

Screening Checklist for Schedule 2 development

Brief description of proposed development:

Screening Opinion in respect of proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure.

1.	Characteristics of development	Yes/ No/ ? Briefly describe	Characteristics of the potential impact: "Is this likely to result in a significant effect?" Yes/ No/ ? Briefly state why
a.	Size of the development		
i.	Would the development be out of scale with the existing environment?	?	No. The applicant is proposing to provide a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) as part of a planning application to ascertain the degree of impact and whether the development would be 'out of scale' with the surrounding environment.

ii.	Would it lead to further consequential development or works (e.g. new roads, extraction of aggregate, provision of new water supply, generation or transmission of power, increased housing and sewage disposal)?	Yes	No The scheme is specifically to provide for the generation of power.
b. Cumulation with other development			
i.	Would there be potential cumulative impacts with other existing development, or development not yet begun but for which planning permission exists?	Yes	No Likely some overlap during the construction phase with developments within a reasonable distance of the site, the nature of the traffic generation in terms of volume and distribution, does not give rise to concerns of significant cumulative impact. The potential cumulative landscape impact would be determined by an LVIA, but other major schemes in the area are relatively distant from the site.
ii.	Should the application for this development be regarded as an integral part of a more substantial project? If so, can related developments which are subject to separate applications proceed independently?	No	No
c. Use of natural resources			

i.	Would construction or operation of the development use natural resources such as land (especially undeveloped or agricultural land), water, minerals, aggregates, timber or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes	No There would likely be some loss of biodiversity to enable site access, but there are also opportunities for net-gain on or near site. The scheme would result in the loss of some Best and Most Versatile ('BMV') land, in the form of Grade 3a land ('Good Quality'), but this would not be permanently lost.
d. Production of waste			
i.	<p>Would the development produce waste during construction or operation or decommissioning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mining or quarrying waste? • municipal waste (household and/or commercial)? • hazardous or toxic waste (including radioactive)? • sewage sludge or other sludge from effluent treatment? • construction, demolition or excavation waste? • redundant machinery or equipment? • agricultural waste? • any other solid waste? • liquid or solid wastes in suspension? 	No	No
e. Pollution and nuisances			

i.	<p>Would the development release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air? For example, emissions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • combustion of fossil fuels from stationary or mobile sources? • production processes? • materials handling including storage or transport? • construction activities including plant & equipment? • dust or odours from handling of materials including construction materials, sewage & waste? • incineration of waste? • any other sources? 	Yes	No Some dust would likely be generated during the construction phase, but measures could be put in to reduce this through management procedures agree as part of a planning application.
ii.	<p>Would the development cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from operation of equipment e.g. engines, ventilation plant, crushers? • from industrial or similar processes? • from blasting or piling? • from construction or operational traffic? • from lighting or cooling systems? • from sources of electromagnetic radiation? • from any other sources? 	Yes	No Some noise would likely be generated during the construction phase, but measures could be put in to reduce this through management procedures agree as part of a planning application.
iii.	<p>Would the development 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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from handling, storage, use or spillage of hazardous or toxic materials? • from discharge of sewage or other effluents (whether treated or untreated) to water or the land? • by deposition of pollutants emitted to air, onto the land or into water from any other sources? • is there a risk of long term build up of pollutants in the environment from these sources? 	No	No

iv.	<p>Would the development involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to people or the environment (flora, fauna, water supplies)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of hazardous or toxic substances? • potential changes in occurrence of disease or effect on disease carriers (e.g. insect or water borne diseases)? • effect on people's living conditions? 	No	No
f.	Risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used		
i.	Would there be a risk of accidents during construction or operation of the development which could have effects on people or the environment e.g. from explosions, spillages, fires etc from storage, handling, use or production of hazardous or toxic substances?	No	No
ii.	Could the development be affected by natural disasters causing environmental damage (e.g. floods, earthquakes, landslip, etc)?	No	No
2.	Location of the development	Yes/ No/ ? Briefly describe	Characteristics of the potential impact: "Is this likely to result in a significant effect?" Yes/ No/ ? Briefly state why
a.	Existing land use		

i.	Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the development, e.g. residential, schools, community facilities, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying?	Yes	No Farmland would be taken out of use for the lifetime of the development. Setting of listed buildings, conservation area, and world heritage site buffer zone could be impacted and would need to be assessed as part of an LVIA / heritage impact assessment.
ii.	Would the development be located in a previously undeveloped area where there would be loss of greenfield land?	Yes	No Development would be permanent, so agricultural land could be brought back into use
iii.	Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built up, which could be affected by the development?	Yes	No There would be some visual impact, but any impact on amenity through traffic, noise etc would temporary during the construction phase.

iv.	Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the development?	Yes	No Listed buildings, conservation area, and world heritage site buffer zone are close to the site and could be affected. It is not considered that any impact would be significant.
v.	Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the development?	Yes	No Public rights of way run through and adjacent to the site. They will remain open and whilst the experience for the user would change, it is not considered to be significant.
vi.	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 development?	No	No

vii.	Would the development be in a location where it would be highly visible to many people?	Yes	No The applicant is proposing to provide a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) as part of a planning application to ascertain the degree of impact and how visible it will be within the landscape.
b. Relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area			
i.	Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the development e.g. groundwater resources, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals?	Yes	No The scheme would result in the loss of some Best and Most Versatile ('BMV') land, in the form of Grade 3a land ('Good Quality'), but this would not be permanently lost.
c. Absorption capacity of the natural environment			
i.	Are there any areas on or around the location which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape or other value, which could be affected by the development?	Yes	No World Heritage Site buffer zone. Part of site is within the buffer zone of the Hadrian's Wall buffer zone, but SAM and other archaeology are unlikely to be significantly impacted.

ii.	Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, nature reserves and parks, which could be affected by the development?	Yes	No Local Nature Reserve to the south west of the site. Not anticipated that it will be significantly impacted.
iii.	Are there any other areas on or around the location of high landscape value which could be affected by the development?	Yes	No World Heritage Site buffer zone. Part of site is within the buffer zone of the Hadrian's Wall buffer zone, but SAM and other archaeology are unlikely to be significantly impacted.
iv.	Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected by the development?	Yes	No Local Nature Reserve to the south west of the site. Not anticipated that it will be significantly impacted.
v.	Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the development?	No	No
vi.	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 development?	No	No
vii.	Would the location of the development be susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the development to present environmental problems?	No	No

The **Screening Checklist** provides a list of questions about a proposed development and its environment. For each “Yes” answer in the third column of the checklist, the questions below are considered to evaluate the significance of the environmental effects, and the results recorded in the fourth column. The questions are designed so that a “Yes” answer will generally point towards the need for EIA and a “No” answer to EIA not being required.

3.	Characteristics of the potential impact: “Is this likely to result in a significant effect?” Questions to be considered
a.	Extent of the impact
i.	Would the effect extend over a large area? Yes
ii.	Would many people be affected? Not known
b.	Transfrontier nature of the impact
i.	Would there be any potential for transfrontier impact? (n.b. development which has a significant effect on the environment in another Member State is likely to be very rare). No
c.	Magnitude and complexity of the impact
i.	Would there be a large change in environmental conditions? No
ii.	Would the effect be unusual in the area or particularly complex? Yes
iii.	Would many receptors other than people (fauna and flora, businesses, facilities) be affected? Heritage, landscape
iv.	Would valuable or scarce features or resources be affected? No
v.	Is there a risk that environmental standards would be breached? No
vi.	Is there a risk that protected sites, areas, features would be affected? No
d.	Probability of the impact
i.	Would there be a high probability of the effect occurring? No
ii.	Would there be a low probability of a potentially highly significant effect? Yes
e.	Duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact
i.	Would the effect continue for a long time? No
ii.	Would the effect be permanent rather than temporary? Temporary
iii.	Would the impact be continuous rather than intermittent? Continuous
iv.	If it is intermittent, would it be frequent rather than rare? No
v.	Would the impact be irreversible? No
vi.	Would it be difficult to avoid or reduce or repair or compensate for the effect? No