



Knowsley Council

Please ask for: Mark Quinn

Telephone: 0151- 443-2223

Mike Carr

E mail miketa@blueyonder.co.uk

E mail : mark.quinn@knowsley.gov.uk

Our Reference : 22/00766/SO

Date: 13th January 2022

Dear Mike

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(ENGLAND & WALES) REGULATIONS 2017**

**PROPOSAL: EIA SCREENING OPINION REQUEST FOR PROPOSED INSTALLATION
OF A SOLAR FARM**

LOCATION: LAND AT LARKINS FARM, GELLINGS LANE, KNOWSLEY, L34 9EN

Thank you for your screening request dated 7th December 2022 setting out the proposal for the above site.

From the information submitted I can confirm that an Environmental Impact Assessment would not be required in support of your planning application.

The Council's formal screening opinion is attached.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further or require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me on 0151 443 2223 email mark.quinn@knowsley.gov.uk. Any written correspondence should be sent to the address below.

Yours Sincerely

M Quinn

Mark Quinn
Principal Planner





Knowsley Council

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

APPLICATION NUMBER: 22/00766/SO

SITE ADDRESS: LAND AT LARKINS FARM, GELLINGS LANE, KNOWSLEY, L34 9EN

DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT: PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR FARM

- **DOES THE DEVELOPMENT FALL WITHIN SCHEDULE 1?**
NO
- **DOES THE DEVELOPMENT FALL WITHIN SCHEDULE 2?**
YES

EIA SCREENING OPINION

1. This is a screening opinion for the purpose of determining whether Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for this development under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The applicant has submitted an EIA Screening Request on 7th December 2022 which has been reviewed to form the basis of this response. The proposal falls under Schedule 2 3(a) of the EIA Regulations 2017.
2. Having reviewed the proposal and considered the project against the provisions of the EIA Regulations (including screening criteria presented in Schedule 3) and the relevant National Planning Practice Guidance, I accordingly consider that the proposals are unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects from an EIA perspective, and that EIA is therefore not required in this case.



Knowsley Council

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Ecological Information

3. No ecological information has been submitted with the EIA screening request. A desk based assessment has been completed of the site utilising Magic online protected sites mapping, Merseyside Biobank records and aerial photographs (Google Earth, accessed December 2022) extending to 1km from the application site boundary.
4. I advise that a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) that meets BS 42020:2013 is required prior to determination of any future planning application. The PEA should be undertaken in accordance with CIEEM (2017) guidelines. Surveys should be carried out by suitably qualified and experienced persons and follow relevant good practice.
5. Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)
The following information should be included in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report:

- A desk study, including data from the Local Environmental Records Centre following CIEEM (2017) guidelines. The desk study should identify records for designated sites, protected and priority species and habitats on site and within a suitable buffer. However, a data search with a 1km radius is expected as a minimum;
- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey (or UKHab survey) identifying the habitats on and adjoining the site. This should include a Phase 1 Habitat map and target notes and should follow JNCC Guidelines ;
- An assessment of the potential for protected species to be present;
- The requirement for further specialist surveys, for example, breeding birds, great crested newts, bats and water vole;
- An assessment of the likely ecological effects of the proposals, because of construction works and site operation;
- A completed Biodiversity Metric 3.1 or small sites metric (depending upon the scale of the development site) which demonstrates whether or not there will be a net loss of Priority Habitat, should any be present upon the site and affected by the proposed development;



Knowsley Council

- Any avoidance or mitigation measures that will be implemented;
- The presence of any invasive and/or injurious weeds species (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, Weeds Act) on site or within 7m of the site boundary. The location and extent of any invasive or injurious weeds should be shown on a scaled plan; and
- Identify opportunities for biodiversity net gain in line with NPPF and Defra's 25 Year Plan for the Environment.

Designated Sites

6. The following designated sites are located within 1km of the application site and Local Plan policy CS8 applies:
 - Croxteth Park, River Alt and adjacent site through Croxteth LWS (located outside of the southern site boundary)
 - Croxteth Brook LWS (150m west)
 - Knowsley Brook LWS (500m north-east)
 - Howard's Pit LWS (700m south-east)
7. Impacts are only likely on the LWS sites associated with the Croxteth Brook corridor. There is a risk of accidental damage or pollution of these sites during construction, and I advise that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be required, this can be secured by condition on any future planning application.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

8. The site may have suitability as functionally linked habitat for qualifying bird species of the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar site and the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site. Records of pink-footed geese exist in the fields immediately to the south of the site on the opposite side of Croxteth Brook. An assessment of the suitability of habitats for qualifying bird species should form part of the PEA. If HRA is required, this must be completed prior to determination of any future planning application.

Archaeology

9. No historic environment information has been supplied in support of the screening request.



Knowsley Council

10. The proposed development site is adjacent to the findspot of a perforated stone adze head found near Randle's Bridge Farm and recorded on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record as MME5206. It has been dated to the Bronze Age. The presence of this is indicative of the potential for archaeological remains of a similar type / period to be present within the proposed development.
11. Archaeological issues associated with the proposed development could be addressed through a programme of archaeological works, secured by means of an appropriately worded planning condition on any future planning application.
12. The applicant will need to appoint a professional archaeological contractor to organise an investigation, which will need to be implemented in accordance with appropriate professional standards. MEAS will be able to supply further details of the work on request.

HIGHWAY ISSUES

13. Highways are satisfied that the proposals can be considered fully within the Planning Application process. The installation/construction phase would have the potential for significant highway impact however, highways is confident the impacts from this phase can be satisfactorily controlled through the imposition of a Construction Management Plan by condition.

END OF SCREENING OPINION