

Date: 27th April 2021
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Sir R Gale M.P
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Sir Roger

Thank you for your letter dated 9th April 2021.

As yet, no planning application has been received for a proposed solar farm on the land south of Marley in Hoath.

Should an application be made, it will be the subject of public notification, including involvement of the Ward and Parish Councillors. The applicant would also need to provide a number of studies/assessments, including looking at agricultural land quality, landscape and visual impacts, construction traffic and noise assessments.

As you know, all applications must be assessed against the relevant local and national planning policies. Both generally support renewable energy, but only if its impacts are, or can be made, acceptable.

The letter that you have mentioned relates to a screening opinion submitted by the developer, asking whether the proposed solar farm would be defined as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development. We have looked careful at the information provided and the development would not meet the threshold to be defined as EIA development, principally because it is not located within a sensitive area as defined by the regulations, such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

I trust that this update will be of assistance.

Kind regards.

Stevie Andrews
Planning Manager

