

I am writing to you in your capacity as Clerk for Fenton Parish Council to make you aware of Gate Burton Energy Park. This is a new solar and energy storage park that Low Carbon is proposing to develop on land near Gate Burton, Lincolnshire.

The full extent of the land available to deliver this project, along with the location of the National Grid substation at Cottam Power Station in Nottinghamshire where it would connect into the existing electricity transmission system, is shown on the map attached to this email.

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### **Planning process**

Gate Burton Energy Park is anticipated to have a generation capacity of 500 megawatts (MW). This is equivalent to providing enough clean energy to power over 160,000 homes and avoid more than 100,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions every year. The amount of electricity Gate Burton Energy Park could generate means that it is regarded as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

The development consenting regime for an NSIP comes under the Planning Act 2008. This requires that we submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the final scheme. This will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate which, in the case of energy-related development, acts on behalf of the Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The decision on whether to grant final consent for Gate Burton Energy Park will be made by the Secretary of State for BEIS.

We anticipate that the development process through DCO submission and examination for Gate Burton Energy Park would take between two to three years. Subject to achieving consent, construction would start no earlier than 2024.

### **What happens next?**

We are at an early stage in the development process for Gate Burton Energy Park. As we evolve our plans, we will seek to strike an appropriate balance between the potential social, economic and environmental impacts that our final scheme may have. We believe this balance is best achieved by:

- Consulting widely and effectively from an early stage in our project development process.
- Being open with information and transparent about the decisions we make.
- Developing proposals that deliver significant levels of renewable energy generation to secure the energy needs of Great Britain.

We are currently conducting preliminary environmental studies. This will help us to identify the most appropriate areas for development as well as the potential routes for an electrical connection from the energy park into Cottam substation.

The findings from this work will be shared through an initial public consultation that we anticipate carrying out in early 2022, with further consultation then taking place at key stages in the project development process. These consultations will be well publicised in advance and structured to be as accessible and engaging as possible, giving you access to information on our proposed development and the opportunity to have your say.

We have set up a project website: [www.gateburtonenergypark.co.uk](http://www.gateburtonenergypark.co.uk). This will be updated as information about the project becomes available, along with details of engagement and consultation

we will carry out. Individuals can register their details with us via the website, so that we can notify them directly as information becomes available.

We have appointed Camargue, a company that specialises in community engagement and consultation, to work together with our Gate Burton Energy Park team to manage and deliver all aspects of community engagement on the project.

### **Solar developments in the wider area**

We are aware that there are similar schemes being brought forward for development in the area – namely the Cottam Solar and West Burton Solar projects being developed by Island Green Power. They were announced recently, and you may already be aware of them. The Gate Burton Energy Park is not affiliated with these projects or with Island Green Power. It is a standalone project being progressed by Low Carbon.

Notwithstanding that, we have recently been talking with Island Green Power to identify areas where we could coordinate activity to limit the possibility of confusion between the different developments. We will continue to take steps to aid that as the developments evolve.

### **Next steps**

If you and your parish council members have any initial questions about our proposed development or would like to discuss any aspect of the NSIP process, the preliminary work currently underway, or future consultation and engagement activity, we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. A member of the community relations team will be in touch shortly to discuss the possibility of arranging a meeting.

In the meantime should you need any assistance or would like to discuss anything further please do get in touch with the team by calling **0800 860 6259** or sending an email to [info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk](mailto:info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk)

Yours sincerely



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