



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

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Funding Statement

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Funding Statement

1. Introduction

1.1.1 This Funding Statement has been prepared by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited (the “**Applicant**”). It forms part of the application (“**Application**”) for a development consent order (“**DCO**”) that has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“**Secretary of State**”) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (“**PA 2008**”).

1.2 The Proposed Development

1.2.1 Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a proposed solar farm which will generate renewable energy for exporting to the National Grid (“**the Scheme**”).

1.2.2 It will comprise the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (“**PV**”) array electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 MW and an export connection to the National Grid.

1.2.3 PV panels and mounting structures will be arranged in rows to form PV tables and grouped together to create arrays (“**PV Arrays**”). The PV arrays will be located alongside plant equipment (e.g. inverters, transformers and switchgear (the “**Solar PV Site**”).

1.2.4 A new substation will be located near the existing National Grid Ryhall Substation, set back from Uffington Lane (“**Mallard Pass Substation**”), which will also include electrical infrastructure such as transformers and switchgear. It will be connected to the PV Arrays via low voltage distribution cables (the “**Low Voltage Distribution Cables**”) to collect electricity (at 33kV) from those components of the Scheme. The Mallard Pass Substation will convert the electricity to 400kV for onward transmission to the existing Ryhall Substation (the “**Grid Connection Corridor**”).

1.2.5 Another component of the Scheme is the ancillary infrastructure which includes the Low Voltage Distribution Cables to Mallard Pass Substation and any associated tracks or drainage (the “**Ancillary Infrastructure**”). Works areas may be used for access, fencing, CCTV and landscaping purposes.

1.2.6 Various fields will be used for the purposes of biodiversity mitigation and improvement (“**Mitigation and Enhancement Areas**”).

1.2.7 The Solar PV Site, the Mallard Pass Substation, the Grid Connection Corridor, the Ancillary Infrastructure, and the Enhancement Areas will be located within an 852ha area, being the land shown on the Works Plans (see [EN010127/APP/2.2]) (the “**Order Limits**”). The Solar PV Site will occupy a maximum of 420ha within the Order Limits.

1.2.8 The Scheme qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“**NSIP**”) and will require a Development Consent Order (“**DCO**”) to be granted from the Secretary of State, due to its generating capacity exceeding 50MW.

1.3 The purpose and structure of this document

1.3.1 This Statement has been produced pursuant to Regulation 5(2)(h) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the “**APFP 2009**”) and the Department of Communities and Local Government guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land' (September 2013) (the “**Guidance**”)

1.3.2 This Statement is required because the DCO sought for the Scheme would authorise the compulsory acquisition of land or interests in land. This gives rise to the requirement under Regulation 5(2)(h) of the APFP 2009 for the Applicant to provide a statement indicating how the DCO containing these powers is proposed to be funded.

1.3.3 This Statement is one of a number of documents accompanying the Application and submitted to the Secretary of State and should be read in conjunction with those documents. They include principally the Statement of Reasons [EN010127/APP/4.1].

2. Funding

2.1 Corporate Structure

2.1.1 Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited is the Applicant for the Application. It is a company registered in England and Wales under company number 12575861.

2.1.2 The majority shareholder in the Applicant, holding between 50% and 75% of the shares and voting rights, is CS UK Holdings III Limited, company number 10909660, which is a company registered in England and Wales (together with its affiliates referred to herein as “**Canadian Solar**”).

2.1.3 The minority shareholder in the Applicant, holding between 50% and 25% of the shares and voting rights, is Windel Energy Limited, company number 11650112, which is also a company registered in England and Wales (“**Windel**”). Windel is the developer of the Scheme, with Canadian Solar the funder. Once the Scheme reaches ready-to-build stage, Windel will transfer the remainder of its shares to Canadian Solar.

2.1.4 Canadian Solar and Windel have significant experience of promoting solar farms in the UK:

Canadian Solar

- (a) Canadian Solar was founded in 2001 and is one of the world's largest solar technology and renewable energy companies. Canadian Solar has developed, built and connected over 6.6 GWp in over 20 countries, with 800 MWp of projects in operation, 5.3 GWp of projects under construction or in late-stage, and an additional 18.5 GWp of projects in the pipeline;
- (b) Canadian Solar is one of the most bankable companies in the solar and renewable energy industry, having been publicly listed on the NASDAQ since 2006, with a mission to foster sustainable development and create a better, cleaner earth for future generations by generating electricity from the sun; and
- (c) Canadian Solar has a strong track record having developed and built dozens of projects in the UK including Christchurch Solar Farm (Dorset), Bobbing Solar Farm (Kent) and Ballygarvey Solar Farm (Co. Antrim).

Windel

- (d) Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, water purification, wave energy and green hydrogen. Founded in 2018, Windel is a privately held company that specialises in the origination, development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon disruptive technologies. Windel has more than 3GW of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development.

2.2 Scheme costs

- 2.2.1 The current cost estimate for the Scheme is approximately £245 million. This estimate covers all aspects of the Scheme and has been arrived at by including construction costs, preparation costs, supervision costs, land acquisition costs, equipment purchase, installation, commissioning and power export. The estimate also includes an allowance for inflation and project contingencies.

2.3 Scheme funding

- 2.3.1 The Applicant is funded by Canadian Solar and Windel in accordance with an agreement between those parties. The costs of promoting the Application are the responsibility of Windel, provided via the funding agreement by Canadian Solar. The costs of constructing and maintaining the Scheme will be funded by Canadian Solar. Canadian Solar has sufficient funds to implement the Scheme (including compulsory acquisition compensation costs).

2.4 Land acquisition and blight

- 2.4.1 The delivery of the Scheme requires the acquisition of land or rights (including the creation of rights and the imposition of restrictions) in, under, over land, and the temporary possession of land.
- 2.4.2 As set out in the Statement of Reasons [EN010127/APP/4.1], the Applicant has already secured a number of voluntary agreements over the Order Land. However, compulsory acquisition powers are required to ensure that the Scheme can proceed without impediment.
- 2.4.3 Should any claims for blight arise because of the Application, Canadian Solar has sufficient funds to meet the cost of acquiring these interests at whatever stage they are served. However, the Applicant has not identified any interests which it considers could be eligible to serve a blight notice.

2.5 Security for compensation

- 2.5.1 The draft DCO also includes an Article preventing the exercise of the compulsory acquisition powers until the Secretary of State has approved a form of security from the Applicant.

