

Cottam Solar Project

Notice of Acceptance of an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008.

Regulation 9 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

Regulation 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

1. Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State has accepted an application (the “Application”) by Cottam Solar Project Limited (Company No. 12711231) of Unit 20.2 Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London, England, SW6 6AW (the “Applicant”) for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) under the Planning Act 2008. The Application (Reference No. EN010133) was submitted by the Applicant to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 12 January 2023 and was accepted for examination on 09 February 2023.

Summary of the Proposed Development

2. The Application is for development consent to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) and export connection to the National Grid.

3. Cottam Solar Project (the “Proposed Development”) will be partly situated in the administrative boundary of West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council and the administrative boundary of Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The Proposed Development comprises a number of land parcels described as Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b which accommodate ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) generating stations (incorporating the solar arrays); grid connection infrastructure and energy storage; cable route corridors; accesses and environmental mitigation and enhancement measures. Cottam 1 is centred on the village of Coates. Cottam 2 sits to the north of Cottam 1 and is located to the east of the village of Corringham. Cottam 3 is located to the north of Cottam 2. Cottam 3a is located to the north-east and south-east of the village of Blyth. Cottam 3b is located to the east of Pilham. A cable will run between these sites and then to a grid connection at a substation at Cottam Power Station. A map showing the location of the Proposed Development can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website at the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010133/EN010133-000115-C2.1%20Location%20Plan.pdf>

4. Development consent is required to the extent that development is or forms part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008, as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity greater than 50 MW. It is for this reason that the Proposed Development falls within the remit of the Secretary of State’s decision-making powers.

5. The DCO, if granted, would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land, interests in land and rights over land, and the powers to use land permanently and temporarily. The DCO would also authorise alterations to the layout of streets, the construction of accesses to the Proposed Development, the temporary stopping up or management of the public rights of way, street works, removal of hedgerows and the application and disapplication of legislation.

Environmental Impact Assessment Development

6. Due to its nature and size, the Proposed Development is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the Proposed Development constitutes development for which an EIA is required. The Application is therefore accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Application form and accompanying documents

7. The Application form and its accompanying documents (including accompanying plans, maps, the Environmental Statement, and the draft Order (the “Application Documents”)) can be viewed and downloaded free of charge online on the Cottam Solar Project page of the Planning

Inspectorate’s National Infrastructure Planning website under the Documents tab until at least the end of the Relevant Representation period on Thursday 30 March 2023:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/cottam-solar-project>

8. This link will also be available on the Applicant’s project website:

<https://www.cottamsolar.co.uk>

9. An electronic copy of the Application documents can be supplied free of charge on a USB memory stick. To request a USB, please email info@cottamsolar.co.uk, write to FREEPOST CAWB SOLAR PROJECTS (free of charge; no need for a stamp) or telephone 0808 169 1848 (free of charge).

10. Application documents can be made available in hard copy format on request to the Applicant. Document requests can be made using the contact details at the bottom of this notice. Please note that reasonable printing costs may apply. Requests may be made for documents in bespoke or alternative formats (for example in large print, audio or braille formats) or specific individual documents. Given the size and format of the Application documents, a full suite of documents to publication specifications will cost £5,000.

Making Representations

11. Becoming an Interested Party gives you the right to make representations about the Application to the Planning Inspectorate. Any person may register as an Interested Party by submitting a Relevant Representation on the Application during the representation period, which must be made directly to the Planning Inspectorate. Any representations (giving notice of any interest in, or objection to, the Application) must be made on the Planning Inspectorate’s Registration and Relevant Representation Form. The Registration and Relevant Representation Form can be accessed and completed online from Thursday 16 February 2023 on the Planning Inspectorate’s website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/cottam-solar-project>

12. If you require guidance, or other methods to obtain and complete a hard copy of the Planning Inspectorate’s Registration and Relevant Representation Form, please telephone 0303 444 5000. Completed forms should be sent to The Planning Inspectorate, National Infrastructure Directorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. The Application reference (EN010133) should be quoted in any correspondence.

13. The Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination, provides further guidance on how to register and make a relevant representation and can be accessed via the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-2-how-to-register-to-participate-in-an-examination/>

14. Please note that representations must be received by the Planning Inspectorate by 11.59pm on Thursday 30 March 2023.

15. It should be noted that personal data, such as the name of persons over 18, will be published alongside a representation. If you do not wish personal data to be made publicly available, you should state why when submitting the representation. If necessary, the Planning Inspectorate will publish the representations with your name and personal data redacted. Please note that all representations submitted will be published on the Planning Inspectorate’s website and will be subject to their privacy policy, found online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notices/customer-privacy-notice>

Contact us

16. Further information about the Application may be obtained from the Applicant, through the contact details provided below.

