

GRO/P20-1336

16 September 2021

Mr Robert Sparey
Planning & Environment Manager
Planning & Environment Team
Planning Inspectorate Wales
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Dear Mr Sparey

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (WALES) REGULATIONS 2016
APPLICATION BY: BRYNRHYD SOLAR FARM LIMITED
SITE: LAND AT BRYNYRHYD FARM, NEAR LLANEDI, PONTARDDULAIS, SWANSEA, SA4 0FD

On behalf of Brynrhyd Solar Farm Limited [*the applicant*], I hereby submit an application for planning permission for a Development of National Significance for the construction, operation, management and subsequent decommissioning of a solar farm at land at Brynrhyd, Brynrhyd Farm, near Llanedi, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 0FD.

The application proposal relates to the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a renewable energy scheme. The main elements of the development will be the installation of a ground mounted solar park with a maximum export capacity of 30MW (megawatts).

By virtue of its potential generating capacity, which stands at 30MWp [Megawatts peak], this project constitutes a Development of National Significance ["DNS"]. Therefore, instead of applying to the Local Planning Authority for Planning Permission, the application is made to the Welsh Government for determination.

The application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement. A draft Brynrhyd Solar Farm Environmental Statement accompanied the statutory pre-application consultation carried out between 19 March 2021 and 30 April 2021. All comments provided by the topic specific competent experts were taken into account when updating the draft Environmental Statement. Additional consultation with topic specific competent experts were undertaken to discuss scope of technical topics to ensure adequacy of the Environmental Statement following receipt of the Assessment of Environmental Statement issued by the Planning

PLANNING | **DESIGN** | **ENVIRONMENT** | **ECONOMICS**

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL

T 01454 625945 | **F** 01454 618074 | **W** www.pegasusgroup.co.uk

Birmingham | Bracknell | Bristol | Cambridge | Cirencester | East Midlands | Leeds | Liverpool | London | Manchester | Peterborough

Pegasus Group is a trading name of Pegasus Planning Group Limited (07277000) registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Pegasus House, Querns Business Centre, Whitworth Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1RT

Inspectorate dated 13 July 2021 and 18 August 2021¹. All information requirements requested by topic specific competent experts are contained within the Environmental Statement. This gives reassurance to the EIA Examiner at Planning Inspectorate Wales and/or the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales that the Applicant has prepared a proportionate and fit-for-purpose Environmental Statement, with direction provided by prescribed consultees which are experts with their topics.

Planning Application Documents

The application submission comprises: -

- **Planning Application Drawings:-**
 - Drawing No. 1 Site Location plan
 - Drawing No. 2 Site Location Plan plus access details
 - Drawing No. 3 Site layout Plan
 - Drawing No. 4 Construction Access
 - Drawing No. 5 Mounting structure elevation details
 - Drawing No. 6 Conversion Units details
 - Drawing No. 7 Security fence detail s
 - Drawing No. 8 CCTV system details
 - Drawing No. 9 Coal Mining Areas
 - Drawing No 10 Substation building
 - Drawing No. BHA_791_02 Rev A Tree Retention, Removal & Protection Plan
 - Drawing No. P20-1336_09 Landscape Mitigation Plan
- **Covering Letter**, prepared by Pegasus Group
- **Design and Access Statement**, prepared by Pegasus Group
- **Planning Statement**, [this statement] prepared by Pegasus Group
- **Consultation Report**, prepared by Pegasus Group
- **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment**, prepared by Pegasus Group
- **Glint and Glare Assessment**, prepared by Pagerpower

Environmental Statement, coordinated and managed by Pegasus Group and topic specific chapters prepared by appropriate competent experts:

- **Volume 1: Main Statement** - Comprises the main volume of the Environmental Statement, including 'general chapters' that describe the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) context, provide a description of the

¹ *There appears to be some misinterpretation of the assessment of habitat suitability of the Site for skylark. The only fields deemed suitable for this species (as well as other ground nesting birds such as meadow pipit) were those fields within which they were originally recorded in July 2020 during the initial Phase 1 walkover survey. Skylark select large expanses of low-growing vegetation up to approximately 40cm with long unbroken sightlines of at least approximately 200m in all directions within which to nest. This is for reasons of aerial and ground predator surveillance. Skylark actively avoid nesting in proximity to tall habitat features such as hedgerows or trees, as well as structures such as houses or pylons which can act as perches for predators. The decision was taken to omit these fields from the development on account of the fact that they were the only fields capable of supporting ground nesting birds of conservation concern within the red line boundary. The remaining fields proposed to receive solar arrays are of negligible value to skylark. Consequently, the need for a targeted survey was obviated and the comment on whether the actual number of breeding territories was recorded within the excluded fields is irrelevant.*

application site and development, and set out the scope of the Environmental Statement, followed by the 'technical chapters' for each environmental theme with the associated figures concluding with a summary. The technical topics covered in the Environmental statement are Landscape & Visual (ES Chapter 6); Ecology and Nature Conservation (ES Chapter 7), Socio Economics (ES Chapter 8), Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (ES Chapter 9), Ground Conditions (ES Chapter 10), Noise and Vibration (ES Chapter 11) together with a Miscellaneous Chapter (ES Chapter 12) .

- **Volume 2: Technical Appendices** - Comprise the technical appendices supporting the main report, these include technical studies comprising: -
 - Agricultural Land Classification, prepared by Askew Land
 - Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, prepared by Pegasus Group
 - Outline Decommissioning Plan, prepared by Pegasus Group
 - Flood Consequence Assessment, prepared by Clive Onions Ltd
 - Construction Traffic Management Plan, prepared by Pegasus Group
 - Extended Phase 1 Ecological Survey Report and Further Survey Work, prepared by Clarkson & Woods Ecological Consultants
 - Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Matrix, prepared by Clarkson & Woods Ecological Consultants
 - Ecological Protection Plan, prepared by Clarkson & Woods
 - Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, prepared by Clarkson & Woods Ecological Consultants and Pegasus Group.
 - Confidential Badger Report [standalone report], prepared by Clarkson & Woods Ecological Consultants
 - Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study, prepared by Integrale
 - Coal Mining Risk Assessment, prepared by Integrale
 - Arboricultural Survey, Impact Assessment and Protection Plan, prepared by Barton Hyett Associates Ltd
 - Heritage Desk Based Assessment
 - Geophysical Survey Report, prepared by SUMO
 - Geophysical Survey Report, prepared by ASWYAS 2021
 - Outline Written Scheme of Investigation, Prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
- **Volume 3: Non-Technical Summary** - 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 development.

I trust the application meets the DNS validation standards and I look forward to receiving confirmation within the statutory 42 days' timeframe from receipt this submission.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Roberts
Director
e-mail: Gareth.roberts@pegasusgroup.co.uk

Enc