

Gedney Hill Parish Council  
c/o Highfield, Mill Lane  
Gedney Hill  
Spalding  
PE12 0PW

Environmental Services  
Operations Group 3  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN  
meridiansolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your Ref: EN010169

27 June 2024

*Dear Hannah,*

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11  
Application by Meridian Solar Farm Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting  
Development Consent for the Meridian Solar Farm (the Proposed Development)  
Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant's contact details and duty to  
make available information to the Applicant if requested.**

In response to your letter of 31 May 2024 asking Gedney Hill Parish Council as a consultative body to either:

- Inform the Planning Inspectorate of the information the Parish Council considers should be provided in the Environmental Statement (ES); or
- Confirm that the Parish Council does not have any comments.

The Council would like to make the following points:

The Parish Council believes that potential environmental effects and impacts should be taken into account when determining if the project will help the UK meet statutory Net Zero and other climate ambitions and would like to see a detailed report comparing benefits and costs of changing the use of the land.

The Parish Council would like to see a detailed and independent evaluation of the measures that will be taken to enhance the natural landscape. The ES should clearly set out how this stark and intrusive construction will be blended into the existing landscape. We believe the proposed introduction of woodland is not in keeping with the existing landscape. The Parish Council would be keen to see remedial measures in keeping with the current landscape. We would also like to see a plan for how any landscape enhancements will be maintained over the life of the project.

The Parish Council would like to see a precise map of access roads. The ES needs to show how these very small local roads will cope with increased volumes and physical weight of traffic. The report should outline the plans for repair and maintenance of these roads, during construction, during the lifetime of the project and the decommissioning stage. We would also expect to see a plan for the roads that will be used in the case of the closure of your primary routes. We would like to see an independent assessment of the impact of any increase in traffic through Gedney Hill, either because the roads are being used as transportation links to the construction site or because traffic will use a route through the village when the other roads become too busy due to construction traffic.

The Parish Council believes that any change of use to the current landscape could increase the area's flood risk. The report should contain details of any drainage systems that will be required, where the water will discharge and the effect of this on the surrounding area, specifically land in and around Gedney Hill.

The Parish Council would like to see an independent assessment of the anticipated loss of existing biodiversity from the proposed project. We would like to see how the loss/gain of biodiversity will be measured and how it is proposed to minimise the impact on local wildlife during construction, during the project life and in the decommissioning stage.

The Parish Council would like to see an independent visual report assessing the visibility of the site both during the day and at night. In particular we are concerned about the impact of light pollution at night, on both people and wildlife.

The Parish Council welcomes the report's clarity on what will be built in terms of the Solar Farm but would like to see much more clarity on the effects of construction, this should include, but not be limited to, working hours, numbers of workers on site, numbers of vehicles using the roads and how long construction would be expected to take. We would also like to see further reporting on noise pollution, effects of vibration and changes in air quality particularly in the areas surrounding site D.

The Parish Council would like to see clear plans for the decommissioning of this site and how it will be returned to farming land. We would like to see an independent assessment of how the land will be effected and what this means for the environment.

Gedney Hill Parish Council thanks the Planning Inspectorate for allowing us to comment as a consultation body and hopes that our comments will be taken into consideration when the Environmental Statement is planned.

Yours sincerely,

*Vicki Watson*

Vicki Watson  
Clerk  
Gedney Hill Parish Council