

Mrs. Jane Curley
Senior Planning Officer (Majors and Commercial)
Planning Department
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 6HQ

28th November 2023

Dear Mrs Curley,

Subject: Planning application for installation of a solar array, substation and associated works forming an extension to Blythe Solar Farm (ref: SMD/2022/0160) on land at Blythe House Farm, South of the A50, ST10 4JN.
Our Project Ref: 613

Introduction

This letter accompanies a planning application submitted on behalf of Innova Renewables Developments Limited (the “applicant”) via the Planning Portal (Ref PP 12448842) for the above proposed development.

The application fee of £49,355 based upon the red line area, along with the Planning Portal administration fee has been paid directly by the applicant.

Set out at Appendix A is a list of the reports and plans submitted for your ease of reference. The items listed reflect the requirements of your validation checklist.

EIA Screening Opinion

Innova Renewables Developments Limited would like to request an EIA Screening Opinion from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, to determine the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), at the above referenced site, to accompany a planning application submission for the installation of additional areas of solar panels, relocation of electrical infrastructure compound and associated works at Blythe Solar Farm. This request is made pursuant to Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations).

The EIA Regulations require that requests for a screening opinion should be supported by:

- a) A plan sufficient to identify the land
- b) A description of the development including in particular –
 - i) Description of the physical characteristics of the development and, where relevant, of demolition works
 - ii) Description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected
- c) Description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development
- d) d) To the extent the information is available, a description of any likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment, resulting from –
 - i) The expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant; and
 - ii) The use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity
- e) Such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make, including any features of the proposed development or any measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.

This letter is accompanied by an EIA Screening Report prepared by JCTR Ltd which includes the above information. The Screening Report is supported by the following documents which are submitted with the planning application:

Report/Assessment	Author/Reference
Application (red line) plan	BF-613-09 Rev E
Agricultural Land Classification	Kernon Countryside Consultants Limited. Report dated October 2023
Arboricultural Report (includes tree survey)	Cheshire Woodlands. Report ref CW/0450-AS3. Dated 23.10.2023
Construction Traffic Management Plan	Transport Planning Associates Limited. Report Ref 01 Rev B. Dated October 2023.
Ecological Impact Assessment (compressed version)	Tyler Grange. Report 15483_R02c_DP. Dated 30 th October 2023
Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Management Plan	Corylus Planning and Environmental Ltd . Report ref: 613/SP03 v. Report dated October 2023.
Glint and Glare Assessment	Neo Environmental 23/10/2023 Appendices A (1-6)-I
Historic Desk Based Assessment	Wessex Archaeology. Report ref 279240.01. Dated October 2023
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (inc 1-10 and photosheet)	Corylus Planning and Environmental Ltd.. Report Ref: BH/613/08/23/LVIA-4. Report dated November 2023.

Report/Assessment	Author/Reference
Noise Impact Assessment	Acoustic Consultants Ltd Reference 9944/PJW Rev B.

This report concludes that the proposal is not likely to introduce significant environmental effects and, where environmental impacts have been identified, it would be possible to avoid or mitigate these impacts through tried and tested methods, the details of which would be secured through the planning permission process. Significant effects on the environment are not considered likely either alone or in combination with other existing or/and approved development. The Proposed Development is therefore not considered to be EIA development, as defined by the EIA Regulations.

We look forward to receiving your screening opinion within the prescribed three week period as set out within the EIA Regulations.

Next steps

We trust that the application material is all clear and look forward to your confirmation of validation.

If you should have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch via info@corylus-ltd.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Helen Donnelly

Associate Director (Planning)

for Corylus Planning & Environmental Ltd

Appendix A: List of submitted plans and reports

Plans

Description	Reference
Application (red line) plan	BF-613-09 Rev E
Layout plan	BF-613-01 Rev H
Landscape/Ecological layout	BF-613-11
Panels details	BF-613-10-1
CCTV and fence details	BF-613-10-2
Palisade fence	BF-613-10-3A
Customer Substation	BF-613-10-4
Spares Container	BF-613-10-5
Transformer	BF-613-10-6
Indicative Substation Compound	BF-613-10-7A

Reports

Report/Assessment	Author/Reference
Agricultural Land Classification	Kernon Countryside Consultants Limited. Report dated October 2023
Arboricultural Report (includes tree survey)	Cheshire Woodlands. Report ref CW/0450-AS3. Dated 23.10.2023
Construction Traffic Management Plan	Transport Planning Associates Limited. Report Ref 01 Rev B. Dated October 2023.
Design and Access Statement. Including Statement of Community Involvement	Corylus Planning and Environmental Ltd. Ref: 613/DAS.V2. dated 31.02.2023.
Ecological Impact Assessment (compressed version)	Tyler Grange. Report 15483_R02c_DP. Dated 30 th October 2023
Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Management Plan	Corylus Planning and Environmental Ltd . Report ref: 613/SP03 v. Report dated October 2023.
Glint and Glare Assessment	Neo Environmental 23/10/2023 Appendices A (1-6)-I
Historic Desk Based Assessment	Wessex Archaeology. Report ref 279240.01. Dated October 2023
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (inc 1-10 and photosheet)	Corylus Planning and Environmental Ltd.. Report Ref: BH/613/08/23/LVIA-4. Report dated November 2023.
Noise Impact Assessment	Acoustic Consultants Ltd Reference 9944/PJW Rev B.
Planning Statement	Corylus. Report Ref: 613/PS. V.3 Dated November 2023