ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS

THIRTY 4/7

KELHAM SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ASSURED ASSET SOLAR 2 Ltd

October 2023

Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

This Statement of Community Involvement summarises and explains how Assured Asset Solar 2 Ltd engaged with stakeholders, community representatives, and local residents interested in the development of the proposed Kelham Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land between the villages of Kelham and Averham in Newark.

The site comprises a collection of flat agricultural fields encompassing circa 71 hectares, located approximately 3km to the south east of Newark-on-Trent. Along the south eastern edge of the proposal site is Main Road (A617), whilst Broadgate Lane borders the site to the north east. The site is bounded by a network of hedgerows and ditches alongside broadleaved woodland. The Staythorpe Substation is located 1.4km to the south of the proposal site and will provide the site's point of connection to the National Grid network.

The proposed development seeks to construct and operate a 49.9MW export capacity solar farm and 50MW BESS. The proposals will contribute towards tackling the climate emergency, helping the United Kingdom to move closer to achieving its net zero targets for renewable energy generation, whilst similarly securing domestic energy supply, as prioritised by the UK Government in the aftermath of the Ukraine-Russian War.

The proposed solar farm will have an annual export capacity of circa 49.9MW of electricity, equal to powering over 13,400 homes and offsetting approximately 13,400 tonnes of CO2 every year, the equivalent of removing 14,400 cars from the road network.

The BESS will have a storage capacity of 50MW. The facility will act as an enabling technology for renewable generation and a replacement for gas fired power generation, providing rapid response power to satisfy peak demand.

Panels will be secured to a simple metal framework that will be arranged in rows aligned east to west. The panels will be angled at 15 degrees to the horizontal and the highest part of the panel will be no greater than 2m from the ground. The batteries will store electricity and provide instant power to the Grid when demand is required and when the solar farm is not generating power, such as at night- time.

Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England must deliver a 10% or greater Biodiversity Net Gain, and as such, a key component of the proposal is to provide ecological enhancements across the site. This includes planting to enhance the landscape character and to reduce the potential impact on visual amenity. All enhancements have been informed by the ecological survey works and the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The proposal will have a lifespan of 40 years, during which the land will retain its classification as agricultural; once the lifespan has passed, all equipment will be removed from the site and the land will return to agricultural use.

The deployment of renewable energy, such as solar, is a high strategic priority for the UK Government. In 2019, the May Government codified the 2050 net zero target by passage of

an amendment to *The Climate Change Act 2008*.[1] Likewise, in October 2021, the Johnson Administration published its *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener*, which committed to inaugurating a Green Industrial Revolution with the aim of reducing carbon emissions by at least 68% by 2030 on 1990 levels.[2] As part of this ambition, the *British Energy Security* Strategy (ESS), published in April 2022, saw the Government pledge to increase solar power five-fold by 2035 to reach 70GW of generation annually.3 Consequently, it is clear that the UK Government envisages solar power as a key pillar of the shift to a low carbon economy.

The Kelham Solar Farm and BESS development hopes to provide a significant contribution toward reaching the UK's net zero targets and helping to secure domestic energy supply.

[1] Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, *The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019*, GOV.UK, June 2019, https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/1056/contents/made
[2] Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener*, GOV.UK, October 2021, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf p.10
[3] Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Prime Minister's Office, *British Energy Security Strategy*, GOV.UK, April 2022, https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy/british-energy-security-strategy

2 Pre-application consultation policy

The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 2015 (as amended) sets out minimum standards of publicity and notification relating to planning applications, depending on the nature of the application.

The Localism Act 2011 implemented changes to the planning system which included an emphasis on neighbourhood planning to empower communities to influence the form and manner of local development in their area. With or without an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), community engagement is an important part of the development process.

The Localism Act 2011
Section 122 of the Localism Act 2011 outlines that a person intending to make a planning application in England should carry out pre-application consultation. This should include publicity considered likely to bring details of the potential application to the attention of a majority of the persons who live at, or otherwise occupy, premises in the vicinity of the land to which the application relates.

Thereafter, regulations defining the requirements of consultation have not been laid before Parliament. As such, section 122 does not yet apply to any planning applications made under the Town and Country Planning Act (1990). In this context the Applicant has undertaken consultation voluntarily and in the spirit of good practice to ensure communities of interest and communities of place are informed and have opportunities to provide feedback.

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's policies for England and outlines how these policies should be applied. With regard to pre-application consultation, the NPPF paragraph 39 advises,

'Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.'

At paragraph 40 the NPPF also sets out that, 'Local planning authorities…should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications.'
National and local policy that encourages pre-application consultation and local community involvement, along with the benefits to the quality of development proposals that have been informed by local knowledge, provide the foundation for the extensive community engagement efforts undertaken in advance of a planning application for the Development of the Kelham Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System.

National Planning Practice Guidelines
National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) was launched by the Government in 2014. It is a web-based resource which is actively managed to ensure that it remains up to date.

Guidance under the section 'Before Submitting an Application' outlines the benefits of pre-application engagement with the Local Planning Authority as a means of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system and of improving the quality of planning applications and their likelihood of success.

Under the heading 'Is pre-application community consultation compulsory' the guidance suggests that "Pre-application engagement with the community is encouraged where it will add value to the process and the outcome.''

3 Approach to consultation

The aim and objective of the engagement programme was to disseminate information and seek input from local communities in order to improve quality and maximise the public benefits that could be delivered as part of a sustainable development scheme. The Applicant considered it important to ensure that those most likely to be impacted by development were aware of the proposal, had an opportunity to find out more information, and had a means by which to express their views and help shape the final design.

An initial consultation with the local community took place across in August 2022 and involved a range of consultation and engagement tools and feedback mechanisms to offer the local community and interested parties the opportunity to find out about the plans and provide feedback. Following this first round of engagement, further work took place to refine the proposals.

As part of the planning submission, a public information event was held in September 2023 to present the final designs to the community and provide an opportunity for attendees to ask the project team further questions.

4 Consultation Activities

4.1 Consultation website

Assured Asset Solar 2 Ltd developed a website to provide details of the Project to stakeholders, community representatives, and local residents.

The website (https://kelhampvfarmandbess.com/)contains an overview of the project proposals, site location information, details about solar energy and battery storage, a project timeline and a section answering general 'Frequently Asked Questions'. Screenshots covering the entirety of the website can be viewed in Appendix B.

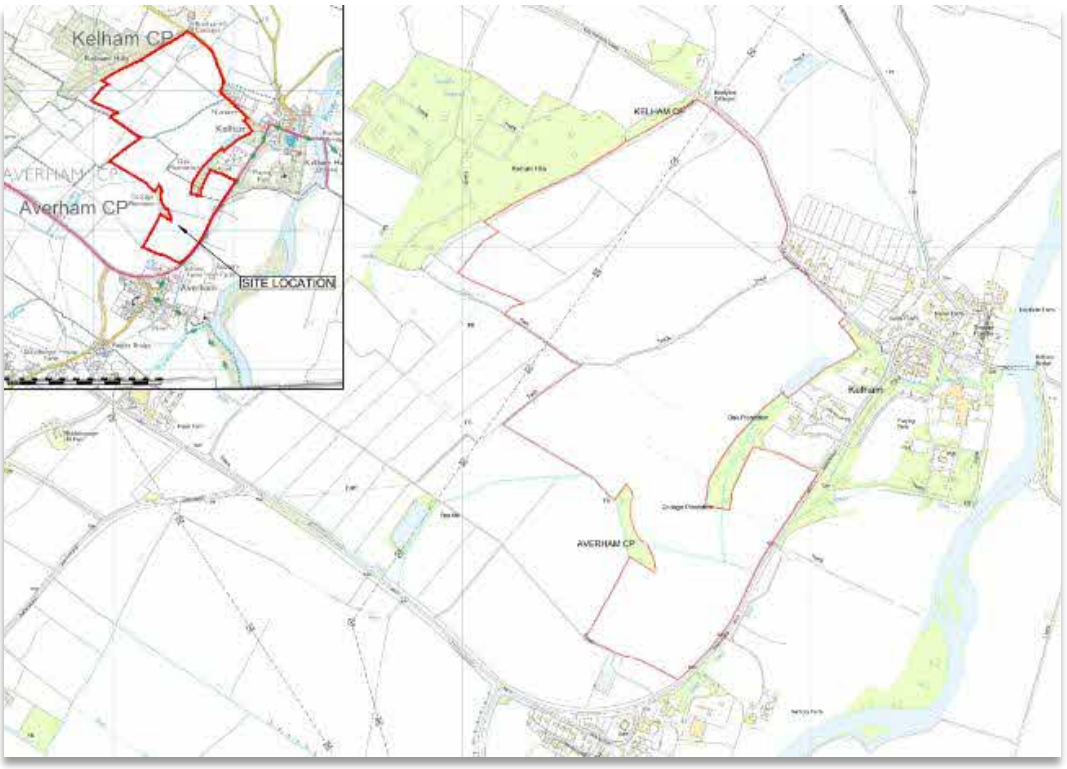
The website includes a 'Get in Touch' tab where those with an interest in the proposals can contact the project team via telephone, email, a freepost address, or by completing an online form. The website was launched on 19th August 2022 and has continued to remain 'live' to allow interested parties to find current information relating to the proposals.

4.2 Letters

On 19th August 2022, a letter was sent to relevant stakeholders, community representatives, and local residents for arrival by 22nd August 2022 (see Appendix A).

The purpose of this letter was to introduce the project, notify recipients of plans to submit the planning application, to advertise the public exhibition, to promote the new website, and to provide a link to the 'Get in Touch' page. The letter also contained a site location plan showing the proposed layout.

The site location plan that was shown at the consultation in 2022 can be seen below:



A total of 13 stakeholder and community letters were sent (see Appendix A). This list included:

Cllr Ben Bradley MP, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, ward member for Mansfield North (NCC)
Cllr Bruce Laughton, Deputy Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, Cabinet Member for Transformation, ward member for Muskham and Farnsfield (NCC)
Cllr Keith Girling, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management, ward member for Newark West (NCC)
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, ward member for Bingham West (NCC)
Cllr Mike Adams, Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, ward member for Carlton East (NCC)
Cllr Susan Saddington, ward member for Farndon and Trent (NCC)
Cllr David Lloyd, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance and Finance, Newark and Sherwood District Council, ward member for Beacon (NSDC)
Cllr Keith Girling, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Organisational

Development & Governance, ward member for Castle (NSDC)
Cllr Rhona Holloway, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Visitors, ward member for Bilsthorpe (NSDC)
Cllr Roger Blaney, ward member for Farndon and Trent (NSDC)
Sue Jackson, Clerk at Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe Parish Council
Robert Jenrick MP for Newark

A letter was sent to 293 local residents and businesses which neighbour the project site by post on 19th August 2022 for arrival by 22nd August 2022.

The map below displays the area in which the local residents letter (293 addresses) was distributed. The red line boundary illustrates the proposed development, whilst the coloured circles correspond to the proximity of addresses to the site. Yellow circles are properties located within 0.5km of the site, red circles are properties located between 0.5km and 1km from the site, and green circles are properties located between 1km and 1.5km from the site. Blue circles denote properties which are located over 1.5km from the site; these addresses were not included in the mailing list.

4.3 Newspaper Advert

On the **25th August 2022**, an advert was placed in *The Newark Advertiser* (see **Appendix C**) promoting the public exhibition event on the **31st August 2022**. The advert described the proposed solar farm, the event format and details on how to access information of the proposal via the website, including how to provide feedback.

5 Public Exhibition Event (August 2022)

The public exhibition event was held **31st August 2022 at the Robin Hood Theatre, Church Lane, Averham, Newark, NG23 5RB from 4:00pm to 7:30pm**.

The public exhibition event was promoted through the project website, via a newspaper advert in the Newark Advertiser, via the letter send to 293 residents and local businesses, as well as in the letter sent to 13 stakeholders and community representatives including the local Ward Member and Parish Council.

In attendance at the public exhibition event were representatives from Sirius Planning, Charlotte Nash: Assistant Planner and James Cook: Principal Planner; and representatives from Assured Asset Solar 2 Ltd, James Innes: Developer and Stuart Mellor: Developer..

Total attendance across the event was 46 attendees, including Site Ward Member Cllr Sue Saddington and members of the Averham, Kelham, and Staythorpe Parish Council.

5.1 Public Exhibition Format

The public exhibition event comprised a drop-in session and was held on 31st August 2022 from 4:00-7:30pm.

A poster (**see Appendix D**) was displayed in the venue window to guide those who had registered an interest in attending and to encourage passers-by to drop in.

The public exhibition included four consultation boards (**see Appendix E**) to allow for stakeholders to easily view the project information and to pose questions to the project team.

The first board introduced the Project and its timeline, outlined targets set by the UK Government to combat climate change, and explained why solar energy and battery storage are technologies vital for transitioning to a model of low carbon energy generation.

The second board centred upon frequently asked questions and provided information on the noise and visual impact of the development, the distribution of solar panels, the estimated time for construction, potential flood risks, and the security of the site.

The third board illustrated details of the proposal itself, with a site map of the area included as a visual guide. The board also explained why the location was chosen and the potential benefits to biodiversity and the local community. Also featured was a statistical explanation on how the electricity produced by the solar farm would equate in the form of displaced carbon emissions.

Finally, the fourth board detailed the technical assessments and surveys which are taking place to inform the planning application.

In addition to providing verbal feedback, attendees at the consultation event were encouraged to fill out a feedback form (see Appendix F). The form first asked about the consultation event itself, including how people had heard about the event and whether the venue and time were considered appropriate.

The form also contained a blank section of lined paper for attendees to write down their thoughts and suggestions; if the space provided did not suffice, attendees were also able to provide their written thoughts on additional paper or were directed to use the online version. Any attendee who filled in a form was informed that their data would be handled in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Printouts detailing the information displayed on the consultation boards were also provided for those who might struggle to stand and read. To ensure clarity over the site boundaries, a printout of the site location map (see Appendix G) was provided and displayed on a table; this allowed attendees to clearly understand where the proposed development would be situated. An information sheet (see Appendix H) with details from the consultation boards was also provided and could be taken home by those in attendance.

6 Feedback

6.1 Email

The Project team received two emails from local residents following the public exhibition event on 31st August 2022.

The key concerns raised include the use of agricultural land, proximity to a conservation area, site security, impact on public rights of way, the visual impact and lack of overall benefits.

The feedback from these emails has been considered in **Chapter 7.**

6.2 Telephone

One phone call was received from a local resident who could not attend the consultation.

The resident had concerns over the use of agricultural land for solar and battery development. The Project team assured the resident that the development would be a temporary use of land for a maximum of forty years, after which the land would return to agricultural use.

The feedback from this phone call has been considered in **Chapter 7.**

7 Key Issues, Conclusion and Next Steps

The consultation was well publicised through a variety of channels, including the project website, a newspaper advert, as well as direct letters to stakeholders, community representatives, and local residents. With the attendance of 46 stakeholders, community representatives, and local residents at the public exhibition event, as well as two emails and one telephone call, the proposals and consultation proved to be of interest to the local community with relatively high attendance.

Out of the six responses received, two have been supportive and four have stated their opposition. Of those who attended the public exhibition and provided feedback, two were in favour and two opposed, whilst both email respondents were opposed.

One of the supportive residents referenced the substantial distance between homes on Broadgate Lane and the solar farm site as reason for their support. The second resident in favour noted that permissive bridleways around the site perimeter would be retained for horse riders, thereby satisfying their concerns.

One of the opposing residents registered their concern for wildlife and ponds, lamented the loss of productive agricultural land, and stated that they saw no benefit for the local community. They were particularly concerned regarding the prospective loss of access to Kelham Hall potentially leading to a decline in walking and riding within Kelham. The second opposing resident who attended the public exhibition emphasised that there was a lack of information and was informed that a second consultation would be held before the planning application is submitted.

As mentioned above, two households contacted the consultation via email to express their views and both were opposed to the development. The first email mentioned the potential loss of high-grade agricultural land, the proximity of the proposals to a Conservation Area, and perceived ecological impacts. Concern was also raised over the prospective loss of amenities and recreational facilities, the impact of fencing and CCTV on the landscape, any impacts visually, and the retention of property value. The first email similarly noted the perceived absence of benefits for the local community, construction disruption, the limited likelihood of the land returning to agricultural use following decommissioning, and the perceived comparable inefficiency of solar farms as a renewable energy generator compared to off-shore wind.

The second resident to make contact via email also opposed the proposals, with concern directed at the potential loss of agricultural land and impact on the local Conservation Area. Concern was also directed at local heritage, namely listed buildings, any impact on Public Rights of Way and the landscape visually. The proximity to Staythorpe Power Station was also a concern, as well as a perceived lack of local incentives, including subsidised energy bills or compensation for any loss of property value.

Assured Asset Solar 2 Ltd is committed to ongoing dialogue with the Ward Members, Parish Councils and local representatives on this matter.

Following the stakeholder and community consultation summarised in this document, the proposals have been finalised for submission whereupon further consultation will take place.

Assured Asset Solar 2 Ltd will continue to work closely with the Local Authority, Ward

Members, Parish Councils and community representatives throughout the forthcoming planning application and any subsequent construction activities.

Interested parties will be able to find up to date information on the project website (https://kelhampvfarmandbess.com/) and contact the project team via online form, email, or post.

8 Public Information Event (September 2023)

As part of the submission of the planning application to Newark and Sherwood District Council, Assured Asset Solar 2 Ltd invited the local community to view the final proposals via an informal drop in event. This provided the community and local stakeholders with an opportunity to ask representatives of the applicant questions you about the proposals.

Since the August 2022 public exhibition significant amendments to the proposal had been made as result of community feedback. Key changes included:

- Reduction of the application site area from 95ha to 71ha;
- Inclusion of a standoff from Broadgate Lane
- Provision of a screening bund (and associated planting) to the south of Broadgate Lane;
- Inclusion of a standoff from the A617 and secondary hedgerow;
- Reduction in panel height to 2m
- Provision of woodland/scrub planting block in the eastern corner of the application site to the south of Kelham;
- Inclusion of 4.5km of permissive bridleway around the perimeter of the application site in addition to the existing Public right of Way;
- Provision of a community benefit fund (£1,000 per MW) to be administered by the Parish Council; and
- A scheme of biodiversity enhancement for the life of the scheme.

The public information event was held on Thursday 21st September 2023 at the Robin Hood Theatre, Church Lane, Averham, Newark, NG23 5RB from 3pm to 7pm.

The public information event was promoted via a newspaper advert published in the Newark Advertiser in the 14th September 2023 (see Appendix I), via a letter sent to 297 residents and local businesses in the mailing zone that was used to promote the consultation. A letter was also sent to 13 stakeholders and community representatives including the local ward member and Parish Council.

The public information event included a leaflet with information about the proposals, including the site layout (Appendix J) to allow for stakeholders to easily view the project information and pose questions to the project team. The project website was also updated with the revised site location plan.

There were approximately 30 attendees to the event and the event was generally well received. Queries related to the safety of the battery and the visibility of the site from key locations (such as roads and properties). The community were generally positive that a proposed permissive footpath around the sire is being included as part of the submission.

The project team was able to answer and address these queries and no further enquiries have been received since the event.

Appendix A – Stakeholder, Community, and Resident Letter

Sirius Planning Ltd
4245 Park Approach
Thorpe Park
Leeds
LS15 8GB

0113 264 9960
www.thesiriusgroup.com

[Name]
[Address]
[Address]
[Address]
[Post Code]

Our Ref: KSBESS01

Date: 19/08/2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR A PROPOSED 49.9MW SOLAR FARM AND 49.9MW BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM ON LAND NEAR THE VILLAGES OF KELHAM AND AVERHAM, NEWARK-ON-TRENT

We write to notify you of our intention to submit a planning application in respect of the above project and to advise you of commencement of public consultation regarding the proposed development.

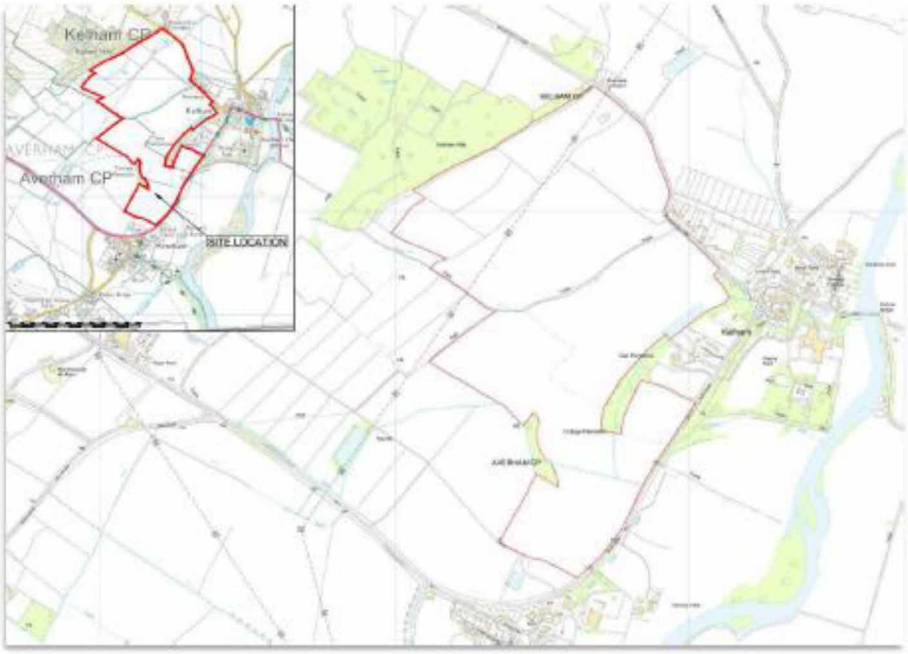
Our client is seeking to develop a new solar farm and battery energy storage system, across approximately 95a of land between the villages Kelham (to the east) and Averham (to the south).

The proposed solar farm will have a capacity of circa 49.9MW of renewable electricity, enough to potentially power nearly 13,400[1] homes per year and offsetting approximately 13,400 tonnes of CO_2 every year[2], which could be the equivalent of taking over 14,400 cars off the road[3]. This will contribute towards tackling the climate emergency, helping the United Kingdom move closer to achieving the targets for UK based renewable energy generation set by Central Government.

We intend to submit a planning application to Newark and Sherwood District Council in accordance with Town and Country Planning Regulations and are now commencing consultation with stakeholders and the local community to gather feedback.

Please note the above estimated projections for carbon saving, homes powered and car equivalent that could be removed from the road are based on the following assumptions:
1. Assumes annual average domestic household power consumption is 3,578kWh
2. Assumes 446 tonnes of C02 saved per GWh electricity supplied
3. Assumes the average car travels 7,600 miles per year and emits approx. 122g CO2/mile

Site location plan:



The area in red shown on the map represents the development site where it is proposed to locate Kelham Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System.

We would like to understand the views of the local community on these proposals before we submit our application. We'd therefore like to invite you to come along to our public exhibition to take part in the consultation on the proposals and provide your feedback:

Robin Hood Theatre
Church Lane
Averham
Newark
NG23 5RB

Wednesday 31st August from 4pm to 7.30pm

If you are unable to attend the above event please visit our website where you can find more information about the proposals and provide feedback via our online form https://kelhampvfarmandbess.com/get-in-touch/.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

James Cook
Principal Planner
[redacted]
For and on behalf of Sirius Planning Ltd

Appendix B – Project Website

1. Home

It is proposed to construct a solar farm and battery energy storage system on approximately 95a of land between the villages Kelham (to the east) and Averham (to the south). The facility will have a generating capacity of up to a maximum of 49.9MW and a storage capacity of 49.9MW.

The planning application will be submitted to Newark and Sherwood District Council for consent under the Town and County Planning Regulations for construction of the proposed solar farm and battery energy storage system.

This website provides information about the proposals, the current public consultation process, and how to let us know your thoughts on the plans.

This scheme is proposed to have an annual export capacity of circa 49.9MW – this is equivalent to:

13,400
Homes powered each year [1]

13,400
Tonnes of CO2 removed each year [2]

14,400
Cars off the road each year [3]

Net Zero Strategy

The proposed development seeks to contribute towards tackling the climate emergency, helping the United Kingdom to move closer to achieving the targets for renewable energy generation and security of supply as set out in the UK Government's October 2021 Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener.

Have your say

We are currently undertaking public consultation prior to submitting a planning application to Newark and Sherwood District Council. All information is available on this project website, please click on 'have your say' below to get involved and provide feedback about these proposals.

Have your say

Project timeline

June 2022

Pre-application advice and preliminary design work
Pre- application advice sought from Newark and Sherwood District Council

Summer 2022

EIA Screening
A Screening Request has been submitted to Newark and Sherwood District Council. Newark and Sherwood District Council will confirm if the proposal is considered to be -EIA development.

Site survey work commenced.

Summer 2022

Ongoing survey
Following pre-application discussions there maybe need for further survey work to ensure the planning application includes sufficient detail to enable Newark and Sherwood District Council to determine the submission.

Autumn 2022

Public consultation
Proposals to be updated to reflect comments received. Application submission to Newark and Sherwood District Council.

[1] Annual average domestic household power consumption is 3,578kWh
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/295244/Revisions_to_DECC_domestic_energy_bill_estimates.pdf

[2] 446 tonnes of C02 saved per GWh electricity supplied
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/715425/Conversion_Factors_2018_-_Condensed_set__for_most_users__v01-01.xls

[3] Average car travels 7,600 miles per year and emits approx. 122g CO2/mile
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-car-carbon-dioxide-emissions

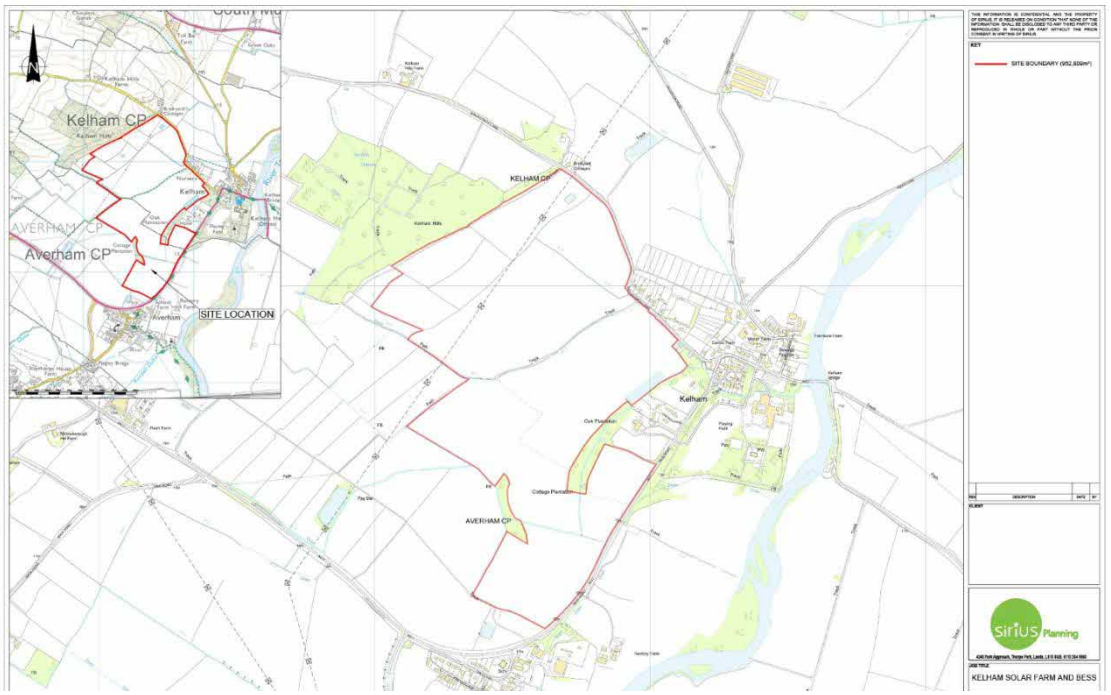
2. What Are We Proposing?

We are seeking to construct and operate a circa 49.9MW solar farm and 49.9MW battery energy storage system on land between the villages of Kelham and Averham, Newark-on-Trent.

Site Location Plan

The areas shown on the map represents potential land within which we would propose deploying ground mounted solar panels and the battery energy storage system. The design of the scheme is to be finalised following the receipt of any feedback from public consultation and discussions with stakeholders.

We have taken numerous considerations into account, including environmental and biodiversity enhancements, access, noise, heritage, visual impact, as well as technical considerations such as the most efficient configuration and connection to the local distribution network ('grid').



Frequently asked questions

This list of frequently asked questions provides some initial information about the proposals. They will evolve and expand over time to incorporate additional information and address queries that arise as the project progresses.

If you have a question that is not answered here, get in touch with us via the 'Get in touch' tab.

What are we proposing to develop? →

Who will decide whether or not this Project receives planning permission? →

How can local communities and interested parties influence the development of the proposals? →

Why this site? →

How will the proposals affect local wildlife and ecology? →

What is the lifespan of the project? →

- What will the solar element of the proposals look like? →
- How long would it take to build the solar farm and battery energy storage system? →
- How will the proposed project support the local economy and benefit the local area? →
- What about noise? →
- How about glint and glare? →
- When will the application be submitted? →

3. Why Solar?

The Governments 'Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener' commits the UK to be powered entirely by clean electricity by 2035, subject to security of supply. To deliver the strategy overall electricity demand is expected to increase 40-60% by 2035, all met from low carbon sources.

Solar farms are a simple and established technology providing a source of safe and clean energy which produces zero emissions when in operation.

Solar energy projects have a low visual impact potential if designed correctly, have no moving parts, meaning maintenance requirements are low through the lifetime of the project, and are considered 'temporary' as they are easily decommissioned at the end of their lifetime.

Biodiversity enhancements, and ongoing agricultural use of the land (animals such as sheep can continue to graze the land around the solar panels) for example means that this technology can operate alongside traditional land uses very easily.

4. Why Battery Storage?

During periods of high demand, the National Grid aim to increase supply to maintain a 20% supply margin which is essential in eliminating, as far as possible, the risk of power shortages and blackouts, when there is an unexpected change in demand, or a sudden loss of supply.

Historically, conventional centralised power stations could be operated to fulfil this role. However, as the UK moves towards a more environmentally sustainable energy supply system, with an increase in renewable energy sources, there is an increased risk of electricity supply fluctuations, depending on prevailing weather conditions. Therefore, an increased need for facilities to store energy, in order to try and match the supply to the demand are required. Such storage facilities include battery energy storage systems.

Smooth grid operation also relies on the provision of rapid reactive power services either by generation or dedicated facilities to enable frequency stabilisation. Battery energy storage systems provide sub-second response times, so offer a reliable solution to a number of the Grid's balancing issues thus supporting the development and deployment of low carbon intermittent energy technologies (e.g. solar and wind) upon which society must increasingly rely on to satisfy its energy and environmental requirements.

We seek to support the essential increase in renewable energy generation and the transition to a lower carbon energy supply system through developing battery energy storage systems.

5. Project Documents

Further information

This page will be kept updated with project documents and further information as it becomes available.

If you have any queries about the contents of this page, please get in touch.

Download Site Location Plan

6. Get in touch

Please get in touch

Thank you for taking the time to read this website. We value your thoughts and welcome any queries you might have on the proposed project at this stage. These can be returned using the contact form.

You can also get in touch with us by calling:

0800 699 0081 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding public holidays) or by emailing: planningconsultations@thesiriusgroup.com

If you would prefer to write to us, you can post to:

FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION
(no further address or stamp required)

We value your feedback and welcome any comments or questions you might have on the proposed scheme. These can be returned using the form on this page.

Name *(Required)*

First | Last

Address

Street Address

Address Line 2

City | County / State / Region

ZIP / Postal Code | Country

Email *(Required)* | **Phone**

Subject *(Required)*

Message *(Required)*

Appendix C – Newspaper Advert

Page 6 August 25, 2022 newarkadvertiser.co.uk

[redacted]

ABOVE: Seventeen-year-old Charlotte will open for The Overtones (below) at Newark Festival on Sunday at the castle.

Up and comer to perform at festival

By Fionn Burrows
f.burrows@iliffe.publishing.co.uk

A TEENAGE singer-songwriter has been chosen to perform at the Newark Festival this Sunday.

Seventeen-year-old Charlotte, from Newark, will open for The Overtones at her home town festival in the historic surroundings of the Newark Castle grounds.

"I'm really excited. I've played to small crowds and rooms of people but never anything as big as this before," she said.

"I write my own stuff but play a lot of covers too because that's was people want to see. I'd best describe my genre as an indie, folk mix.

[redacted]

"The very first concert I ever attended was actually at the castle, so to be back all these years later as the one performing is special."

Newark Festival Friday is family day, with activities, events and performances in all corners of town from magic in the Market Place to story telling at the library.

Saturday will see a craft market in the Buttermarket and dozens of musicians spread across Newark at difference venues, pubs and streets.

The festival moves to Newark Castle grounds on Sunday, with Charlotte opening at 5pm, before BBC Introducing features a series of up and coming artists, a set by singer/songwriter Chris Simmons, finishing up with the Overtones at 9pm.

Monday sees workshops running from 10am at the castle, including: circus skills, Lego club, green crafts and a bouncy castle as well as performances from Brainiac Remixed at 11.30am and 2.30pm.

Brass and concert bands will round off the festival, culminating in a fireworks display over the castle grounds just after 10pm.

For a full list of events and performances go to the Newark Festival website.

Celebrating all that is Nottinghamshire

SOME of the county's most talented and exciting young artists are warming up for first-ever Nottinghamshire Day festival on Saturday, 11am-8pm.

The festival, led by Nottinghamshire County Council, takes place near Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre in the heart of Robin Hood country.

Hosted and headlined by local soul and R&B star Rob Green, the line-up will include 15 acts — all hailing from Nottinghamshire — including Southwell's Betsey B and Remy CB.

Rob, who also hosts his own show on BBC Radio Nottingham said: "I'm so proud to be from such a creative county.

"It's going to be so exciting to be able to get together and celebrate our community in all its diversity and creative richness.

The free event will have plenty of family-friendly activities including Robin Hood and Marian and their band of outlaws who'll do battle against the Sheriff and Prince John.

There'll also be a chance to experience their medieval camp and try out axe throwing, crossbow shooting and catapulting.

There'll be pony rides.

Football lovers can have a selfie with the European Cup.

[redacted]

SOUTHWELL'S Betsey B.

SIRIUS PLANNING

Notice of public consultation event for a proposed solar farm and battery energy storage system development

Development of 95ha of land near the villages of Kelham and Averham.

The proposed development seeks to construct and operate a 49.9MW Solar Farm and a 49.9MW Battery Energy Storage System.

We would like to understand the views of the local community on these proposals before we submit our application.

We'd therefore like to invite you to come along to our public exhibition to take part in the consultation on the proposals and provide your feedback:

Robin Hood Theatre, Church Lane, Averham, Newark, NG23 5RB

Wednesday 31st August from 4pm to 7.30pm

If you are unable to attend the above event please visit our website where you can find more information about the proposals and provide feedback via our online form https://kelhampvfarmandbess.com/get-in-touch/

Appendix D – Poster

Sirius Planning

Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project

Public Exhibition

Wednesday 31st August 2022
4pm – 7:30pm
Robin Hood Theatre
Church Lane
Averham
NG23 5RB

Sirius Planning

For further information please visit:

www.KelhamPVfarmandBESS.com

Appendix E – Consultation Boards

Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project

Introduction

Welcome to our public consultation on Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project on land north off Main Road (A617), near the villages of Kelham and Averham, Newark-on-Trent.

Why do we need renewable energy?

In order to address the damaging effects of climate change, we need to move away from burning our limited fossil fuel reserves to using more sustainable, cleaner, renewable energy sources.

In October 2021, the UK Government launched its Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener which includes the target for decarbonizing the electricity grid by 2035.

To meet this target, 40-60% of electricity generated will have to come from green sources including renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, biomass, wave and tidal.

The use of renewable energy is also beneficial to the UK economy as it reduces the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Why solar energy?

Solar energy is a safe, established and renewable form of energy generation which produces no carbon dioxide, noise, pollution or by-products while operating. It also enjoys the highest levels of public support for renewable energy in the UK, with 85% of the public in favour. Solar energy is freely and readily available and will always be so.

Solar panels are a non-intrusive and benign development. Agricultural activities can continue on the land and the panels can be removed following the end of power generation, allowing the site to be returned to its former use with no environmental legacy.

Why battery energy storage?

During periods of high demand, the National Grid aim to increase supply to maintain a 20% supply margin which is essential in eliminating, as far as possible, the risk of power shortages and blackouts, when there is an unexpected change in demand, or a sudden loss of supply.

Battery energy storage systems provide sub-second response times, so offer a reliable solution to a number of the Grid's balancing issues thus supporting the development and deployment of low carbon intermittent energy technologies (e.g. solar and wind) upon which society must increasingly rely on to satisfy its energy and environmental requirements.

Project Timeline:

June 2022
Pre-planning and project inception

August 2022
community consultation

Autumn 2022
Preparation and submission of a planning application

Spring 2023
Subject to planning permission, construction will begin

For further information please visit:

Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the solar farm and battery energy storage make a noise?
The only noise that will occur during the operation of the solar farm and battery energy storage facility is a low level noise emitted by the batteries, transformers and substation. It is anticipated that no noise will be audible at residential properties in the area.

Will the solar panels and battery energy storage be visible from my house?
We appreciate that for many local residents, what the scheme looks like is a key consideration. The height of the panels will be relatively low lying therefore much of the site won't be visible from local residential areas, however we know that there are some properties closer to the site which we will be considering very carefully. Provision of additional screening planting and enhancing the hedgerows throughout the site will improve screening from local roads and properties.

Will the panels cover the whole area?
No, the panels are distributed at a ratio of between 40 to 60% (ground cover ratio). There will be at least gaps of 2.5m between each row of solar panels which will remain grass, and will provide opportunities for additional wild meadow planting.

How long will the proposed development take to build?
It will take around 12 months to construct the proposal, but the majority of vehicle movements will be completed during the first 6 months. A construction traffic management plan will be submitted alongside the planning application, outlining the proposed access arrangements, the anticipated schedule, construction vehicle numbers and type, construction worker numbers and the proposed construction hours.

Will the site increase flood risk in the area?
Solar panels are mounted on frames which are driven into the ground. Very little concrete is used on solar farms, generally limited to the bases for the batteries, transformers and the substations. Rainwater falling on the panels will fall to the ground below.

How will the site be secured?
The site will be secured by deer fencing and closed-circuit television (CCTV).

For further information please visit:
www.kelhamPVfarmandBESS.com

Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project

The Proposal

Kelham consists of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar farm with a capacity of 49.9MW and battery energy storage system (BESS) with a storage capacity of 49.9MW, together with associated infrastructure. The site extends to approximately 95 hectares in size.

Why this location?

The site is situated on land between the villages Kelham and Averham, approximatley 3km to the north west of Newark-on-Trent.

The site has been assessed for its suitability as a solar farm and battery energy storage system, it has the following positive attributes:

- The availability and close proximity of the grid connection;
- The opportunity for biodiversity enhancements;
- The site is directly linked to the local highway network;
- The site consists of relatively flat land is generally less visible than an undulating topography;
- Available land; and
- Existing vegetative screening along the site boundaries and opportunity to reinforce where necessary.

The solar farm aspect of the development is proposed to have a capacity of circa 49.9MW - this is equivalent per year to:

13,400
Homes powered*

13,400
Tonnes of CO_2 removed*

14,400
Cars off the road*

Benefits

Biodiversity

It is important that the site is improved for nature and shows biodiversity value being increased across site for the life of the proposal. The proposed development will provide planting of native species of hedgerows, trees, pasture-mix grasses and wildflowers.

Community

As the UK faces a climate emergency, the proposed solar farm will provide a source of safe and clean energy which produces zero emissions when in operation. During periods of high demand, batteries can provide an increase supply, essential in eliminating power shortages and blackouts.

For further information please visit:
www.kelhamPVfarmandBESS.com

Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project

Undertaking the Necessary Technical Assessments

Technical Assessments

We are currently in the process of undertaking a range of technical assessments to help us understand the site and local environment as we develop the solar farm and battery energy storage facility proposals. The reporting on the assessments will form part of the submitted application. These include:

Landscape and Visual
A landscape and visual assessment will be undertaken and will assess a range of views of the proposed solar farm and battery energy storage units and will consider any mitigation to minimise any impacts visual amenity.

Ecology
Ecological assessments have been carried out to provide an understanding of the site's current biodiversity value and how the proposal could enhance this.

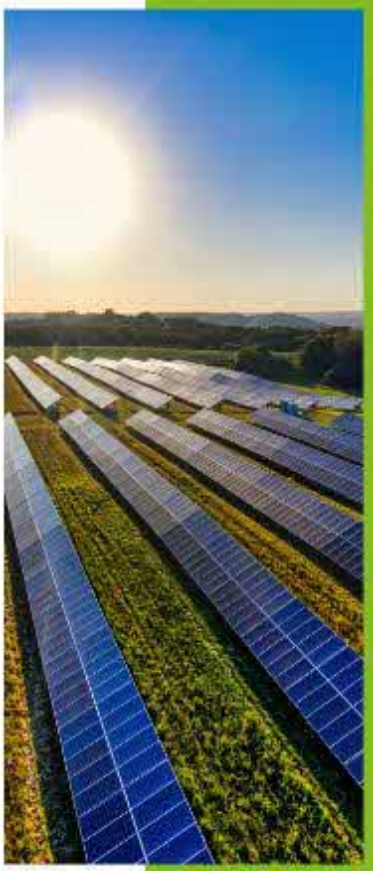
Traffic and Transport
A construction traffic management plan will be produced and will provide details of the level of construction traffic, the projected delivery time-scales and the route that construction traffic will take.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
A cultural heritage assessment and archaeological surveys will be carried out and assess the potential impacts arising from the proposed development on known heritage and archaeological assets.

Flood Risk
A flood risk assessment will be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposal on flooding and to provide the necessary mitigation.

Noise
A noise impact assessment will be carried out to assess the potential impacts of noise and vibrations on nearby sensitive receptors.

Soil
A detailed soil survey will be undertaken to determine the quality of the land.



For further information please visit:

Appendix F – Feedback Form

Today's Public Consultation Event

Where did you find out about the event today?

Letter	Newspaper Notice	Word of Mouth

Did you know about the proposals before today?	Yes	No
Do you feel better informed now?	Yes	No
Was the venue suitable?	Yes	No
Was the time suitable?	Yes	No

sirius Planning

Comments Form

Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project

Comments Form

We would like to know your views on the proposal presented today for a solar farm and battery energy storage system development on land off Main Road (A617), between the villages of Kelham and Averham, Newark-on-Trent.

Please take time to share your views below and answer the questions overleaf. **Please place completed forms in the box provided at the event.**

Comments

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Personal Details *

Name .....

Address .....
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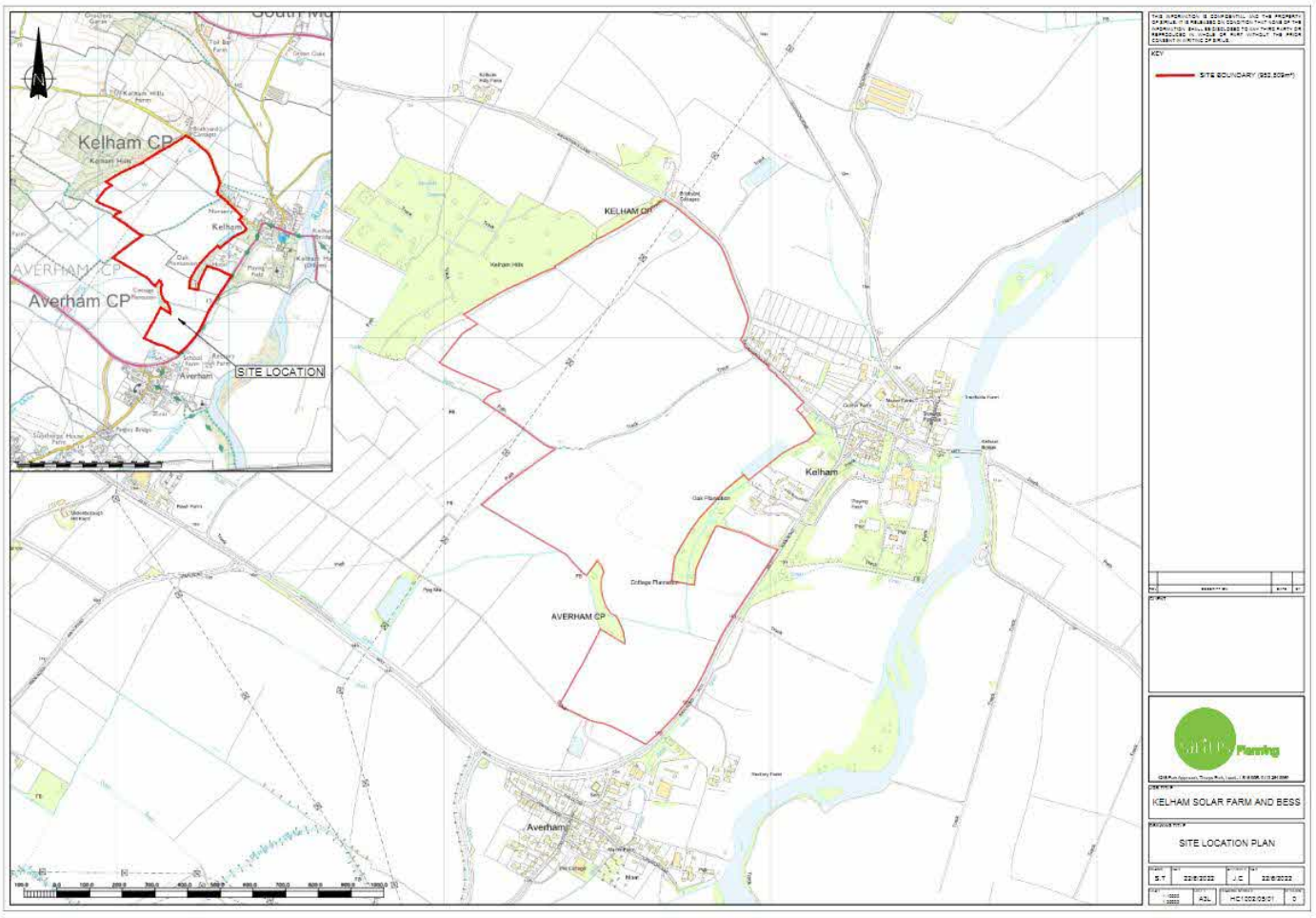
Email .....

*** Your name and address are optional but would assist in our consideration of your response. Responses to this questionnaire will be reviewed by Sirius Planning on behalf of Assured Assets Solar 2 Limited. Copies of the responses may be made available, in due course, to the relevant Local Planning Authority so they can note your comments. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by Assured Assets Solar 2 Limited in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and will not be passed on to any third parties.**

Appendix G – Site Location Map



Appendix H – Information Sheet

Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project

The proposal

The proposed development is for a solar farm and battery energy storage system on land located to the north off Main Road (A617), between the villages of Kelham and Averham.

It is anticipated that Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project will extend to approximately 95ha of land. The solar farm aspect will generate up to approximately 49.9MW of electricity directly from sunlight, equivalent to powering approximately 13,400 homes. This will offset over 13,400 tonnes of CO2 every year, equivalent to taking around 14,400 cars off the road*. The battery storage facility will have a storage capacity of 49.9MW.

Undertaking the necessary environmental assessments

A series of environmental assessments are currently being undertaken to accompany the planning application. These include:

- Landscape and Visual Impact;
- Ecology;
- Traffic and Transport;
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology;
- Flood Risk;
- Noise; and
- Soil.

Why this location?

The site has been assessed for its suitability for this renewable energy project and has the following positive attributes:

- The availability and close proximity to the grid connection;
- The opportunity for biodiversity enhancements;
- The site is directly linked to the local highway network;
- The site consists of relatively flat land, which is generally less visible;
- Available land; and
- Existing vegetative screening along the site boundaries and opportunity to reinforce where necessary.

Benefits of the proposal

As the UK faces a climate emergency, the proposed solar farm will provide a source of safe and clean energy which produces zero emissions when in operation. During periods of high demand, batteries can provide an increase supply, essential in eliminating power shortages and blackouts.

The proposal will enhance local biodiversity, for example through planting a species of rich wildflower mix and hedgerows, creating areas of scrub planting to provide a more diverse habitat.

The solar farm and battery energy storage facility will operate for 40 years, after which it will return to agricultural use.

For further information, please visit the project website at: www.kelhamPVfarmandBESS.com

Project Timeline:

June 2022
Pre-planning and project inception

August 2022
Community consultation

Autumn 2022
Preparation and submission of a planning application

Spring 2023
Subject to planning permission, construction will begin

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the solar farm and battery energy storage make a noise?
The only noise that will occur during the operation of the solar farm and battery energy storage facility is a low level noise emitted by the batteries, transformers and substation. It is anticipated that no noise will be audible at residential properties in the area.

Will the solar panels and battery energy storage be visible from my house?
We appreciate that for many local residents, what the scheme looks like is a key consideration. The height of the panels will be relatively low lying therefore much of the site won't be visible from local residential areas, however we know that there are some properties closer to the site which we will be considering very carefully. Provision of additional screening planting and enhancing the hedgerows throughout the site will improve screening from local roads and properties.

Will the panels cover the whole area?
No, the panels are distributed at a ratio of between 40 to 60% (ground cover ratio). There will be at least gaps of 2.5m between each row of solar panels which will remain grass, and will provide opportunities for additional wild meadow planting.

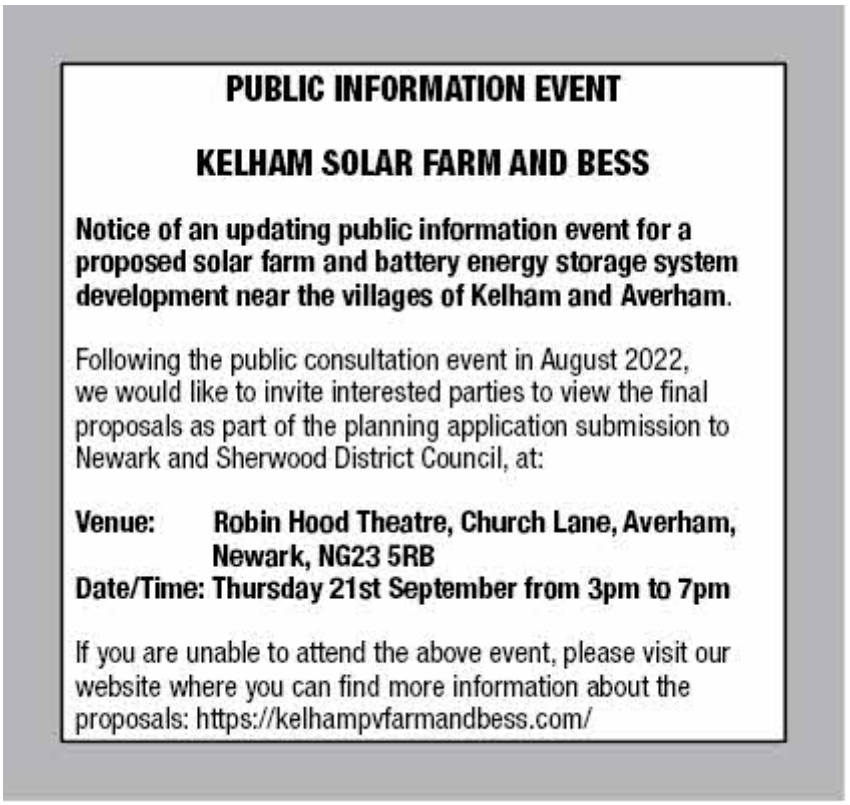
How long will the proposed development take to build?
It will take around 12 months to construct the proposal, but the majority of vehicle movements will be completed during the first 6 months. A construction traffic management plan will be submitted alongside the planning application, outlining the proposed access arrangements, the anticipated schedule, construction vehicle numbers and type, construction worker numbers and the proposed construction hours.

Will the site increase flood risk in the area?
Solar panels are mounted on frames which are driven into the ground. Very little concrete is used on solar farms, generally limited to the bases for the batteries, transformers and the substations. Rainwater falling on the panels will fall to the ground below.

How will the site be secured?
The site will be secured by deer fencing and closed-circuit television (CCTV).

Does it have to be sunny for the panels to work?
No. Photovoltaic (PV) panels, such as the ones that would be installed on site, if permission were granted, can still generate electricity even on a cloudy day.

Appendix I – Newspaper Advert (Public Information Event)



PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT

KELHAM SOLAR FARM AND BESS

Notice of an updating public information event for a proposed solar farm and battery energy storage system development near the villages of Kelham and Averham.

Following the public consultation event in August 2022, we would like to invite interested parties to view the final proposals as part of the planning application submission to Newark and Sherwood District Council, at:

Venue: **Robin Hood Theatre, Church Lane, Averham, Newark, NG23 5RB**
Date/Time: Thursday 21st September from 3pm to 7pm

If you are unable to attend the above event, please visit our website where you can find more information about the proposals: https://kelhampvfarmandbess.com/

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended by the Water Act 2003)
Notice of application for a transfer licence to abstract (take) water

Tarmac Trading Limited has applied to the Environment Agency for a licence.

The Environment Agency is giving notice of this application (in accordance with Section 37 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and Regulation 6 of the Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006.

The application is for a licence to abstract groundwater (via superficial deposits) from the area between National Grid References (NGRs) SK 81900 63530, SK 82190 63920, SK 82660 62690 and SK 82310 62790, to transfer it to the Mons Pool at NGR SK 81770 63520, and to the River Fleet at NGR SK 82411 63202, without intervening use.

The application is to abstract water as follows:

• 234 cubic metres an hour • 5,600 cubic metres a day
• 2,044,000 cubic metres a year • between 01 April and 31 March inclusive in each year.

The application is for a licence to cover the eastern extension to Besthorpe Quarry, for the purpose of dewatering.

Please contact us via e-mail or use the number below to arrange to see the application documents.

Send any representation about this application by email, quoting the name of the applicant and reference number NPS/WR/035766 to the Environment Agency at: PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk by **12th October 2023**

For advice about how to make a representation call **03708 506 506**

Newark & Sherwood District Council
Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 Notice Under Article 15
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990
The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
We are considering applications for the following:
Carlton On Trent
23/01360/LBC – Replacement windows to North elevation – The Old Forge Main Street
Collingham
23/01285/FUL – Change of use and conversion of existing offices to a 3 bedroom dwelling with associated garage, driveway and landscaping and proposed 2 bedroom detached dwelling with associated car parking and garden area. – Millenium Green Business Centre Rio Drive
Epperstone
23/01516/S73 – Application for variation of condition 02 to substitute approved drawings with revised scheme drawings attached to planning permission 22/00860/FUL; Sub-division of existing dwelling and curtilage to provide two dwellings; associated alterations, means of access, means of enclosure (resubmission) – Yew Tree Cottage Toad Lane
Hoveringham
23/01535/HOUSE – Proposed new front boundary wall and gates – Trent Valley View Boat Lane
Lowdham
23/01543/HOUSE – Demolish single storey extension and erect new single storey extension – Joyland 19A Lambley Road
Newark
23/01551/LBC – Attachment of steel truss to existing roof truss and drill holes to plasterwork ceiling for cables for lighting rig. – Palace Theatre 16 - 18 Appleton Gate
Southwell
23/01522/ADV – Erection of 6 illuminated and non-illuminated signs to exterior – The Wheatsheaf Inn Public House 47 King Street
23/01546/LBC – Erection of illuminated and non-illuminated signs to the exterior and repaint existing render – The Wheatsheaf Inn Public House 47 King Street
Upton
23/01427/HOUSE – Single Storey Side Infill Extension and conversion of adjacent buildings to form part of house. External alterations including new flues and alteration and replacement of windows and doors. New outdoor Swimming Pool and associated plant room – The Hay Barn 50 Main Street
Details are on our website www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk. You can submit comments on our website or by letter to Planning Development, Castle House, Great North Road, Newark NG24 1BY (inc application ref) by 05/10/2023. The personal information you provide will be used by the Council, the Data Controller, in accordance with UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. We publish comments on our website and will only remove the authors tel numbers, email address and signature. See our website for further information and our planning privacy notice.

PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT

KELHAM SOLAR FARM AND BESS

Notice of an updating public information event for a proposed solar farm and battery energy storage system development near the villages of Kelham and Averham.

Following the public consultation event in August 2022, we would like to invite interested parties to view the final proposals as part of the planning application submission to Newark and Sherwood District Council, at:

Venue: **Robin Hood Theatre, Church Lane, Averham, Newark, NG23 5RB**
Date/Time: Thursday 21st September from 3pm to 7pm

If you are unable to attend the above event, please visit our website where you can find more information about the proposals: https://kelhampvfarmandbess.com/

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
AND
ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT 1981

Notice is hereby given that a Public Inquiry which was to be held by an Independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport to commence on 26th September 2023, into the proposal to confirm the following Orders.

(1) The Nottinghamshire County Council (A614/A6097 Junctions Improvement Scheme) (Side Roads) Order 2022.

(2) The Nottinghamshire County Council (A614/A6097 Junctions Improvement Scheme) Compulsory Purchase Order 2022.
However, the Public Inquiry has now been cancelled, all objections having now been withdrawn.

Denise Hoggins

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(STATION ROAD, ROLLESTON)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
ORDER 2023 (N23-246)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Nottinghamshire County Council intends not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order, under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, in respect of roads at **Rolleston** in the **District of Newark and Sherwood**.

The effects of the Order will be:
1. **Vehicles are prohibited from proceeding** in the following length of road:
   a. Station Road – from its junction with Staythorpe Road in a north westerly, south westerly and then north westerly direction for a distance of 285 metres.
2. All existing permanent restrictions will be temporarily suspended as required.
3. The restrictions specified above shall only be in effect when the signs are in place.

IT IS INTENDED that the prohibitions respecting the above road or roads will apply as follows:
From 08:00 hours on Monday 2nd October 2023
Until 16:00 hours on Wednesday 22nd November 2023

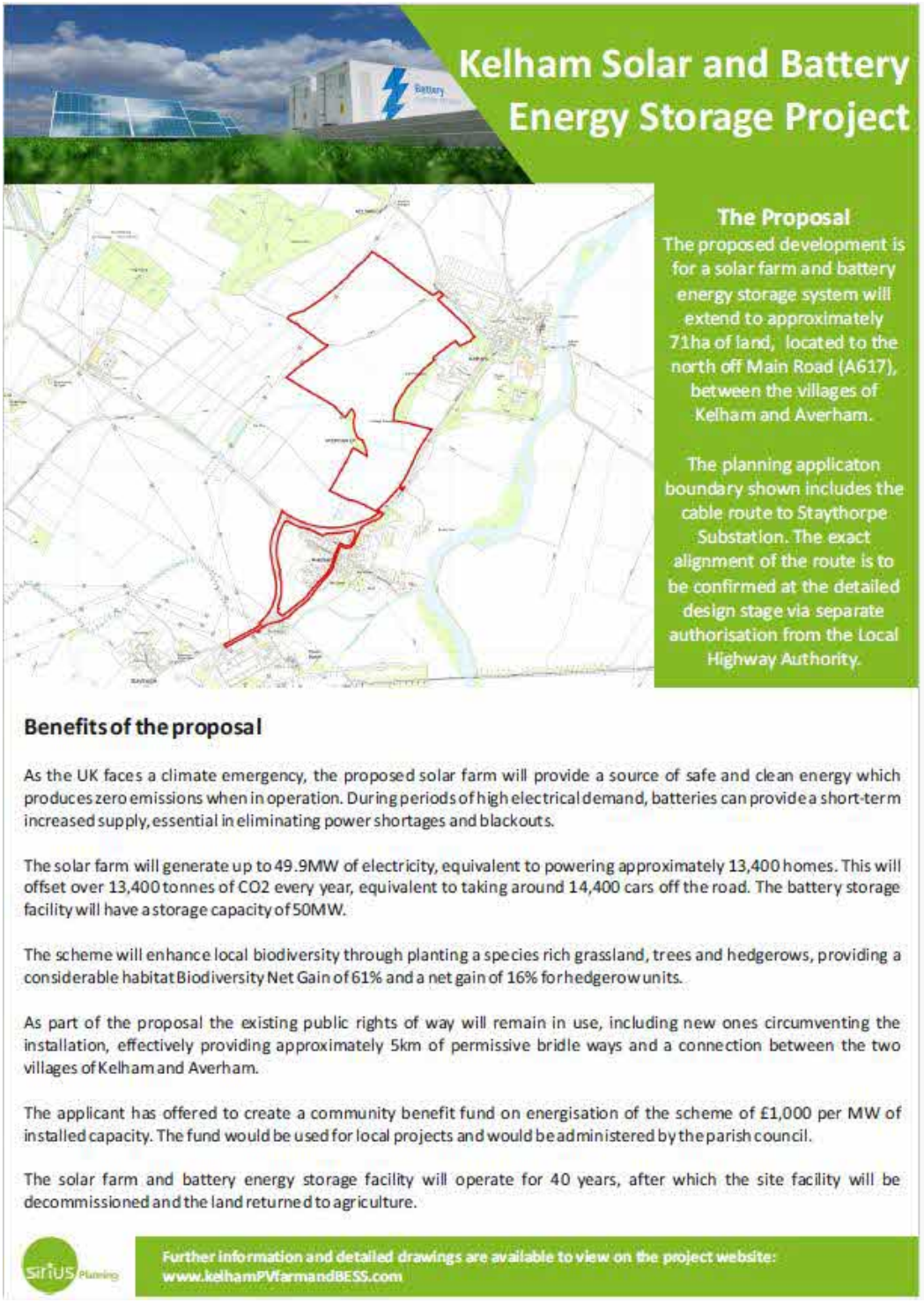
AND NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that during the period of restriction the alternative route available will be:

Fiskerton Road – Main Street – Station Road – Occupation Lane and vice versa.

The Order will come into force on **Monday 2nd October 2023** and any prohibition in it shall apply on that day and any subsequent day when necessary to enable works to be carried out. The Order shall continue in force until the works are completed (within a maximum period of 18 months).
The prohibition is required to enable National Grid to carry out the installation of underground cables.;
Corporate Director – Place
Bilsthorpe Business Park, Eakring Rd, Bilsthorpe, NG22 8ST
Tel: 0300 500 8080

MOTORS

Appendix J – Information Sheet (Public Information Event)



Kelham Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project

The Proposal

The proposed development is for a solar farm and battery energy storage system will extend to approximately 71ha of land, located to the north off Main Road (A617), between the villages of Kelham and Averham.

The planning applicaton boundary shown includes the cable route to Staythorpe Substation. The exact alignment of the route is to be confirmed at the detailed design stage via separate authorisation from the Local Highway Authority.

Benefits of the proposal

As the UK faces a climate emergency, the proposed solar farm will provide a source of safe and clean energy which produces zero emissions when in operation. During periods of high electrical demand, batteries can provide a short-term increased supply, essential in eliminating power shortages and blackouts.

The solar farm will generate up to 49.9MW of electricity, equivalent to powering approximately 13,400 homes. This will offset over 13,400 tonnes of CO2 every year, equivalent to taking around 14,400 cars off the road. The battery storage facility will have a storage capacity of 50MW.

The scheme will enhance local biodiversity through planting a species rich grassland, trees and hedgerows, providing a considerable habitat Biodiversity Net Gain of 61% and a net gain of 16% for hedgerow units.

As part of the proposal the existing public rights of way will remain in use, including new ones circumventing the installation, effectively providing approximately 5km of permissive bridle ways and a connection between the two villages of Kelham and Averham.

The applicant has offered to create a community benefit fund on energisation of the scheme of £1,000 per MW of installed capacity. The fund would be used for local projects and would be administered by the parish council.

The solar farm and battery energy storage facility will operate for 40 years, after which the site facility will be decommissioned and the land returned to agriculture.

Further information and detailed drawings are available to view on the project website:
www.kelhamPVfarmandBESS.com