

P19-2022

20th February 2023

Gareth Elliott (Planning Development Officer)
Melton Borough Council
Burton Street,
Melton Mowbray,
LE13 1GH.

Dear Gareth Elliott,

Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) Note for the Full Planning Application for the Construction of a Solar Farm together with all Associated Work, Equipment and Necessary Infrastructure on land within the Belvoir Estate, Grantham, NG32 1PE (Reference: 22/OO537/FUL)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. JBM Solar Project 10 Ltd (“the Applicant”) submitted an application for Full Planning Permission for the Construction of a Solar Farm together with all Associated Work, Equipment and Necessary Infrastructure on land within the Belvoir Estate, Grantham, NG32 1PE (“the Application Site”) validated for consideration by Melton Borough Council (MBC) on the 1st April 2022. A request for an EIA Screening Opinion was submitted to MBC in January 2021 determining the proposal constituted an EIA development and would need to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment. A comprehensive Environmental Statement (ES) report prepared by Pegasus Group accompanied the submitted application (hereafter known as the “2022 ES”).
- 1.2. The submitted planning application is still pending consideration. Following the statutory consultation period, the Applicant, has considered comments provided by the public and statutory consultees and has made modifications to the proposals in response to representations made by third parties and through discussion with the Local Planning Authority since the planning application was submitted.
- 1.3. An SEI note with accompanying technical appendices was issued to MBC on the 29th of September 2022. The scope of the further information provided within the September SEI note addressed comments received from Natural England (NE) (correspondence dated 30th May 2022,) in relation to the Muston Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserve (NNR).
- 1.4. Subsequent to the issue of the September 2022 SEI note, initial independent landscape consultee comments were received from Cornwall Environmental

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Consultants Ltd (CEC) acting on behalf of MBC. CEC requested the Applicant submit an addendum to the LVIA in the form of a Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) to enable the issue of subsequent detailed landscape comments.

- 1.5. Accordingly, a CLVIA was prepared and submitted for consideration in November 2022 with an accompanying SEI note. CEC reviewed the CLVIA, providing feedback to MBC and the Applicant in December 2022. The landscape review undertaken by CEC concluded some landscape and visual concerns still remained.
 - 1.6. Pegasus Group, on behalf of the Applicant have prepared a 'Rebuttal of Belvoir Solar Farm Independent Landscape Review' in response to the December 2022 landscape review by CEC and it is submitted alongside this SEI note.
 - 1.7. There have been no further changes to the Proposed Development proposals since the submission of the Environmental Statement accompanying the planning application in April 2022. The only additional further information that has been submitted is in the form of a:
 - CLVIA, provided as a supporting document to be read in conjunction with the 2022 ES (Chapter 2- Landscape and Visual) and accompanying SEI Note (November 2022); and
 - this 'Rebuttal of Belvoir Solar Farm Independent Landscape Review' in response to the landscape review of the CLVIA.
 - 1.8. There are no requirements with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (hereafter known as the "EIA Regulations") as to the format and content of an SEI. This SEI note was written in accordance with Further Information and Evidence under Regulation 25 of the EIA Regulations.
 - 1.9. Within this SEI note, is a list of environmental disciplines of which an associated chapter was prepared for the 2022 ES. This SEI provides an update to the individual ES Chapters that are subject to further information. Any new information is provided under the corresponding chapters of this SEI. In addition, a note has been added under chapters where no assessment or update is deemed necessary and therefore scoped out of this SEI.
- 2. Landscape and Visual**
- 2.1. The 'Rebuttal of Belvoir Solar Farm Independent Landscape Review' has been commissioned in response to the landscape review undertaken by CEC in December 2022. A summary of the rebuttal is below.
 - 2.2. The rebuttal identifies the proposed mitigation measures of newly planted hedgerows to grow and be maintained for a maximum height of 3m aims to mitigate



potential significant effects identified within the ES chapter. This height could be reduced however there would be resulting potential major adverse significant effects on PRow receptors within or close to the site, represented by Viewpoints 2-5 and 12. Surrounding hedgerow heights do vary greatly and are found to be more than 3m as demonstrated by views 1-17 of Appendix 2 of the rebuttal and could therefore be deemed characteristic of the Vale landscape.

- 2.3. PRow widths within the Site are generous; footpath F82/3 12m PRow corridor would not cause significant enclosure or loss of open views south.
- 2.4. The cumulative assessment focusses on the identification of 'significant' effects. Of the 16 cumulative viewpoints, no significant potential cumulative visual effects were assessed. Likewise, in the absence of a landscape capacity study, no significant potential cumulative landscape effects were assessed.
- 2.5. No further additional information is required as part of this SEI to support Chapter 2 of the 2022 ES. The conclusions of the Landscape and Visual Chapter remain unaltered.

3. Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

- 3.1. No additional information is required as part of this SEI to support Chapter 3 of the 2022 ES. The conclusions of the Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Chapter remain unaltered.

4. Flood Risk and Hydrology

- 4.1. No additional information is required as part of this SEI to support Chapter 4 of the 2022 ES. The conclusions of the Flood Risk and Hydrology Chapter remain unaltered.

5. Ecology

- 5.1. No additional information is required as part of this SEI to support Chapter 3 of the 2022 ES. The conclusions of the Ecology Chapter remain unaltered.

6. Glint and Glare

- 6.1. No additional information is required at part of this SEI to support Chapter 6 of the 2022 ES. The conclusions of the Glint and Glare Chapter remain unaltered.

7. Noise

- 7.1. No additional information is required at part of this SEI to support Chapter 7 of the 2022 ES. The conclusions of the Noise Chapter remain unaltered.

8. Agricultural Resources



8.1. No additional information is required at part of this SEI to support Chapter 8 of the 2022 ES. The conclusions of the Agricultural Resources Chapter remain unaltered.

9. **Conclusion**

9.1. In conclusion, this SEI Note provides an update to the 2022 ES, September 2022 SEI Note, and CLVIA and SEI Note submitted in November 2022. This SEI note includes an update to the Landscape and Visual ES chapter with the submission of the 'Rebuttal of Belvoir Solar Farm Independent Landscape Review'. All other ES chapters require no further additional information and the text within the 2022 ES remains accurate.

9.2. Overall, this SEI demonstrated that there are no overriding environmental constraints which would preclude the Proposed Development. The design of the Proposed Development has taken account of the likely significant environmental effects and where necessary, mitigation measures form an integral part of the Proposed Development to ensure that the environment is suitably protected.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Tidd

Environmental Planner

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