Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Abigail Horsfield
Fisher German LLP,
The Estates Office,
Norman Court,
Ivanhoe Business Park,
Ashby-De-La-Zouch,
LE65 2UZ

Our ref: 2569u
Your ref: CW52667 Thorpe Solar PV

11 September 2026

Dear Ms Horsfield,

**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: Thorpe Constantine Solar Farm**

Decision:

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 Lichfield District Council and Staffordshire County Council ("the LPA") for information.

Screening decision for a proposed development ("the proposed development") to:

- Replace existing 132kV 23.23m tower (AE33) with a new 132kV 26.30m tower (AE33R) to create a point of connection for a 49.9MW solar farm.
- Include associated downleads to a new 132kV 10m steel gantry, located 20m east of the new tower, with sealing end platform to make an underground connection.

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Secretary of State considerations:

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 Fisher German LLP ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of the LPA. In reaching her 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 132 kilovolts and therefore requires a mandatory screening.
3. The proposed development does not fall within any designated sensitive areas.
4. The Applicant consulted Natural England in March 2026, who had no comments and confirmed the development is not close to or within a Habitats Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or protected landscape (ref: 544009).
5. The Applicant consulted with the Lichfield District Council who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 26/00429/OHL) in April 2026. It concluded that the proposed development is not an EIA development.
6. In accordance with The Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990, the applicant published a statutory notice to the public in the local newspaper, the Tamworth Herald on 11 June 2026. The Applicant received no representation regarding the proposed development by the deadline of 9 July 2026.
7. The Applicant consulted with the Staffordshire County Council who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 26/00429/OHL) in July 2026. It concluded that the proposed development is not an EIA development.
8. The Secretary of State notes the limited scale of the works, the temporary, localised nature of any impacts and that the proposed development is a minor modification to existing infrastructure. The Secretary of State therefore considers that there are no likely significant effects arising from the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste or the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity and that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effect on the landscape in which it is located.

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Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team