



**Horsham
District
Council**

Matt Mortonson
Stephenson Halliday
By e-mail only

Our ref: EIA/25/0002
Your ref: 0961
Please ask for: Nic Pettifer
Email: Nicola.Pettifer@horsham.gov.uk
Contact Tel: 01403 215238
Date: 1st July 2025

Dear Mr Mortonson,

Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended)

LAND TO THE SOUTHWEST OF PICTS LANE, BOLNEY, West Sussex

I refer to your request that the Council provide a formal Screening Opinion to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required in respect of the forthcoming planning application for a solar farm with associated BESS, accessed from Picts Lane.

Following a review of the information provided, the Council considers the proposals to fall under Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, item 3(a) (industrial installations for the production of electricity). The scale and nature of the proposal exceeds the criteria outlined in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, and it is therefore necessary to consider whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

In making this assessment the Council has taken into account Schedule 3 of the EIA regulations paying attention to the development characteristics, location and nature of the impacts. The results of this assessment are included with this letter for information. When forming this Screening Opinion, the Council has drawn on information set out in the Screening Request and other available guidance.

On balance, it is considered that the overall scale and nature of the impacts that would arise from the scheme would require an EIA, particularly given the sensitive nature of the High Weald National Landscape adjacent to the site.

I confirm that this letter forms Horsham District Council's formal screening opinion and will be placed on the public register.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Pettifer
Senior Planning Officer