

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2017 SCREENING MATRIX**

1. CASE DETAILS		
Case Reference	22/02289/SO	Brief description of the project / development Request for an EIA Screening Opinion in respect of a planning application for a 44 MW Solar PV Development
Appellant	N/A	
LPA	Cherwell District Council	
2. EIA DETAILS		
Is the project Schedule 1 development according to Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations?		No
If YES, which description of development (THEN GO TO Q4)		N/A
Is the project Schedule 2 development under the EIA Regulations?		Yes
If YES, under which description of development in Column 1 and Column 2?		Schedule 2, Section 3a 'Energy development'
Is the development within, partly within, or near a 'sensitive area' as defined by Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations?		No
If YES, which area?		N/A
Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in Column 2 exceeded/met?		Yes
If yes, which applicable threshold/criteria?		Site area exceeds 0.5 hectares
3. LPA/SOS SCREENING		
Has the LPA or SoS issued a Screening Opinion (SO) or Screening Direction (SD)? (In the case of Enforcement appeals, has a Regulation 37 notice been issued)		N/A – For Planning Inspectorates Use
If yes, is a copy of the SO/SD on the file?		N/A
If yes, is the SO/SD positive?		N/A
4. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT		
Has the appellant supplied an ES for the current or previous (if reserved matters or conditions) application?		No

WHEN COMPLETING THIS DOCUMENT IN RELATION TO AN ENFORCEMENT APPEAL, THE UNDERSIGNED OFFICER HAS HAD REGARD TO THE PROJECT AS ALLEGED IN THE RELEVANT ENFORCEMENT NOTICE WHEN REFERRING TO THE PROJECT / DEVELOPMENT.

A Screening Criteria Question	B Response to the Screening Criteria Question in Column A (Yes/No and explanation of reasons) Briefly explain reasons and, if applicable and/or known, include name of feature(s) and proximity to site(s)		C Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No and explanation of reasons (nb if the answer in Column B is 'No', Column C is not applicable)) Is a significant effect likely, having regard particularly to the magnitude and spatial extent (including population size affected), nature, intensity and complexity, probability, expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact and the possibility to effectively reduce the impact? If the finding of no significant effect is reliant on specific features or measures of the project envisaged to avoid, or prevent what might otherwise have been, significant adverse effects on the environment these should be identified in bold.	
5. NATURAL RESOURCES				
5.1 Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the topography of the area?	No	The proposal is not anticipated to involve significant ground works	No	Works relating to installation/decommissioning are not anticipated to have a significant effect. The solar panels will be mounted above ground.
5.2 Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources above or below ground such as land, soil, water, materials/minerals or energy which are non-renewable or in short supply?	No	Renewable energy project	No	Renewable energy project
5.3 Are there any areas on/around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project, e.g. forestry, agriculture, water/coastal, fisheries, minerals?	No	The proposals would be wholly contained within the site.	No	Due to the nature of the proposal, it is unlikely to have significant effects on the natural area surrounding the site.
6. WASTE				
6.1 Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes	The panels themselves and associated infrastructure will require removal during decommissioning.	No	The panels and associated infrastructure can be removed from the site and appropriately disposed of without causing significant effects.

A Screening Criteria Question	B Response to the Screening Criteria Question in Column A (Yes/No and explanation of reasons)		C Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No and explanation of reasons (nb if the answer in Column B is 'No', Column C is not applicable))	
7. POLLUTION AND NUISANCES				
7.1 Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	No	The nature of the proposal does not involve the release pollutants etc..	No	No significant effect as no pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances will be released to air.
7.2 Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	No	The nature of the proposal will not result in noise and vibration or release light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation.	No	No significant effect as the development will not cause noise and vibration or release light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation
7.3 Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	No	The nature of the development will not lead to risks of contamination.	No	No significant effect as the development will not lead to risks of contamination.
7.4 Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage, e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	No	None identified within the planning constraints data.	No	No significant effect as no relevant constraints have been identified in relation to the site.
8. POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH				
8.1 Will there be any risk of major accidents (including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge) during construction, operation or decommissioning?	No	There are no identified 'risk of major accidents' associated with above ground solar PV developments.	No	No significant effect because no risk of major accidents is identified.
8.2 Will the project present a risk to the population (having regard to population density) and their human health during construction, operation or decommissioning? (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)	No	No identified risks to the surrounding population.	No	No significant effect because no risks have been identified.

A Screening Criteria Question	B Response to the Screening Criteria Question in Column A (Yes/No and explanation of reasons)		C Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No and explanation of reasons (nb if the answer in Column B is 'No', Column C is not applicable))	
9. WATER RESOURCES				
9.1 Are there any water resources including surface waters, e.g. rivers, lakes/ponds, coastal or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project, particularly in terms of their volume and flood risk?	No	None identified within the planning constraints data. The solar panels are located above ground and should not impact on surface water drainage. Specific site drainage can be adequately assessed as part of a planning application.	No	No significant effect as no significant risks identified.
10. BIODIVERSITY (SPECIES AND HABITATS)				
10.1 Are there any protected areas which are designated or classified for their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, or any non-designated / non-classified areas which are important or sensitive for reasons of their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, located on or around the location and which could be affected by the project? (e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water-bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, undesignated nature reserves or parks. (Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local))).	No	The site constraints identify ecologically sensitive sites within the vicinity of the proposed site. However, due to the nature of the development proposed, the development is unlikely to impact on those area.	No	Due to the nature of the development, the proposal is unlikely to have significant effects on ecologically sensitive areas.
10.2 Could any protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna which use areas on or around the site, e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over-wintering, or migration, be affected by the project?	Yes	The site constraints identify notable and protected species in the area and therefore they could be present on the site. Ecology reports are required as part of a planning application and the impacts can be fully assessed at that stage.	No	Appropriate assessment and mitigation (if necessary) can be identified as part of a planning application. Therefore, the proposal is not likely to have a significant effect.

A Screening Criteria Question	B Response to the Screening Criteria Question in Column A (Yes/No and explanation of reasons)		C Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No and explanation of reasons (nb if the answer in Column B is 'No', Column C is not applicable))	
11. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL				
11.1 Are there any areas or features on or around the location which are protected for their landscape and scenic value, and/or any non-designated / non-classified areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project? ¹ Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).	No	The site constraints do not identify any designated areas in terms of landscaping. There are some footpaths within the vicinity of the site.	No	The proposal is unlikely to have a significant effect due to the nature of the surrounding topography. No areas are identified for their high landscape or scenic value within the vicinity of the site. A landscape visual assessment is required as part of a planning application and will be fully assessed at that stage.
11.2 Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people? (If so, from where, what direction, and what distance?)	No	The topography of the area and existing landscape features will likely limit any longer distance views of the site. The site is not located in a heavily populated area.	No	Unlikely to have a significant effect due to the location of the site.
12. CULTURAL HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGY				
12.1 Are there any areas or features which are protected for their cultural heritage or archaeological value, or any non-designated / classified areas and/or features of cultural heritage or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project (including potential impacts on setting, and views to, from and within)? Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).	No	No archaeological constraints have been identified within the constraints data held by the Council.	No	The site is not identified as a site of archaeological interest and therefore the development is unlikely to have a significant effect.

¹ See question 8.1 for consideration of impacts on heritage designations and receptors, including on views to, within and from designated areas.

A Screening Criteria Question	B Response to the Screening Criteria Question in Column A (Yes/No and explanation of reasons)		C Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No and explanation of reasons (nb if the answer in Column B is 'No', Column C is not applicable))	
13. TRANSPORT AND ACCESS				
13.1 Are there any routes on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	No	There are public footpaths within the vicinity of the site, but these are not anticipated to be affected by the proposal.	No	No significant effect as there are no identified routes that would be affected by the proposal.
13.2 Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	No	There are no areas specifically identified for congestion. There are some small villages within the vicinity of the site that may not be suitable to accommodate construction/decommissioning traffic. Highways matters would be considered as part of a planning application and it is a normal requirement of large projects to agree routing plans to ensure traffic uses suitable routes.	No	No significant effect as the developer will be able to agree an appropriate routing plan to avoid areas susceptible to congestion and to avoid peak traffic periods.
14. LAND USE				
14.1 Are there existing land uses or community facilities on or around the location which could be affected by the project? E.g. housing, densely populated areas, industry / commerce, farm/agricultural holdings, forestry, tourism, mining, quarrying, facilities relating to health, education, places of worship, leisure /sports / recreation.	No	The site is located in an area that is predominantly agricultural land.	No	Due to the nature of the proposal, it is unlikely to give rise to significant effects.
14.2 Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	The planning data does not identify any future land uses that could be affected by the proposal.	No	The planning data does not identify any future land uses that could be affected by the proposal.
15. LAND STABILITY AND CLIMATE				
15.1 Is the location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides,	No	No identified environmental problems.	No	No identified environmental problems.

A Screening Criteria Question	B Response to the Screening Criteria Question in Column A (Yes/No and explanation of reasons)		C Is a Significant Effect Likely? (Yes/No and explanation of reasons (nb if the answer in Column B is 'No', Column C is not applicable))	
erosion, or extreme /adverse climatic conditions, e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?				
16. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS				
16.1 Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulation of impacts together during the construction/operation phase?	No	There are no other identified projects within the area that would be considered to have a cumulative impact in conjunction with this project.	No	The proposal is not considered to have cumulative impacts.
17. TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS				
17.1 Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects? ²	No	Due to the location and nature of the proposal, it would not have transboundary impacts.	No	No transboundary impacts.

² The Regulations require consideration of the transboundary nature of the impact. Due to the England's geographical location the vast majority of TCPA cases are unlikely to result in transboundary impacts.

18. CONCLUSIONS – ACCORDING TO EIA REGULATIONS SCHEDULE 3

Agree with the conclusions reached in the original screening letter issued by Cherwell District Council.

19. SCREENING DECISION

If a SO/SD has been provided do you agree with it?	N/A
Is it necessary to issue a SD?	N/A
Is an ES required?	No

20. ASSESSMENT (EIA REGS SCHEDULE 2 DEVELOPMENT)**OUTCOME**

Is likely to have significant effects on the environment	ES required	
<u>Not</u> likely to have significant effects on the environment	ES not required	X
More information is required to inform direction	Request further info	

21. REASON FOR SCREENING

Applicant submitted a screening request to the Local Planning Authority.

NAME	Rebekah Morgan (Principal Planning Officer)
DATE	23/09/2022