



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2023/01u

Your ref: Driffield Solar, 301R/FC05/111764/000004

21 July 2023

Dear Mr Charlton,

**SCREENING DECISION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER THE  
ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
(ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2017 (“THE 2017  
REGULATIONS”)**

**NAME OF SCHEME: Land at Driffield, East Yorks**

Screening decision for a proposed development (“the proposed development”) to:

- Install a new 66kV overhead line to connect a new solar farm to the grid via the existing Driffield Substation

The proposed development requires Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and are subject to the 2017 Regulations.

The Secretary of State has considered the factors set out in Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations, together with the information within the supplied documentation (“the Application”) by TLT LLP on behalf of Driffield Solar and Storage Ltd (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA).
2. The proposed development falls under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area.



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3. The proposed development falls within the River Hull Headwaters Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the associated Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) and floodplain. The proposed development crosses the SSSI, although no poles/pylons will be installed within the SSSI.
4. The Applicant made consideration to utilise underground cable as an alternative to the overhead line and sanctioned a study carried out by Hydrogeo (Document Reference: HYG852 R 210210 SG Driffield Solar Farm Cable Route). The report concluded that the geological and hydrogeological conditions in the area would make installation complex and could result in negative implications on water dependent receptors. As a result of these findings, the option for underground cabling was discounted.
5. The Applicant sanctioned an ecological site survey which was carried out in January and February 2021 by Avian Ecology Ltd and a report (“the ecology report”) was subsequently issued (ref: PWAPI-381-1279).
6. Natural England were consulted and had no objection to the proposed development on the basis that all mitigations outlined in section 6 of the ecology report were followed.
7. The LPA were consulted as per Condition 9 of the overall planning permission for the associated solar farm (planning ref: 20/01962/STPLF).
8. The LPA consulted with several external stakeholders who had no objections to the proposed development. These stakeholders were: Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board, Lead Local Flood Authority, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Yorkshire Water Services Ltd.
9. The LPA concluded an environmental statement would not be required approved the proposed development (ref: 21/30204/CONDET).
10. The Environment Agency were consulted and issued permit EPR/PB3756SW which authorised the proposed development within the floodplain.

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, the Secretary of State concludes that the proposed works are not EIA development under the 2017 Regulations and do not require a statutory EIA as they are unlikely to have significant effects on the environment due to their nature, location and size. A copy of this letter has been sent to the LPA for information.

Yours sincerely,

*John McKenna*  
Head of Network Consents  
Energy Infrastructure Planning