

Starlight Energy UK
100 Brand Street
Glasgow
G51 1DG

Planning Services
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

18 December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application for planning permission for the use of an existing access at Storridge Farm, Storridge Road during construction, maintenance and decommissioning of the permitted solar farm located on land to the west of Storridge Road, Westbury (PL/2021/10592).

Opening

On behalf of NextPower SPV 15 Limited (the Applicant), please find enclosed, via the Planning Portal, an application for detailed planning permission (the Application) for the use of an alternative exiting access at Storridge Farm, Westbury (the Site) during construction, maintenance and decommissioning of the permitted solar farm (the Proposals) located on land to the west of Storridge Road, Westbury PL/2021/10592.

A Section 73 (S.73) application has been submitted to secure use of the alternative access at Storridge Farm. However, on the advice of the Local Planning Authority, full planning permission is being sought for the Proposals. It is considered that the proposals, on their own, do not constitute 'Schedule 2' development under the EIA Regulations. Additionally, an EIA was not required for the original solar farm application, PL/2021/10592.

The pending S.73 application will be amended to reflect this altered approach, as the conditions of the Permission still need to be altered.

The purpose of this application is to secure an alternative access point to facilitate the construction, maintenance and decommissioning of the approved solar farm (PL/2021/10592). The use of the existing access via Storridge Farm has been identified as an appropriate means of access, as it is currently in use by heavy goods vehicles and does not require any new engineering works or earthworks. As a result, the Proposals do not give rise to additional ecological, landscape and visual, archaeological, or heritage effects. The use of the existing access at Storridge Farm is proposed as an alternative to the originally approved access point. The original approved solar farm access arrangements are to remain in principal, with the option to be implemented at any time if required during construction, maintenance, or decommissioning.

An addendum to the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) approved under Condition 7 of planning permission PL/2021/10592 (the Permission) (see discharge of condition application PL/2024/10092) has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority in support of this application. The CTMP addendum sets out the revised access arrangements and associated mitigation measures relating to the proposed use of the existing access at Storridge Farm.

Site History

- **W/81/01073/HIS**- 5 Bay twin monopitch cattle housing. Approved 27/10/1981
- **W/07/02610/FUL**- Change of use to storage of piling equipment. Refused 18/01/2008
- **W/07/02592/FUL**- Offices and kennel compound for security services. Refused 18/01/2008
- **W/07/02609/FUL**- Change of use to storage/warehousing with internal alterations. Refused 18/01/2008
- **PL/2021/10592**- 29MW Solar farm (over 43ha) and associated development. Approved 12/10/2023.
- **PL/2024/10092**- Discharge of conditions 4 access works, 7 Full Construction Traffic Management Plan, 8 discharge of surface water, 9 hard and soft landscaping, 11 Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, 12 Construction Environmental Management Plan, 14 archaeological monitoring and 15 Archaeological Management Plan, (29MW Solar farm (over 43ha) and associated development). Approved 4/03/2024.
- **Ref: PP-14504165**- Non-Material Amendment to planning permission PL/2021/10592. Pending 26/11/2025.

Planning Assessment

The Proposals align with the principles of sustainable development set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2024), which promotes economic, social, and environmental sustainability. The development contributes to the provision of low carbon energy, supporting national and local renewable energy targets. Environmentally, the use of the existing access requires no additional works beyond those already consented under planning application PL/2021/10592 and therefore does not result in any additional environmental impacts. Economically, the earlier construction timelines enabled by the existing access allows earlier energisation of the solar farm, supporting local industry and employment at Arla Foods Westbury.

The NPPF highlights the importance of supporting renewable energy development while ensuring impacts are acceptable. The use of the existing access allows the development to progress in a timely manner without additional environmental harm, fully aligning with these objectives. The Proposals also comply with NPPF guidance on transport and access, as the updated CTMP demonstrates that safe access can be provided, with appropriate visibility splays already in place and management measures will be fully complied with.

In terms of environmental protection, the Proposals continue to comply with the NPPF's objectives for conserving and enhancing the natural environment. No modifications to the existing access at Storridge Farm are required to facilitate construction, maintenance and decommissioning of the approved solar farm.

The Proposals are consistent with policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015). Policy CP50 seeks to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, with existing access not affecting existing habitats. Policy CP57 encourages high quality design and place-shaping, which is maintained as no earthworks are required for the Proposals. Policy CP41 supports sustainable transport, with the use of an existing access, ensures that construction traffic is managed safely and efficiently, remaining fully within the scope of the addendum submitted alongside this application.

The Proposals also align with Wiltshire Local Plan guidance on renewable energy, supporting development on non-sensitive land and avoiding adverse impacts on landscape, heritage, or local amenity. By utilising existing infrastructure, the Proposals minimises disruption to the local community and the wider road network, demonstrating an efficient and sustainable approach to energy infrastructure delivery.

In conclusion, using the existing access at Storridge Farm is consistent with the NPPF (December 2024) and Wiltshire Council planning policies. It facilitates the timely delivery of renewable energy, manages construction impacts safely, and avoids harm to the environment, landscape, and local amenity effects. As such, it is considered that the Proposals are therefore in accordance with national and local planning policy.

Closure

The use of the existing access at Storridge Farm for construction, operation and maintenance will not result in unacceptable effects, including landscape and visual amenity, access and traffic management, ecology, heritage, or neighbouring amenity.

The quicker construction timelines enabled by the access will facilitate the timely energisation of the solar farm, while maintaining compliance with the previously approved Biodiversity Management Plan and conditions imposed by planning permission PL/2021/10592. Overall, the impacts proposed by the application are limited in nature and remain compliant with planning policy.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the planning application is granted planning approval and in a timely manner. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

James Jamieson MRTPI

Vice President, Business Development (Planning)

Starlight Energy

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Encl: Location Plan dated 16/12/2025
Site Layout Plan dated 16/12/2025
Traffic Management Plan Addendum dated December 2025