



Little Crow

Solar Park

Little Crow Solar Park, Scunthorpe

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This Environmental Statement has been managed and coordinated by Pegasus Group on behalf of **INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd** ("the applicant") and forms part of a suite of documents supporting an application under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 to the Secretary of State for Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

1.2 THE APPLICANT

1.2.1 Founded in 2009, INRG Solar Ltd has established itself as one of the largest developers of solar parks in the UK. As an independent developer, INRG Solar have experience of a variety of energy projects including solar, batteries and peaking plants. INRG Solar have a proven track record in delivering projects and have developed and sold numerous ground mounted solar schemes ranging between 5MW to 50MW.

1.3 THE DEVELOPMENT

1.3.1 The development proposal relates to the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of Little Crow Solar Park ("the development") a renewable led energy scheme. The main elements of the development will be the installation of a ground mounted solar park with an intended design capacity of over 50MWp (megawatts peak) covering an area of approximately 225 hectares. There will also be electrical connection infrastructure.

1.3.2 By virtue of its potential generating capacity, which stands at over 50MW, this project constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("NSIP"). Therefore, instead of applying to the local authority for Planning Permission, the application must be made to the Secretary of State (SoS) for department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ("BEIS") for a different permission called a Development Consent Order ("DCO").

1.3.3 The location of the Proposed Scheme is shown on the **Land Plan Including Order Limits** drawing (Document Ref 2.1 LC DRW) and is replicated at **Figure 1.1**. A detailed description of the site is provided at Chapter 3 (Document Ref 6.3 LC ES CH3) and a detailed description of development is provided at Chapter 4 (Document Ref 6.4 LC ES CH4).

1.3.4 ***To note, figures are presented either within or at the end of each chapter. The technical appendices are presented in the accompanying Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement.*** For continuity, the figures and technical appendices are referenced using the same numbering as the chapter.

1.4 THE CONSENTING PROCESS AND NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

1.4.1 The Little Crow Solar Park represents a significant planning and investment project and is defined as a National Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) in accordance with the Planning Act 2008. INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd will apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, via the Planning Inspectorate, and if successful will be granted a Development Consent Order which authorises and permits the development.

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1.4.2 INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd will seek powers in the DCO to construct, maintain, operate and then decommission the project. The Planning Inspectorate will consider the application. Prior to submission of the application and during the examination period, interested parties will be entitled to raise their views and participate in the consenting process. When the examination has concluded, the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State having assessed the project in accordance with national policy and taking into account the local impact. The Secretary of State will then determine the application.

1.5 EIA REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

1.5.1 On 30th November 2018 the applicant gave formal notification to the Secretary of State under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA regulations that they voluntarily intend to provide an ES in respect of the development proposal. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 6(2)9a) of the EIA regulations, the proposed development is EIA development.

1.5.2 On 19 December 2018, the applicant submitted an EIA scoping request to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. This was supported by a report which set out what the applicant considered should be the scope of the ES.

1.5.3 The Scoping Opinion was received by the applicant from PINS in January 2019 and including formal responses from statutory consultees. The **Scoping Opinion** is attached at **Appendix 1.1** (Document Ref 7.1 LC TA1.1). All issues raised in the Scoping Opinion have been considered during the EIA process and are discussed in further detail in the technical chapters. The Environmental Statement also taken into account Natural England's response which did not form part of the Secretary of State's Scoping Opinion. The Natural England's scoping response is attached at **Appendix 1.2** (Document Ref 7.1 LC TA1.2).

1.6 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

1.6.1 An Environmental Statement ["ES"] is a document that sets out the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment ["EIA"]. An EIA is a process for identifying the likely significance of environmental effects (beneficial or adverse) arising from a Proposed Development, by comparing the existing environmental conditions prior to development (the baseline) with the environmental conditions during/following the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of a development should it proceed. The EIA is carried out prior to the submission of a planning application.

1.6.2 The statutory requirements for carrying out an EIA, the contents of the ES and the procedures for determining planning applications for 'EIA Development' are set out within the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 [the "EIA Regulations"].

1.7 STRUCTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

1.7.1 This Environmental Statement comprises technical studies on each of the aspects of the environment identified as likely to be significantly affected by the development proposal. The aim of Environmental Impact Assessment is to protect the environment by ensuring that the Secretary of State, when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects and takes this into account in the decision-making process.

1.7.2 This Environmental Statement is structured as follows:

- **Environmental Statement Volume 1: Main Report** - Comprises the main volume of the Environmental Statement, including 'general chapters' that describe

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the EIA context and the scope of the Environmental Statement; provides a description of the development site and development proposal; followed by the technical chapters for each environmental theme assessed within the Environmental Statement.

- **Environmental Statement Volume 2: Technical Appendices** - Comprise the technical appendices supporting the main report.
- **Environmental Statement: Non-Technical Summary (NTS)** – this provides a concise summary of the Environmental Statement identifying the likely significant environmental effects and the measures proposed to mitigate or to avoid adverse effects of the Proposed Development.

1.7.3 The content of the Environmental Statement Main Report comprises:

- **Chapter 1** Introduction
- **Chapter 2** Assessment Scope and Methodology
- **Chapter 3** The Development Site and its Environs
- **Chapter 4** The Development Proposal
- **Chapter 5** Legislation, Climate Change, Energy, Planning Policy & Guidance
- **Chapter 6** Landscape and Visual
- **Chapter 7** Ecology and Nature Conservation
- **Chapter 8** Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- **Chapter 9** Transport and Access
- **Chapter 10** Agriculture Circumstances
- **Chapter 11** Socio Economic Issues

1.8 PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

1.8.1 Prior to the completion of this Environmental Statement, a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) was published on 3 December 2018. It was produced to inform the public and stakeholders of the applicant's preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the development proposal. The PEI was required to be published as part of the applicant's statutory consultation carried out under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 and regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017. All issues raised during consultation on the PEI have been considered during the EIA process.

1.9 THE CONSULTANT TEAM

1.9.1 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 set out the requirements for EIA applications to be accompanied by confirmation that the Environmental Statement has been prepared by competent experts. The Environmental Impact Assessment upon which it has been based has been undertaken and supported by the following main specialists: -

- **Pegasus Group:** coordination of the EIA, general chapters, technical topics on landscape and visual and socio-economic and baseline data for heritage.
- **Cotswold Archeology:** technical topic on cultural heritage and archeology.
- **Transport Planning Associates:** technical topic on traffic and transportation.
- **Daniel Baird Spoil Consultancy Ltd:** technical topic of agriculture and soil.
- **Clarkson & Woods Ecological Consultants:** technical topic on ecology and nature conservation.
- **Clive Onions:** technical input on drainage and water.
- **Integral:** technical input on ground conditions and contaminations.

- **Clement Acoustics:** technical input on acoustics.
- **Bureau Veritas:** technical input on air quality emissions.

1.9.2 Pegasus Group has extensive experience of coordinating and undertaking EIA work across a range of projects and development types including energy and renewable energy schemes. The management and coordination of the EIA and ES was undertaken by Gareth Roberts, BCs (Hons), MSc Environmental Planning, MRTPI – Director at Pegasus Group. Gareth has coordinated, undertaken and prepared numerous Environmental Statements for renewable energy projects, including solar, wind and anaerobic digestion during his 8 years at Pegasus Group. The lead authority for the landscape and visual impact chapter is Kate Curtis BA Hons DipLA CMLI. Kate is a Director at Pegasus and is a Chartered Landscape with over 20 years experience. Kate is very familiar with the Lincolnshire landscape particularly the area around Scunthorpe having been born in the town and raised in the surrounding area. She has a wide environmental and landscape planning experience including solar farm and other renewable energy developments across England and Wales. Kate has been supported in the production of the ES Chapter by a team of Landscape Architects and Environmental professionals based in the Pegasus Leeds Office. The lead author for the socio-economic chapter was Richard Cook who is an Director at Pegasus Group and leads on the company's economics-related work. He has 16 years experience of working in economic development, with expertise in undertaking economic impact assessments, socio-economic analysis and economic forecasting. He has produced numerous economic benefits statements to support planning applications for new schemes across the country, which includes producing the socio-economic chapter as part of EIAs for numerous schemes. Over the last 12 months, Richard has written chapters for developments that include: extra care schemes; commercial schemes; transport infrastructure schemes; and residential schemes. Richard is a member of the Institute of Economic Development.

1.9.3 Clarkson and Woods Ltd is an ecological consultancy founded in the early 1990's. They provide a range of services, principally to the construction industry, and always in relation to the survey, assessment, protection and conservation of British wildlife and habitats. Over the past 10 years Clarkson and Woods have developed particular expertise in the survey, assessment, mitigation and management of largescale solar arrays and have provided ecological support on in-excess of 200 solar projects throughout the UK at all stages. This has included being involved with industry leading research into the biodiversity impact of large scale solar arrays and academic research into effective management strategies for largescale PV in collaboration with Lancaster and York Universities. Clarkson and Woods are involved in all phases of the development of largescale PV from their design and assessment through to their construction and operation; undertaking the necessary ecological surveys and preparing impacts assessments for planning, ecological clerk of works during construction, creation of management plans for operational sites, installation of habitat enhancement measures and leading post-construction ecological monitoring. This involvement throughout the lifecycle of these projects has given them a wealth of experience into how solar arrays are developed and the ecological issues/opportunities which occur at each stage. For the Little Crow scheme, Clarkson and Woods' support has been directed by Tom Clarkson MCIEEM. Tom has over 18 years of experience in ecological survey, design, mitigation and management and has particular expertise in ecological impact assessment and habitats regulation assessment. The project has been coordinated by Peter Timms ACIEEM. Peter has over 7 years' experience in ecological consultancy and has an MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation. Peter holds Natural England licences for the survey of bats, dormice and great crested newts and has a wide range of experience working on all stages of solar projects.

1.9.4 Transport Planning Associates (TPA) specialise in transport planning and traffic engineering. Their experience ranges from accessibility studies to traffic impact analysis

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to the detailed design of highway schemes. TPA advise clients in both the public and private sectors including those working on renewable energy schemes across the country. The lead author was Robert Roughan who is an Associate at TPA. He has an Master's Degree in Transport Planning from Oxford Brookes University. Robert was assisted by James Darrall, an Associate Director at TPA. He has a Master's degree in Transport Planning and Management from the University of Westminster. He is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Logistics and Transport and a member of the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation.

1.9.5 Daniel Baird is a Soil Scientist specialising in Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), soil resources and agricultural impacts in land use planning. This professional experience dates back to 1992 working for the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, subsequently moving on to environmental planning consultancy. Daniel has a Degree in Soils and Land Resources, Masters in Land Resource Management, and is a member of the British Society of Soil Science professional body.

1.9.6 Clive Onions Ltd is a small Specialist water company with 3 members of staff. Clive is a Civil Engineer with over 40 years of experience (35 with Arup) and has advised on a diverse range of civil engineering projects, many of which have been large infrastructure projects for Developers. Current work focuses on strategic development planning and supporting planning applications with regard to flood risk, drainage and utilities for housing, commercial and energy projects. Clive has advised on over 100 solar farms for over 17 clients in England and Wales, including the largest solar farm in the country at the time. Clive has given Evidence at Local Plan Inquiry, Public Inquiry, Lands Tribunal, Drainage Tribunal, Mediation and at Hearings in connection with development proposals and infrastructure valuations, and has advised lawyers on claims arising from flooding. Clive has been responsible for complex Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) for many large sites and was Independent Chairman investigating the cause of flooding from the River Thames through Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton to Teddington, reporting to Government. He has been active in the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Vice Chairman of the ICE Expert Panel on Water for 10 years, and consequently commented on Government and OFWAT policy reports and publications related to flood risk. Clive has been Chairman of the UWE Industrial Advisory Board for River and Coastal Engineering and Civil Engineering for over 8 years. Clive is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management. Clive is also a Panel Member of the Joint Board of Moderators and inspects UK University Civil Engineering Departments to consider their Accreditation for Professional qualifications.

1.9.7 Integrale is a geotechnical and contaminated land consultancy, founded in 1992, which undertakes intrusive ground investigations, risk assessments and environmental advice for development and remedial projects. Dr Kay Boreland obtained a BA in Archaeology and Geology from University of Bristol in 1980 and her doctorate in Quaternary Geology in 1985. She is a Fellow of the Geological Society of Great Britain. Kay has over 30 years professional experience and is Technical Director at Integrale, specialising in advice and report quality review, Environmental Statements and Detailed Risk Assessments. Over the past 10 years she has advised on multiple investigations for solar developments across the UK, assessing a wide variety of ground conditions, where ground gas, groundwater and soil quality issues are of importance. She also provides legal expert witness and planning inquiry advice.

1.9.8 Clement Acoustics was formed in 2012. The company is a sponsor member of the Institute of Acoustics and holds UKAS Accreditation for sound insulation testing services. The company has provided acoustic assessments for a large number of environmental projects, including renewable energy applications such as solar parks and wind farms. The company directors have over 30 years' experience in acoustic consultancy between them and all consultants hold associate or corporate membership of the Institute of Acoustics.

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Duncan Martin is a Director at Clement Acoustics with over 11 years acoustics consultancy experience. Duncan has a BSc (Hons) degree in Audio Technology from Salford University and is a corporate member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA). Duncan was a founding member of Clement Acoustics, being active in the company's growth during the early stages. He was responsible for overseeing all acoustic work in the London office until 2014, at which point the decision was made to expand and open a Manchester office. Since then, Duncan has overseen the opening and growth of the Manchester office, and also provides advice and guidance to London office members of staff. Duncan has overseen all renewable energy impact assessments, and is experienced in the relevant standards and good practice documents.

1.9.9 Cotswold Archaeology has a dedicated consultancy department which has extensive experience of working within EIA teams, consulting with heritage stakeholders (including English Heritage and local authority conservation officers and archaeological officers) and inputting into Environmental Statements and Masterplanning. This includes a great deal of work on assessing non-physical (visual) effects of developments upon heritage assets for developments as diverse as wind farms, solar farms, infrastructure projects, commercial and residential. The lead authority for the heritage is Duncan Coe, a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists (MIfA, chartered grade). Cotswold Archaeology is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Institute. Duncan is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (FSA), holds an Honours degree in Archaeology and have been a professional archaeologist for 30 years. He's also been employed by English Heritage as an Inspector of Ancient Monuments and as a local authority archaeological advisor.

1.9.10 Hannah Smith (Bsc, Msc, MIAQM, MIEEnvSc) is a Senior Consultant at Bureau Veritas. Hannah has over 6 years' experience in the air quality sector, specialising in air quality modelling, ambient air quality monitoring and the preparation of air quality assessment reports. Hannah's air quality modelling experience has included project management and delivery of a range of dispersion modelling assessments relating to industrial, commercial and residential developments with reports produced as both standalone air quality assessments and as air quality chapters as part of multi discipline EIAs. Hannah has project managed several air quality monitoring projects, including the field and test programme to achieve MCERTs certification on an instrument designed for measurement of particulate matter. She has also managed several industrial projects assisting with permitting applications and using several different dispersion models to quantify air pollution derived from industrial sources. Through this work she has gained an in-depth understanding of the Environmental Permitting system as well as the EU and national assessment regimes. In addition to the air quality assessment work, she is currently working alongside TFL to update the London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) Database to quantify the various emission sources throughout London geographically.

1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT AVAILABILITY

1.10.1 Copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained from Pegasus Group at the following address: -

Pegasus Group
South Wing
Equinox North
Great Park Road
Bristol

BS32 4QL

Tel: 01454 625945

Fax: 01454 618074

Email: Bristol@pegasusgroup.co.uk

1.10.2 The purchase costs are: -

- Main Report and Technical appendices - £150.00
- Non-Technical Summary (NTS) - Free of charge
- Digital copies of the above documents on a CD or USB stick - £15.00

1.10.3 The Environmental Statement and other planning application documentation will also be available to view on the National Infrastructure Planning website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>. The site is managed by the Planning Inspectorate, the government agency responsible for examining applications for NSIPs.

Figure 1.1

Land Plan including Order Limits

