denton** 25 May 2016	**Team Leader/Team Manager**	**Mike Grundy** 25 May 2016		