

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2017 SCREENING MATRIX**

1. CASE DETAILS			
Case Reference	SMD/2021/0352	Brief description of the project / development	
Appellant			
LPA			
2. EIA DETAILS			
Is the project Schedule 1 development according to Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations?		NO	
If YES, which description of development (THEN GO TO Q4)			
Is the project Schedule 2 development under the EIA Regulations?		Yes	
If YES, under which description of development in Column 1 and Column 2?		3a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water	
Is the development within, partly within, or near a 'sensitive area' as defined by Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations?		No	
If YES, which area?			
Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in Column 2 exceeded/met?		Yes	
If yes, which applicable threshold/criteria?		Site is greater than 0.5 ha and the thermal output exceeds 50MW	
3. LPA/SOS SCREENING			
Has the LPA or SoS issued a Screening Opinion (SO) or Screening Direction (SD)? (In the case of Enforcement appeals, has a Regulation 37 notice been issued)		NO	
If yes, is a copy of the SO/SD on the file?			
If yes, is the SO/SD positive?			
4. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT			
Has the appellant supplied an ES for the current or previous (if reserved matters or conditions) application?		No	

WHEN COMPLETING THIS DOCUMENT IN RELATION TO AN ENFORCEMENT APPEAL, THE UNDERSIGNED OFFICER HAS HAD REGARD TO THE PROJECT AS ALLEGED IN THE RELEVANT ENFORCEMENT NOTICE WHEN REFERING TO THE PROJECT / DEVELOPMENT.

Question	(Part 2a) / (Part 2b) – Answer to the question and explanation of reasons (Yes/No or Not Known (?) or N/A)		(Part 3a) / (Part 3b) (only if Yes in part 2a) – Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No or Not Known (?) or N/A)	
	Briefly explain answer to Part 2a and, if applicable and/or known, include name of feature and proximity to site (If answer in Part 2a / 2b is 'No', the answer to Part 3a / 3b is 'N/A')		Is a significant effect likely, having regard particularly to the magnitude and spatial extent (including population size affected), nature, intensity and complexity, probability, expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact and the possibility to effectively reduce the impact? If the finding of no significant effect is reliant on specific features or measures of the project envisaged to avoid, or prevent what might otherwise have been, significant adverse effects on the environment these should be identified in bold.	
5. NATURAL RESOURCES				
5.1 Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the topography of the area?	Yes	The applicant confirms by e-mail 10 th June 2021 that no significant levelling work for the battery containers is involved. It is said that the battery containers sit on individual concrete plinths with gravel between. The plinths sit on existing ground level and there is no requirement for all the equipment to be at the same level. However the plans refer to 4m high screen bunding along the boundary	No	Bunding can appear as an incongruous, unnatural feature in the countryside. It can also adversely affect adjacent existing hedgerows and trees. It is difficult to disguise effectively with planting and can create more challenging ground conditions in which to attempt to successfully establish new planting. That said the scale in this instance is considered unlikely to give rise to a significant effect.
5.2 Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources above or below ground such as land, soil, water, materials/minerals or energy which are non-renewable or in short supply?	No	The containers sit on concrete plinths on the ground with gravel between. The proposal will take the land out of agricultural use/production during operation but this it is said to be 'temporary' (40 years). It is a reversible operation and the quality of the land is given as being on the boundary of Grade 3/Grade 4 land.	N/A	

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5.3 Are there any areas on/around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project, e.g. forestry, agriculture, water/coastal, fisheries, minerals?	No	The land appears to be on the boundary between Grade 3 and Grade 4 agricultural land. Harvesting of grass or other crops will not be possible during the life of the development which is said to be 'temporary' for 40 years. The site lies over an area identified as a mineral safeguarding area for Bedrock sand but this resource will not be depleted by the project though it could be made partially inaccessible for the life of the development. The operation is reversible after 40 years.	N/A	
6. WASTE				
6.1 Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes	Nothing significant anticipated during construction or operation. The applicant advises that a substantial amount of the equipment will be recycled on decommissioning and that which can't will be disposed of sustainably although he doesn't say how	No	However given the scale of the facility any solid waste is unlikely to be significant.
7. POLLUTION AND NUISANCES				
7.1 Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	Yes	There is potential for fire outbreak which could result in air pollution. Limited information available.	No	By e-mail dated 4 th August the applicant confirms that it is a statutory requirement of battery storage to provide a Fire Risk Assessment (as per BAFE SP205). Various measures would be included within this to mitigate significant effect, for example availability of water supply, fire detection system, automatic shut down etc

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7.2 Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes	The proposal will result in noise emissions from the inverters/transformers and noise from construction traffic during installation. No information provided on electromagnetic radiation	No	A NIA has been provided with the Screening request. It recommends measures to mitigate noise pollution – enclosures, attenuators, acoustic fencing. With these in place it concludes that there will be no increase over background noise levels. The EHO has considers this and confirms that measures as set out in paras 4.4 – 4.6 of the NIA will be required to ensure no increase to background noise levels and thus mitigate any potential significant effect This could be conditioned
7.3 Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	No	Potential risk of silt entering watercourses. Potential for groundwater to be affected if structures or foundations disrupt hydrology but nothing unusual or significant anticipated	N/A	
7.4 Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage, e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	No	None known	N/A	
8. POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH				
8.1 Will there be any risk of major accidents (including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge) during construction, operation or decommissioning?	No	Nothing beyond normal construction risks anticipated. Possible fire risk during operation, see 7.1 above	N/A	

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8.2 Will the project present a risk to the population (having regard to population density) and their human health during construction, operation or decommissioning? (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)	No	No risk to population or their health anticipated from the proposal. The site is not close to a densely populated area.	N/A	
9. WATER RESOURCES				
9.1 Are there any water resources including surface waters, e.g. rivers, lakes/ponds, coastal or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project, particularly in terms of their volume and flood risk?	No	Limited information available Reference to air photos and the GIS suggest a small reservoir adjacent to the southern boundary but no information available as to its function etc Proposal unlikely to lead to any significant flood risk	N/A	
10. BIODIVERSITY (SPECIES AND HABITATS)				
10.1 Are there any protected areas which are designated or classified for their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, or any non-designated / non-classified areas which are important or sensitive for reasons of their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, located on or around the location and which could be affected by the project? (e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water-bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, undesignated nature reserves or parks. (Where designated indicate level of designation	Yes	The site lies within the Wetley Moor SSSI impact risk zone.	No	There is potential impact from a major fire incident but as noted at 7.1, it is a statutory requirement of battery storage to provide a Fire Risk Assessment (as per BAFE SP205) . Various measures would be included within this to mitigate significant effect, for example availability of water supply, fire detection system, automatic shut down etc

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(international, national, regional or local))).				
10.2 Could any protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna which use areas on or around the site, e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over-wintering, or migration, be affected by the project?	Yes	Potentially yes. Nesting birds including ground nesting species can be expected and bats. Habitat status unknown. Comprehensive ecological survey information will be needed to ascertain scale of risks / impacts	No	Species presence and population value unknown. Taking a worst-case scenario though , with appropriate avoidance, mitigation and compensation , effects could be reduced to a level that is not significant. Areas of habitat importance may need to be safeguarded.
11. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL				
11.1 Are there any areas or features on or around the location which are protected for their landscape and scenic value, and/or any non-designated / non-classified areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project? ¹ Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).	No	No protected/designated landscapes on or around the site. It is identified in the Landscape and Settlement Character appraisal as having a landscape character type 'Ancient plateau farmland' where the policy objective is one of restoration. A development of this nature is likely to result in the proliferation of an incongruous feature rather than an actively contributing to restoration and whilst landscape and visual impact is not expected to be significant in terms of the Regulations it will require close scrutiny at the planning application stage.	N/A	
11.2 Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people? (If so, from where, what direction, and what distance?)	No	The surrounding area is rural in character. The site will be visible from the public footpath immediately to the south and from Rownall	N/A	

¹ See question 8.1 for consideration of impacts on heritage designations and receptors, including on views to, within and from designated areas.

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		Road to the east but not to a significant extent in terms of the Regulations		
12. CULTURAL HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGY				
12.1 Are there any areas or features which are protected for their cultural heritage or archaeological value, or any non-designated / classified areas and/or features of cultural heritage or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project (including potential impacts on setting, and views to, from and within)? Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).	Yes	There are a number of Listed buildings and heritage assets in the vicinity of the site although at some distance from the site.	No	A Heritage assessment will be needed to establish if any harm is likely to the setting of these assets and if so what level of mitigation is needed to mitigate the harm
13. TRANSPORT AND ACCESS				
13.1 Are there any routes on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	No	There is a public footpath, Cheddleton 53 immediately beyond and running alongside the southern boundary. Public Footpaths No 42, 43 and 47 Cheddleton Parish are in the vicinity. As in any development the routes of these paths should be maintained during and after construction. There are no footpaths/public routes within the site itself	N/A	
13.2 Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are	Yes	Rownall Road and the surrounding roads are rural country roads and although used by large	No	The main impact will be during construction. A Construction and Environmental Method

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susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?		farm vehicles are not regularly used by large construction/commercial traffic Once operational the applicant advises that the development would be unmanned with little traffic generated		Statement will be required. A designated route for construction vehicles could be agreed if the Local Highway Authority deemed this to be necessary
14. LAND USE				
14.1 Are there existing land uses or community facilities on or around the location which could be affected by the project? E.g. housing, densely populated areas, industry / commerce, farm/agricultural holdings, forestry, tourism, mining, quarrying, facilities relating to health, education, places of worship, leisure /sports / recreation.	No	Farming and the existing Cellarhead electricity substation occupy surrounding land	N/A	
14.2 Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	No future land uses known which could affect the project	N/A	
15. LAND STABILITY AND CLIMATE				
15.1 Is the location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, or extreme /adverse climatic conditions, e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	No	No issues foreseen in respect of land stability and/or climate.	N/A	

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16. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS				
16.1 Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulation of impacts together during the construction/operation phase?	No	Although the proposal will be seen in associated with the existing substation, the scale is such that it would not be significant in terms of the Regulations. The Council is currently considering two other Screening opinions for battery storage related to the Cellarhead sub station on nearby sites and if these were to come forward (unknown if they will at the present time) there would be the matter of cumulative impact to consider. However the applicant provides information to suggest that this is unlikely to be an issue at present due to the available capacity for new connections at the substation, see National Grid document, National Grid, GSP Availability, supplied 14 th July 2021 by the applicant but also publicly available which shows 276 MW of available demand headroom/ import capacity at Cellarhead. The applicant advises that further capacity would require the substation to be expanded – see applicant e-mail dated 14 th July 2021. Furthermore one of the other sites has limited if any visual connection with the subject site. A negative Screening opinion was issued in October 2019 for a large solar farm under SMD/2019/0568. It included the subject site. It has never come forward as a formal proposal.	N/A	

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17. TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS				
17.1 Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects? ²	No	Will not have any impact on the environment of other countries	N/A	

² The Regulations require consideration of the transboundary nature of the impact. Due to the England's geographical location the vast majority of TCPA cases are unlikely to result in transboundary impacts.

18. CONCLUSIONS – ACCORDING TO EIA REGULATIONS SCHEDULE 3**19. SCREENING DECISION**

If a SO/SD has been provided do you agree with it?	<SELECT>
Is it necessary to issue a SD?	<SELECT>
Is an ES required?	<SELECT>

20. ASSESSMENT (EIA REGS SCHEDULE 2 DEVELOPMENT)**OUTCOME**

Is likely to have significant effects on the environment	ES required	
<u>Not</u> likely to have significant effects on the environment	ES not required	
More information is required to inform direction	Request further info	

NAME	Jane Curley
DATE	5 th August 2021