

**The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact
Assessment) Regulations 2017**

Screening Matrix

1. CASE DETAILS			
Case Reference	25/01666/SCREEN	Brief description of the project / development	Request for Screening Opinion for the erection of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic array and associated works.
Applicant	Bath and West Community Energy C/o Chris Beaver, PlanningSphere Ltd		
2. EIA DETAILS			
Is the project Schedule 1 development according to Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations?		No	
If YES, which description of development		N/a	
Is the project Schedule 2 development under the EIA Regulations?		Yes	
If YES, under which description of development in Column 1 and Column 2?		3(a)	
Is the development within, partly within, or near a 'sensitive area' as defined by Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations?		Yes – within the Cotswold National Landscape	
If YES, which area?		N/a	
Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in Column 2 exceeded/met?		Yes	
If yes, which applicable threshold/criteria?		The site is over 0.5 hectares in size.	

A Screening Criteria Question	B Response to the Screening Criteria Question in Column A (Yes/No and explanation of reasons)		C Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No and explanation of reasons (note. if the answer in Column B is 'No', Column C is not applicable))	
3. NATURAL RESOURCES				
3.1 Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the topography of the area?	Yes / No / N/A	Reasons	Yes / No / N/A	Reasons
3.2 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 materials which will be used in the manufacturing are not considered to be in short supply.	N/a	
3.3 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	There are no areas which contain scarce resources.	N/a	
4. WASTE				
4.1 Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes	During the construction phase, waste may be produced.	No	During operation, no waste will be produced. The product can be recycled following decommissioning. Waste created during construction can be recycled/disposed of safely. A site management plan could be produced which would cover these matters. As such, a significant effect is unlikely in regard to waste.
5. POLLUTION AND NUISANCES				
5.1 Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	No	The nature of the development means that there are no hazardous, toxic or noxious substances which will be released.	N/a	
5.2 Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes	There is the potential for noise and vibration during the construction and decommissioning phases. The panels may cause lighting glare. There may be the potential for noise during operation, particularly from battery storage units.	No	Noise and vibration during construction/decommission would be temporary and measures to mitigate this could be secured via a Construction/Decommissioning management plan if required. A Glint and Glare study can be submitted as part of an application as required.

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				The operation stage is not considered to produce noise or vibration. A significant effect is not likely.
5.3 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	The proposed solar array will not lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants into the grounds.	N/a	
5.4 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	There are no areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage.	N/a	
6. POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH				
6.1 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	All equipment will be designed so that it complies with the necessary safety regulations and will be operated by qualified individuals accordingly.	N/a	
6.2 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	Solar farms do not produce any pollutants that would present a risk to human health. Impacts to the residents who are situated close to the site will be fully assessed and against the relevant planning policies at application stage.	N/a	
7. WATER RESOURCES				
7.1 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	The site is located in Flood Zone 1 and is at low risk from surface water flooding. There are not any water resources within the site.	N/a	

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8. BIODIVERSITY (SPECIES AND HABITATS)				
8.1 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 (international, national, regional or local))).	Yes	The nearest component of the Bath & Bradford on Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is located approximately 1.9 km to the northeast of the site. Hog Wood Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) is located approximately 230 metres to the east of the site and Friary Wood SNCI is located approximately 220 metres southeast of the site.	No	A sensitive lighting strategy will be submitted with the application and a Construction Environmental Management Plan could be secured by way of condition should the application be recommended for approval. Effects of the development are likely to be able to be mitigated in terms of EIA and as such, a significant effect is not likely.
8.2 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	See above	No	See above.
9. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL				
9.1 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).	Yes	The site is within the Cotswold National Landscape and Green Belt.	No	The site lies within a sensitive landscape within the Green Belt and the Cotswolds National Landscape. Notwithstanding these sensitivities, this area is identified as having 'moderate' potential for small scale (up to 5 ha) solar energy development in the 2021 LUC Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Renewable Energy Development (Band A scale). The 2021 assessment defines 'moderate' potential to mean that development would be likely to cause a degree of change in character and that particular care would be needed in siting and design.

¹ See question 10.1 for consideration of impacts on heritage designations and receptors, including on views to, within and from designated areas.

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		<p>The total site area is 2.44 ha and the proposed solar array covers 0.79 ha, so the scale of the proposals is towards the lower end of the Band A scale category.</p> <p>There is scope for initial adverse impacts to be reduced over time with appropriate mitigation. The approach to mitigation as set out in section 7.2 of the LVIA is appropriate, and subject to minor refinement and clarification the proposals shown in the Mitigation Plan (Dwg No. 3334.001 Rev A) would be supported.</p> <p>Given that the identification of this area in the 2021 LUC assessment as having moderate potential for ground mounted solar energy anticipated that some degree of change in landscape character would result, the predicted levels of residual adverse landscape and visual effect are not considered unacceptable. Given that no significant adverse landscape effects are predicted, and that any significant adverse visual effects are predicted to be both geographically localised and short term, it is not considered that predicted landscape and visual impact would cause the project to be treated as EIA development.</p>
9.2 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?)	Yes Public Right of Way (PROW) routes BA13/1, BA13/1A and BA13/18 are located within or in close proximity to the site. The site is likely to be visible from these viewpoints by users of the PROWs, as well as some of the dwellings which surround the site.	No See above.
10. CULTURAL HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGY		
10.1 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	Yes The site is located to the north of Hinton Abbey Priory and to the west of a Roman Road at Abbey Farm, both of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Other heritage assets in proximity are: Hinton Priory (Grade I Listed Building), Chapter House (Grade I Listed Building), Refectory to the West of the Chapter	No A full archaeological desk based assessment will be required with a full planning application. Given the nature of the development, it is considered that it would not result in a likely significant effect to the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The proposals may cause harm to the heritage assets in the locality;

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the project (including potential impacts on setting, and views to, from and within)? Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).		House (Grade I Listed Building) and Stables and Coach House (Grade II Listed Building). Freshford Conservation Area is around 0.5km away.		however this harm would not be considered to be significant in EIA terms, and any harm would need to be weighed against planning balance during the application. A significant effect is not likely.
11. TRANSPORT AND ACCESS				
11.1 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?	Yes	Public Right of Way (PROW) routes BA13/1, BA13/1A and BA13/18 are located within or in close proximity to the site.	No	It is considered that any potential transport impacts during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases to the PROWs could likely be mitigated and therefore a significant effect in this regard is not likely.
11.2 Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	Yes	The site will be accessed from the A36.	No	A Transport Statement will accompany the submission detailing the traffic volumes and routes including a speed survey. The operational phase will generate very little traffic. It is likely that for a solar development of this scale, construction impacts could be mitigated via a Construction Management Plan.
12. LAND USE				
12.1 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.	Yes	The land use is currently agricultural and is classified as Grade 4 Land, according to the submission.	No	The land use can be returned to agricultural following the decommissioning of the scheme and as such, a significant effect is not likely.
12.2 Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	There are not plans for future land uses on or around the location.	N/a	
13. LAND STABILITY AND CLIMATE				
13.1 Is the location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, or extreme /adverse climatic conditions, e.g., temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds,	No	The site is not known to suffer from land stability issues nor be susceptible to significant impacts from climate effects.	N/a	

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which could cause the project to present environmental problems?				
14. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS				
14.1 Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulation of impacts together during the construction/operation phase?	No	There are no existing solar arrays in the area and there are no current nor approved planning applications.	N/a	
15. TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS				
15.1 Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects? ²	No	It is not considered that the site would result in transboundary effects.	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.

16. CONCLUSIONS – ACCORDING TO EIA REGULATIONS SCHEDULE 3		
<p>The proposals would not likely result in significant effects.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Council adopted a Screening Opinion that this development is <u>not</u> EIA development – an Environmental Statement is <u>not</u> required.</p>		
17. SCREENING DECISION		
Is an ES required?	No	
18. ASSESSMENT (EIA REGS SCHEDULE 2 DEVELOPMENT)	OUTCOME	
Is likely to have significant effects on the environment	ES required	No
Not likely to have significant effects on the environment	ES not required	Yes
More information is required to inform direction	Request further info	No
19. REASON FOR SCREENING		
<p>The site is within a sensitive area.</p>		

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DATE	12 th May 2025
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