

Bassetlaw District Council
Development Control
Queens Buildings Potter Street
Worksop
Nottinghamshire
S80 2AH

Our ref: LT/2024/128546/02-L01
Your ref: 24/00384/FUL
Date: 04 February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF A SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (OUTPUT UPTO 40 MVA), WITH ASSOCIATED WORKS, EQUIPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDSCAPING LAND ADJACENT TO A614, WORKSOP, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above application.

We have the following comments to make on this application, which relate solely to the protection of controlled waters. Matters relating to human health should be directed to the relevant department of the Local Authority.

We have reviewed the following documents submitted in support of this application:

'Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment – Land adjacent to A614 Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 3PA' *One Planet Developments Ltd.* (July 2024).

'Planning Phase Battery Safety Management Plan – Fire Strategy Report' (ref: OWC-LO-R70-042000), *One Planet Developments Ltd.*, (March 2024)

Reference to the 1:50,000 scale geological map indicates that the site is located on the bedrock of the Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation, designated as a Principal Aquifer by the Environment Agency. Superficial glacial till deposits are indicated to be present over part of the site, designated as a Secondary B Aquifer. The site is located within zone 2 and of a groundwater source protection zone, designated for public water supply abstractions. The River Poluter is also located in proximity to the north-east site boundary.

The above referenced Phase 1 report identified limited potentially significant contaminant sources at the site, based on the previous and historical use of the land. The site is currently greenfield/agricultural land. Some localised presence of made ground may be present, associated with the historic small building and potentially infilled pond. Significant contamination with the potential to impact controlled waters receptors is not considered to be present. Whilst we do not expect significant contamination to be present, due to the presence of sensitive controlled waters receptors, we would re-iterate our previous recommendation for the following condition to be attached to any planning permission granted for the development.

Condition

If, during development, contamination not previously identified is found to be present at the site then no further development (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local planning authority) shall be carried out until the developer has submitted a remediation strategy to the local planning authority detailing how this unsuspected contamination shall be dealt with and obtained written approval from the local planning authority. The remediation strategy shall be implemented as approved.

Environment Agency
Trent Side North, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5FA.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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Reason

The site is located above a Principal aquifer and within a groundwater source protection zone. To ensure that the development does not contribute to, is not put at unacceptable risk from, or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution from previously unidentified contamination sources at the development site. This is in line with paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

We agree with proposed recommendations made in section 4.1.5.1, of the Fire Strategy Report for contaminated water mitigation and as well recommendations made in the Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Drainage Strategy report and advise that SuDS should be adequately designed and lined to hold contaminated water runoff in the event of a fire from Battery energy storage systems (BESS) firefighting measures due to abnormal and emergency situations to ensure no infiltration or risk of contaminated water entering the ground or controlled waters.

We therefore wish to provide the following informative information in response to this application.

General guidance for BESS developments

In line with planning practice guidance:

- Applicants are encouraged to engage with Local Fire & Rescue Services to ensure issues of siting and location of BESS are dealt with before applications are made. Ideally this should be done before submitting a planning application.
- Local planning authorities are encouraged to engage with Local Fire & Rescue Services and to refer to guidance produced by the National Fire Chiefs Council for consideration when determining applications. · Applicants will also need to comply with relevant Building Regulations in Part B. They require applicants to provide suitable access for the fire service.

Applicants should also refer to guidance published by The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero: Health and safety in grid scale electrical energy storage systems, which provides guidance on a number of topics related to health and safety including on 'Design and planning' that provides guidance on battery technology, site selection, site layout and emergency planning. It also includes a section on 'Decommissioning and end of life', including dealing with batteries that have come to the end of their use in the BESS.

Informative - Management of end of life industrial batteries

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) facilities are not regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations regime.

Battery storage systems fall within the scope of the UK's producer responsibility regime for batteries and other waste legislation. Operators' of battery storage facilities should be aware of the Producer Responsibility Regulations. When a battery within a battery storage unit ceases to operate, it will need to be removed from the site and dealt with in compliance with waste legislation. The party discarding the battery will have a waste duty of care under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure that this takes place. The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 also apply.

The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 also introduced a prohibition on the disposal of batteries to landfill and incineration. Batteries must be recycled or recovered by approved battery treatment operators or exported for treatment by approved battery exporters only.

Yours faithfully

Mr Jake Sharman
Planning Advisor

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