

Our Ref: DE/MC/77950

29rd July 2014



Dear Sir/Madam,

**PROPOSED SOLAR PARK, LAND at CROWPITS, COOMBE ESTATE, SIDBURY. DEVON
PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION**

We act on behalf of British Solar Renewables Ltd (BSR) who has acquired an interest in the land shown edged red on the enclosed information. A number of technical assessments have been carried out over the last few months with regard to the suitability of the site for development and these have resulted in the current proposal for a 10.9 MW solar farm within the area depicted on the attached plan. It is hoped a planning application will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within the next few months.

Prior to this however, British Solar Renewables Ltd will be holding a public consultation to present this potential development in further detail on **Wednesday 6th August 2014 from 3pm – 7pm.**

Gittisham Village Hall
Parsonage Lane
Gittisham
Nr Honiton
EX14 3AU

The consultation event will provide an opportunity to view and comment on the proposals and there will be members of the British Solar Renewables team available to answer any questions. Photomontages together with the detailed design and technical information will also be available to view, showing how the proposed PV panels will be screened behind the existing and proposed planting. Your comments will help inform the forthcoming planning application and does not in any way affect your right to make comments to any consultation undertaken by East Devon District Council.

BSR was formed in 2010 by Angus Macdonald, a 2nd generation Somerset based farmer and it is now one of the UK's leading developer, owner and operator of solar farms. With farming at the core of the company, there is a shared passion to strike the balance between generating renewable energy and providing crucial diversification options for farmers whilst conserving the environment.

Unlike many of its competitors, who gain permission and then sell on projects, the company builds, owns and maintains the majority of its solar farms for their entire lifetime. BSR have constructed 165 MW across 42 projects, of which 18 projects are solar farms between 5MW and 30MW. The company are therefore making a valuable contribution to the UK's targets for reducing carbon emissions and have significant experience in the development of solar farms.

For information, it is anticipated that the proposed 10.9MW Solar Park would generate enough clean energy to power 2,775¹ which is enough energy to power the homes in Ottery St Mary - a CO2 saving of 4,790² per year or 119,750 over a 25 year lifetime.

¹ Based upon OFGEM average typical consumption figures 2013 of 4014kWh. <http://www.consumerfocus.org.uk/energy-pricing-information/ofgem-typical-consumption-values>

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The visual impact of the development would be limited by the relatively small overall height of the panels, being a maximum of 2.6m from ground level. The panel design, in terms of its height at the lower edge, allows for the continuation of the agricultural use through sheep grazing and allows light to reach under the panels so that the grass will continue to grow.

Any planning permission granted will be for a temporary period of 25 years and the solar farm will be fully removed from the site at that time and will not leave any adverse impact on the landscape once it is removed.

The direct and indirect community benefits of the proposed development are substantial and comprise the renewable energy generation of electricity; a considerable number of temporary construction jobs together with a number of permanent jobs; significant local investment in firms providing materials and services to the developer; positive landscape management to the benefit of the site and wider landscape and the offer of a community benefit payment, should this be of interest to the Parish Council and a suitable scheme can be identified.

This letter has been sent to likely planning application consultees including Local Parish Councils; Local Councillors; and residents within the Parish so that they may also have an opportunity to comment.

The development proposed is an exciting project which will make a meaningful contribution to the renewable energy developed in the UK, thus assisting to reduce our reliance on imported energy and fossil fuels. The applicant has carefully considered the design of the solar farm however they wish to listen in detail to the views of the local community and respond accordingly.

If you have any queries in relation to the proposal please feel free to telephone or email me, otherwise I look forward to seeing you at the public consultation event.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cullen".

MARK CULLEN
For Alder King Planning Consultants

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Direct dial 0117 317 1177
Enc. Site Location Plan

² This figure is derived using a carbon dioxide offset ratio of 430g carbon dioxide per kWh of solar generation. It should be noted that future changes in the power generating mix and fuel costs in the UK over the life of the solar park means this figure may change over time.