



Application for Development Consent for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects under the Planning Act 2008

* required information

Application Form

Please read guidance documents relating to the submission of applications prior to completing this form including [government guidance](#) and the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application documents](#).

* Do you have a reference number?

Yes No

* Reference number

1. Applicant

* Organisation

Address

* Building number or name

* Street

* City or town

County or administrative area

* Postcode

* Country

* Name of contact

* Telephone number

Fax number

* Email

2. Agent

* Are you an agent acting on behalf of the Applicant?

Yes No

3. Fee

* State the arrangement for the application fee payment:

BACS CHAPS Cheque



Continued from previous page...

* Please provide payment reference details

Payment made on 7 February 2024.

4. Confirming why the Planning Inspectorate should receive the application

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* Brief statement to explain why this application is, or is to be treated as, a development for which development consent is required under the Planning Act 2008

The Proposed Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to sub-sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the Act, as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW).

5. Non-technical description of the Proposed Development

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* Brief non-technical description of the Proposed Development

Byers Gill Solar (the Proposed Development) comprises the construction, operation and decommissioning of a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW of electricity, enough to power over 70,000 homes. Located across neighbouring sites between the administrative areas of Darlington, Stockton-on-Tees and Durham, the proposals include:

- Six Panel Areas,
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS);
- An on-site substation;
- Up to 31km of underground cabling, to connect panel areas to the on-site substation and to connect the on-site substation to Norton Substation; and
- A range of supporting infrastructure, including inverters, storage containers and security measures.

Other key features of the scheme are mitigation and enhancement measures for the natural environment. These measures would ensure any negative impact on existing habitats and biodiversity is limited, with improvements provided to help nature thrive on the site. New habitats and landscaping would be created, leading to an overall increase in biodiversity and ecological networks across the site. As well as contributing to the UK's net zero targets, the Proposed Development would also contribute to creating a better natural environment in the local area. Public rights of way would also be improved, with new connections creating more off-road routes for local people to enjoy. Views to the Castle Hill motte and bailey castle would be enhanced through sensitive landscaping, with existing and new hedgerows managed so that the solar farm is screened from walkers enjoying the local area. Two new recreational areas would also be created with picnic benches and planting for community use.

Please refer to Chapter 2 of the Environmental Statement (Document Reference 6.2.2) for a full description of the Proposed Development.

6. Location or route of the Proposed Development

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* Description of location of application site(s), or route of development (reference to appropriate plans)

The Proposed Development is located in the north-east of England, within the administrative boundaries of Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council.

Please refer to the Location Plan (Document Reference 2.1) for further information.

* Is the site a single site or a linear site?

- Single site Linear site

Grid reference

* Easting

434013

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* Northing

* Document reference

7. Associated Development



* Associated Development is included within this application:

Yes No

* Document reference

8. a) Consultation Report



* Document reference

8. b) Copies of newspaper notices



* Document reference

9. Draft Development Consent Order



* Document reference

10. Explanatory Memorandum



* Document reference

11. Land Plan



* Document reference

12. Works Plan



* Document reference

Continued from previous page...

13. Compulsory Acquisition of land or an interest in land or right over land



* Issues are relevant for this application:

Yes No

Statement of reasons document reference

Document Reference 4.1

Add another reference

Funding statement document reference

Document Reference 4.3

Add another reference

Book of Reference document reference

Document Reference 4.2

Add another reference

14. a) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)



* Environmental Statement (ES) required:

Yes No

* ES Document Reference

Volume 6, Document Reference 6.1 - 6.4

Add another reference

14. b) Screening Opinion/ Direction and Scoping Opinion/ Direction



* Screening Opinion sought, or direction received:

Yes No

* Scoping Opinion sought:

Yes No

Document reference

Document Reference 6.4.4.2

Add another reference

14. c) Publicity required under Regulation 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (or where the transitional provisions apply, Regulation 11 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009)



In addition to publishing the notice, a copy of the notice was sent to:

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* the consultation bodies

* Yes

* the persons notified to the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (or where the transitional provisions apply, Regulation 9(1)(c) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009):

Yes No, not applicable

15. European sites (to which Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and/ or Regulation 28 of the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 applies) or a Ramsar site.

?

* Report required for this application:

Yes No

* Document reference

16. A plan, with accompanying information, identifying any statutory or non statutory sites or features of nature conservation, geological or landscape importance; habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and water bodies in a River Basin Management Plan - together with an assessment of any effects likely to be caused by the Proposed Development.

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* Issues are relevant for this application:

Yes No

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

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* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

17. A plan, with accompanying information, identifying any statutory or non statutory sites or features of the historic environment such as scheduled monuments, World Heritage sites, listed buildings and other historic structures, archaeological sites and registered battlefields, together with an assessment of any effects likely to be caused by the Proposed Development



* Issues are relevant for this application:

Yes No

* Document reference

Continued from previous page...

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

* Document reference

18. Flood Risk Assessment



* Flood Risk Assessment required:

Yes

No

Continued from previous page...

* Document reference

19. Matters set out in section 79(1) (statutory nuisances etc) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990



* Statement required for this application:

Yes No

* Document reference

20. A plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land



* Issues are relevant for this application:

Yes No

21. A plan identifying new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets or any diversions, extinguishments or creation or rights of way or public rights of navigation



* Issues are relevant for this application:

Yes No

* Document reference

22. Additional information for specific types of infrastructure



* Additional information is required to be submitted in accordance with Regulation 6 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009:

Yes No

* Provide a brief description

* Document reference

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Regulation 6 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 requires additional information to be submitted with the following types of development.

* Please check any of the following boxes that apply:

- Construction or extension of a non offshore generating station (Reg. 6 (1a))
- Construction or extension of an offshore generating station (Reg. 6 (1b))
- Highway related development (Reg. 6 (2) (part 1))
- Construction or alteration of a railway (Reg. 6 (2) (part 2))
- Construction or alteration of harbour facilities (Reg. 6 (3))
- Construction of a pipeline (Reg. 6 (4))
- Construction or alteration of a hazardous waste facility (Reg. 6 (5))
- Construction of a dam or reservoir (Reg. 6 (6))

Construction or extension of a non offshore generating station (Reg. 6 (1a))

* Provide a statement of who will be responsible for designing and building the connection to the electricity grid

Northern Power Grid (The Distribution Network Operator (DNO))

* Is it a gas fuelled generating station?

- Yes No

23. Any other plans, drawings and sections necessary to describe the proposal for which development consent is sought, and any other documents, reports or information to support the application



Provide a brief description of any other plans, drawings and sections that are being submitted with this application

Environmental Masterplan (Document Reference 2.5)
Location Plan (Document Reference 2.1)

Document reference Document Reference 2.5 and Document Reference 2.1

Add another reference

Provide a brief description of any other documents considered necessary to support the application

Application Covering Letter (Document Reference 1.1)
Introduction to the Application (Document Reference 1.2)
Section 55 Checklist (Document Reference 1.4)
Application Document Tracker (Document Reference 1.5)
Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1)
Design Approach Document (Document Reference 7.2)
Potential Main Issues for Examination (PMIE) (Document Reference 7.6)

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Statutory Undertakers Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7)
Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.8)

Document reference

As above

Add another reference

Provide a brief description of any other information provided that is in support of the application, but which has not been explicitly required

Information as listed above which is considered to aid understanding of the structure of the application (Volume 1) and provide information relating to specific areas such as planning policy/case for the project, design approach, position with relevant stakeholders and undertakers, and how and where mitigation measures are secured.

Document reference

As above.

Add another reference

24. Other consents/ licences required under other legislation



* Other consents/ licences are required:

Yes No

* Provide a list of consents/licences

Please refer to the Other Consents and Licenses document (Document Reference 7.3)

You must cite the document references as appropriate

* Document reference

Document Reference 7.3

Add another reference

25. Declaration



I declare to the best of my knowledge that the information given in this form and enclosed maps, plans and other documents are true.

Please note there is a requirement for one hard copy of the form to be signed. Please ensure that when you submit you include at least one signed copy. Further copies do not require the hand written signature.

Signature

(For and on behalf of the Applicant)

* Name

MICHAEL BAKER

(In block letters)

* Date

08 / 02 / 2024
dd mm yyyy

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* Organisation

RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage
Limited

* Position within the
organisation

Development Project Manager