# Planning, Design and Access Statement

September 2023

Premier Foods Bakery, Fish Dam Lane, Carlton

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| Issue / revision | 1 | Prepared by | Zarina Ali |
| Reference | 277101 | Signature | ZA |
| This document is issued for | | Date | 7 September 2023 |
| [ ] Information | [ ] Approval | Checked by | Neil Trollope |
| [ ] Comment | [X] Submission | Signature | NT |
| Comments | | Date | 7 September 2023 |
| | | Authorised by | Neil Trollope |
| | | Signature | NT |
| | | Date | 7 September 2023 |
| | | Please return by | N/A |

# 1.0 Introduction

### Overview

1.1 This Planning, Design and Access Statement has been prepared by tor&co on behalf of Premier Foods Plc (the 'applicant'), in support of a full planning application for a solar farm to serve the existing bakery at Premier Foods Bakery, Fish Dam Lane, Barnsley, S71 3HF.

1.2 For clarity, the formal description of development is as follows:

**Full planning application for installation of a solar farm of up to 2MW generating capacity, substation and associated infrastructure together with erection of perimeter fencing and CCTV posts.**

1.3 The site falls within the administrative boundary of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC).

1.4 The application is the result of positive engagement with Barnsley MBC and neighbouring residents via public engagement.

1.5 This document provides a detailed description of the application site, the proposed development, together with an analysis of how it complies with the Development Plan and other pertinent guidance. The key benefits arising from the scheme are also considered.

### The Applicant

1.6 Premier Foods Plc is one of the UK's largest food producers. Premier Foods employs over 4,000 people operating from 15 sites across the country, supplying a range of retail, wholesale, foodservice and other customers with iconic brands which feature in millions of homes every day.

1.7 It operates primarily in the ambient food sector, which is one of the largest sectors within the total UK grocery market, within four key grocery categories; 1) Flavourings & Seasonings, 2) Quick Meals, 3) Snacks & Soups; Ambient Desserts and 4) Cooking Sauces & Accompaniments.

1.8 More than 9 out of 10 UK households buy one or more of Premier Foods' products every year, with Batchelors, Bisto, Lloyd Grossman, OXO, Mr Kipling and Sharwood's amongst its family of much-loved brands.

1.9 680 people are employed at the Carlton site, which is a significant local employer.

1.10 Premier Foods' Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy seeks to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2040. The proposed solar farm would provide enough energy to meet up to 50% of the bakery's energy needs. Consequently, it would contribute significantly towards achieving Premier Foods' carbon objectives by 2030.

### Consultation

1.11 Preparation of this application follows a process of pre-application engagement with Barnsley MBC. The pre-application was submitted to the Council on 5th April 2023 with the pre-application response issued on 28th June 2023.

1.12 Additionally, two public engagement sessions were undertaken on Tuesday 25th July 2023, with Session 1 held between 1pm-3pm, whilst Session 2 was held between 6pm-9pm. The sessions took place at Premier Foods Bakery, Fish Dam Lane. Neighbouring residents were informed of the sessions by letter drop. In addition, a contact email address was provided, enabling people to provide feedback in case they were unable to attend either session.

1.13 The consultation responses were reviewed to inform the scheme, where appropriate. More details are provided later in this report.

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening**

1.14 An EIA Screening Note has been prepared by tor&co and supports this full planning application.

1.15 The EIA Regulations categorise various development types as 'schedule 1', for which EIA is mandatory, or 'schedule 2', for which EIA is only required if the development is likely to have significant environmental effects. The proposed development is not of a type listed under schedule 1. Standalone solar PV panels are also not specifically listed in schedule 2. However, as the proposed development's principal purpose is the production of electrical energy, it considered that it falls under schedule 2, section 3a: Energy industry: industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water.

1.16 The EIA Screening Note assesses the proposal against the criteria set out in schedules 2 and 3 of the EIA Regulations, as well as against the indicative thresholds listed in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) web-based guidance. It is considered that the proposed development is not likely to lead to significant environmental effects. It is therefore concluded that the proposed development is not EIA development and EIA is not required. Please refer to the submitted EIA Screening Note for further details.

**Structure of the Planning, Design and Access Statement**

1.17 A detailed list of the application submission documents and supporting plans are set out in the Document List which accompanies the application. This statement explores the key planning considerations relevant to the site's development, with chapters set out as follows:

- **Chapter 2** – The Site and Surrounding Area
- **Chapter 3** – The Development Proposal
- **Chapter 4** – Planning Policy Context
- **Chapter 5** - Policy and Technical Considerations
- **Chapter 6** – Statement of Community Engagement
- **Chapter 7** - Conclusion

## 2.0 The Site and Surrounding Area

2.1 The application site, as identified in **Figure 2.1**, is 2.87 hectares in area and is located within Carlton to the northeast of Barnsley. It is located within the Premier Foods estate immediately northeast of the Carlton bakery factory and south of Shaw Lane.

2.2 To the north of the site lies the disused Barnsley Canal and open countryside, with Royston village located further beyond.

2.3 To the west of the site lies Carlton village comprising residential dwellings, Carlton Primary School, with Carlton Industrial Estate located further beyond.

2.4 To the east of the site lies a parcel of greenfield land, separating the site with 6No residential dwellings which are accessed from Shaw Lane, with a partial reclaimed colliery site. Further east lies an operational railway line serving Ardagh Glass Merchants, located south of the application site along with 'Shaw Lane Works' that comprises several commercial premises.

2.5 To the south of the site lies an area of grassland within the Premier Foods estate. Further south are open fields and several large commercial premises further beyond.

***Figure 2.1**: Extract of Google Maps Aerial View*

**Site Specific Designations**

2.6 The site is located within allocation MU3 'Land off Shaw Lane Carlton' in the adopted Barnsley Local Plan (January 2019). The allocation proposes a mixed-use development including housing and green space, subject to the production of a phased Masterplan Framework. The Carlton Masterplan Framework has since been adopted in November 2021 following a six-week public consultation exercise. As illustrated in **Figure 2.2**, the Carlton Masterplan Framework

identifies the site (and field to the south) within an area safeguarded for Premier Foods expansion.

2.7 Carlton Marsh Local Nature Reserve is located approximately 340 metres to the east of the site, whilst Dearne Valley Park Local Nature Reserve is located 2.9km to the southwest and the Notton Wood Local Nature Reserve is located 3km to the northwest. The site is within the Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI (Carlton Marsh) Impact Risk Zone.

2.8 Rabbit Ings Country Park is located 1.8km northeast of the site.

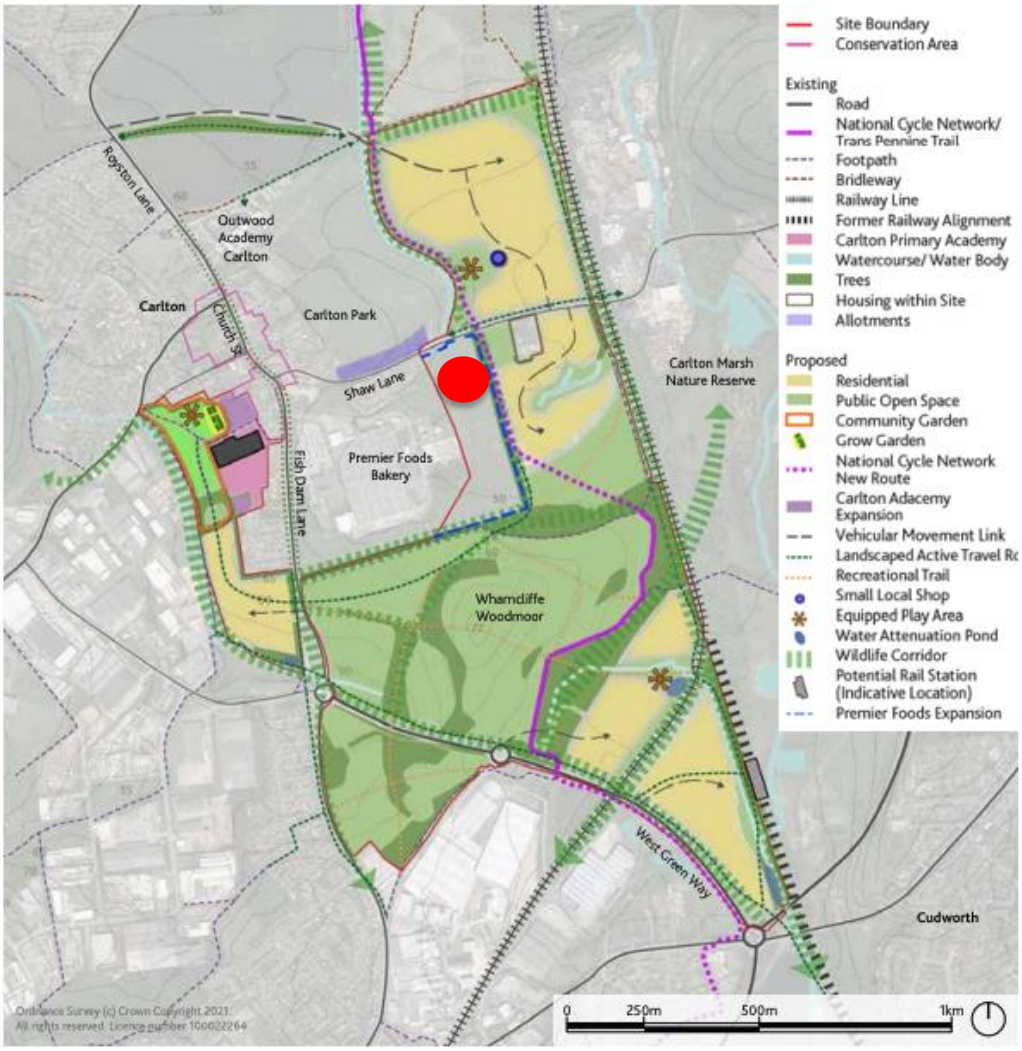
2.9 There are no Tree Preservation Orders located within or adjacent to the site. However, a large, existing ash tree is located along the western boundary along with mature hedging located on the northern and western boundary, which will be retained. The site is well concealed by intercepting mature hedge along the site boundaries.

2.10 The site is not located adjacent to or within a Conservation Area, neither are there any Listed Buildings located adjacent to or within the site.

2.11 The site is located within Flood Zone 1, which is an area of low flood risk and has less than 0.1% chance of flooding from rivers in any year (less than 1:1000 chance).

2.12 Access to the site is achieved via the bakery site by the existing access road from Fish Dam Lane.

***Figure 2.2:*** *Carlton Masterplan Framework Plan*




## Planning History

2.13 A desktop review of Barnsley MBC's online planning register has been undertaken, in respect of the site's planning history. There are no relevant historic planning applications relating to the application site.

2.14 There is one planning application of relevance within the surrounding area which is summarised below.

2.15 An outline planning application (LPA ref. 2022/0115) for residential development of up to 215 dwellings and associated car parking, garages, landscaping, public open space, areas of play, SuDs and drainage with details of new vehicular access on to Shaw Lane is currently under consideration. The application relates to Land north of Shaw Lane, Carlton, Barnsley, S71 3HH, which is located to the northeast of the application site. This planning application has been taken into account as part of the technical assessment work undertaken for the Premier Foods application, where relevant.

## 3.0 The Development Proposal

3.1 The following section provides a comprehensive overview of the proposal. It explains how local context has influenced the design and describes the use, amount, layout, scale, appearance and access of the proposed solar facility.

3.2 The development proposal relates to a solar farm with up to 2MW generating capacity and associated infrastructure to serve the adjacent Premier Foods bakery, to provide up to 50% of the bakery's energy needs. Mitigation and enhancement measures are proposed by way of additional planting along the site boundary to enhance biodiversity and mitigate views to and from the site.

3.3 The solar farm and associated infrastructure will occupy a site of 2.87 hectares.

3.4 As shown on the submitted Proposed Site Layout Plan (drawing no. ref. 12010-100-01), the development comprises the following elements:

Proposed Solar Farm and Associated Infrastructure:

- Installation of up to 2MW solar PV arrays at 2.5m in height.
- Installation of substation/transformer.
- Ancillary underground cabling works from the 3No inverters to the transformer and from the transformer to the bakery.
- Erection of 2.4m mesh weld perimeter fencing in colour: moss green to secure the solar PV arrays.
- Installation of double leaf gate in colour moss green to provide secure access to/from the Premier Foods Bakery site.
- Installation of 6No CCTV posts up to a maximum height of 6m.

Primary Mitigation & Enhancement Measures Incorporated:

- Increased landscape screening in the form of additional planting around the site boundary, to mitigate any potential visual impacts and improve biodiversity connectivity.
- A minimum 5m ecological buffer around the perimeter of the site, with a 6m buffer around the existing ash tree and a 10m ecological buffer along the eastern boundary.

**The Photovoltaic Panels**

3.5 The core part of the proposal will comprise rows of photovoltaic (PV) panels on metal frames laid out from east to west. The rows will be south facing and have an angle of 20 degrees to the ground. Each row of panels is separated by circa 3.5m to prevent inter panel shading and retain sufficient space to allow access around them for maintenance. This arrangement will allow ample room for the proposed enhanced grassland to flourish, as well as for wildlife to cross the site.

3.6 The solar farm will comprise 2,974 installed modules that will each have a 670Wp capacity, adhered to a hi-tech mounting system. The panels will be mounted on a simple metal framework that will be driven into the soil, removing the need for deep foundations or piling. Each individual module will measure 2.38m in length, 1.3m in width and a depth of 0.35m.

3.7 Each panel will have a maximum height of circa 2.5m from the ground level to the highest point of the solar panel, whilst there will be a height of circa 0.8m from the ground level to the lowest part of the solar panel.

3.8 The layout of the solar panel array has been carefully designed to ensure the solar panels have the greatest opportunity to face direct sunlight over the course of the year, benefitting from maximum sun hours, thus maximising energy generation. Furthermore, the design has had regard to existing trees, ecology and below ground infrastructure.

3.9 A Glint and Glare Study has been undertaken to determine the potential for any impact on road users, rail users, nearby residential properties and users of public rights of way.

**Substation Area and Associated Infrastructure**

3.10 The PV panels will generate direct current that will be converted to alternating current using 3No inverters. The proposed inverters are Huawei SUN2000-330KTL-H1 String Inverters that will be adhered to the frames holding the panels, above ground level.

3.11 The proposed cables are high voltage thus will be buried underground and will connect to the freestanding transformer located within the substation area at the southwest corner of the site. The cabling routes will be within the fenced compound and will avoid root protection areas. Cabling routes are also proposed between the transformer and the existing bakery (along existing internal estate roads) to enable the electricity generated to serve the bakery directly.

3.12 The specification of the transformer is a Wilson Power Solutions Ltd 3000kVA, 11,000/800V, 50HZ, Dyn11, KNAN, AL/AL, tier two, free-breathing and ground mounted transformer, built to IEC60076 standard. It will have a height of 2.99m that will sit on a shallow concrete pad foundation. The transformer primarily consists of CRGO steel finished in Dark Grey colour. The transformer is located in proximity to the main factory to minimise any visual impact.

3.13 The substation area will be enclosed within a 2.4m mesh weld fence in the colour moss green and single access gate in colour moss green.

**Fencing and Security**

3.14 The erection of 2.4m perimeter mesh weld fencing in colour moss green is proposed to secure the site to deter trespassers. The fencing will therefore offer enhanced security, acting as an anti-theft device, deterring crime.

3.15 This fencing type and moss colour green has been chosen because it is unobtrusive in the landscape and would be ‘visually lost’ when viewed against the existing vegetation.

3.16 The solar farm will be secured by a lockable double leaf gate at the southwest corner where construction and maintenance vehicles will access the application site. A single lockable access gate is proposed to provide access to the substation area for authorised personnel.

3.17 Six CCTV poles with a maximum height of 6m will be erected to ensure security for the site and also deter theft and vandalism. They will be located along the internal fence at each corner of the site and two in the centre for security.

3.18 There is no requirement for external lighting during the operation of the site. Security cameras will retain coverage during darkness using an infrared system.

**Landscape and Habitats**

3.19 The potential impacts on the landscape and visual resources were a significant consideration from the outset and directly informed the site layout and landscape planting proposals. The need to retain and accommodate key landscape elements, and the likely effect on receptors both within and beyond the development boundaries, also influenced and guided the proposals. As a result, the scheme has been developed to best protect the landscape resources of the site and its landscape setting.

3.20 The measures incorporated into the landscape strategy plan aim to avoid and minimise impacts of the proposed development, as well as create a site that has significant ecological value.

3.21 The proposal incorporates many key primary mitigation measures to minimise the potential impacts of the proposed development as well as enhancement measures that will provide biodiversity net gain across the site. These measures will include:

- Retention of existing hedgerow priority habitat along the northern and eastern boundaries.
- Avoidance of development or working areas in root protection areas (RPAs).
- Minimal removal of existing vegetation.
- Increased landscape screening in the form of additional planting of native scrub and trees around the site boundary, to mitigate any potential visual impacts and improve biodiversity connectivity.
- Introduction of species rich wildflower grassland and tussocky grassland to enhance the existing grassland.
- A minimum 5m ecological buffer around the perimeter of the site, with a 6m buffer around existing ash tree and a 10m ecological buffer along the eastern boundary.

3.22 The Natural England Biodiversity Metric 4.0 metric has been used to calculate the biodiversity net gain associated with the proposed solar farm. The scheme

will deliver 2.09 habitat biodiversity units (10.13% gain in habitat units) and 0.09 hedgerow biodiversity units (12.25% gain in hedgerow units).

3.23 A biodiversity net gain (BNG) of 10.13% is achieved.

3.24 The Arboricultural Impact Assessment submitted in support of the planning application considers the potential effects on existing trees and hedges and sets out the measures to ensure that existing trees and hedges are protected during construction.

3.25 The planting scheme for the site is designed to reflect and complement the local landscape and enhance the habitat structure and biodiversity of the local area. The proposed scheme has been informed by robust ecological assessment.

**Access and Car Parking**

3.26 The existing access on Fish Dam Lane serving the bakery will be used to access the application site for both construction and operational phases. An internal estate road network within the bakery site will provide direct access for construction traffic and occasional operational traffic directly to the site via the proposed double leaf access gates at the southwestern corner. No new access points are required to support the delivery of the proposal.

3.27 No additional car and cycle parking will be provided as part of the proposed development as the existing facilities within the Carlton bakery site will be utilised.

3.28 A Transport Statement submitted to support the planning application considers the existing highways conditions, proposed access arrangements and the principal traffic impacts which will occur during the construction of the solar farm.

***Operational Activities***

3.29 The solar farm will operate continuously. Once the solar farm has been installed there will be negligible vehicle movements associated with the operational phase, limited to routine maintenance activities 1-2 times per year which include mowing of the grassland.

3.30 All operational vehicles will park within the existing bakery's designated car parks.

***Construction Activities***

3.31 The construction period is estimated to last for up to six months (24 weeks), with deliveries fluctuating within this period. It is envisaged that the majority of movements would be Monday to Friday with only a limited number of movements on a Saturday.

3.32 The overall number of vehicle movements associated with the construction of the solar farm is anticipated to be approximately 48, which equates to 96 two-way movements over the construction phase (24 weeks).

3.33 All deliveries will be instructed to avoid the highway network peak hours of 08:00-09:00 and 17:00-18:00, along with key school drop-off and collection

periods (08:00-09:30 and 14:30-16:00). Deliveries will vary in amount per week, however on average the construction phase is anticipated to generate between 2-6 deliveries per week (i.e. 4-12 two-way HGV movements). However, once the majority of materials are on site there will be days throughout the construction period where there will be no HGV movements associated with the construction.

3.34 The construction phase will generate approximately 10-15 full time jobs. All staff are anticipated to arrive at the site in the 30-minute periods preceding the start of the operating day (i.e. 07:30 to 08:00hrs) and depart in the 30-minute period that follows the end of the operating day (i.e. 18:00 to 18:30hrs). Construction workers will park within the existing employee car park on site to avoid obstruction to the operation of the public highway, and use of this car park shall be strictly enforced.

3.35 A construction compound will accommodate the day-to-day construction vehicles and store materials without interfering with the safe operation of the bakery's day-to-day activities and delivery movements. The construction vehicles will utilise the existing bakery access.

3.36 A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been submitted with the application and will be implemented to manage and mitigate any environmental effects during the construction period.

**Drainage**

3.37 The site is located within Flood Zone 1 and as such is not inherently at risk of flooding. Whilst there will be some run off from the PV panels and other site infrastructure, the majority of the site will remain permeable, as existing, and impermeable areas across the site will be minimal, as detailed further in the flood risk assessment. The proposed development will not have a significant effect on surface water runoff.

**Phasing**

3.38 The solar farm is proposed to be delivered in two phases, with Phase 1 (up to 1MW) being delivered following planning permission for the scheme, whilst Phase 2 is anticipated to come forward following Northern Power Grid's intended infrastructure expansion upgrades.

3.39 This phasing strategy is proposed following extensive positive liaison with Northern Power Grid (NPG). A District Network Operator (DNO) application has been submitted by the solar panel provider, Photon Energy.

3.40 Once the essential infrastructure upgrades are implemented, the applicant intends to install Phase 2 of the development to improve sustainability and energy security of the bakery.

3.41 The typical operational life of a solar farm is 40 years, following which the solar farm may be removed and restored to its previous condition, or a new planning permission could be granted for a new installation.

# 4.0 Planning Policy Context

**Introduction**

4.1 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that where the Development Plan contains relevant policies, applications for development which are in accordance with the plan should be allowed unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.2 The Development Plan comprises the Barnsley Local Plan, adopted on 3rd January 2019.

4.3 Planning policies of relevance to this application include:

- Policy SD1 (Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development)
- Policy CC1 (Climate Change)
- Policy CC3 (Flood Risk)
- Policy RE1 (Low Carbon and Renewable Energy)
- Policy BIO1 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity)
- Policy D1 (High Quality Design and Place Making)
- Policy GD1 (General Development)
- Policy T3 (New Development and Sustainable Travel)
- Policy T4 (New Development and Transport Safety)
- Policy LC1 (Landscape Character)

4.4 The following documents form material planning considerations in the determination of the application:

- Carlton Masterplan Framework (adopted 15th November 2021)
- Trees and hedgerows Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) adopted May 2019
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) adopted May 2019
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as amended on 5 September 2023
- The National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), as amended on 24 June 2021

# 5.0 Policy and Technical Considerations

**Introduction**

5.1 This section of the Planning, Design and Access Statement provides an assessment of the proposal against the key policies of the development plan and the NPPF and PPG. It demonstrates that the proposal generally accords with relevant local and national policies.

**Principle of Development**

5.2 There is clear evidence that to meet its target to achieve net zero by 2050 the UK will need to quadruple its low carbon electricity generation. Solar energy has an important part to play in helping reach these targets, as well as helping to provide a balanced energy mix and security of supply.

5.3 The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and explains how they should be applied. It states that the purpose of the planning system is *"to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development*" (Paragraph. 7). Paragraph 8 sets out the three dimensions of sustainable development; 'economic' in helping to build a strong, responsive and competitive economy; 'social' in supporting strong communities and providing the supply of housing required for present and future generations; and 'environmental' in protecting and enhancing the environment.

5.4 The NPPF recognises the need to meet the challenge of climate change and that radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are essential. The NPPF supports renewable energy development where its impacts are, or can be made to be, acceptable.

5.5 Chapter 14 'Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change' of the NPPF requires the planning system to *"support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate…contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience, ... and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure"* (Paragraph 152).

5.6 Paragraph 158 asserts that "*when determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy and [should] approve the application if its applications are (or can be made acceptable)*."

5.7 The PPG reaffirms the government's commitment towards increasing the amount of renewable energy and low carbon technologies within the UK. Paragraph 001 (Reference ID: 5-001- 20140306) recognises that increasing the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon technologies will help to ensure that *"the UK has a secure energy supply, reduces greenhouse gas emissions to slow down climate change and stimulates investment in new jobs and businesses"*. Planning is recognised as having an important role to play in the delivery of new renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure in locations where the environmental impact is acceptable.

5.8 The proposal has the potential to deliver benefits in respect of all these important areas. Overall, as described in this report, the environmental impacts of the proposal are acceptable, with a range of beneficial effects. The proposal is therefore compliant with this part of the NPPF.

5.9 It is clear there is substantial support at a national level for this type of development, and a demonstrable need for the UK to continue to deliver renewable energy projects. This need is made even more urgent by the current energy crisis and the costs of electricity to commercial and domestic users.

5.10 At a local level, Local Plan Policy SD1 (Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development) acknowledges that the Council will work proactively with applicants to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social, and environmental conditions in the area, reflecting a presumption in favour of sustainable development contained within the NPPF.

5.11 Policy CC1 (Climate Change) asserts that the Council will seek to reduce the causes and adapt to future impacts of climate change by promoting and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy. Policy RE1 (Low Carbon and Renewable Energy) identifies that the Council will allow development that produces renewable energy as long as there is no material harm on:

- The character of the landscape and appearance of the area
- Living conditions
- Biodiversity, geodiversity, and water quality
- Heritage assets, their settings and cultural features and areas
- Key views of, from, or to scenic landscapes or landscapes features
- Highway safety
- Infrastructure including radar

5.12 Supporting Paragraph 20.4 acknowledges that domestic and industrial sectors are responsible for a majority of Barnsley's total emissions. The wider use of renewable energy is a key component of the strategy which contains an ambition for 20% of the energy consumed by the borough to be derived from renewable sources by 2025. This is supported by Policy RE1 which promotes and encourages a reduction in emissions through the provision of renewable energy schemes.

5.13 Importantly, the site is located within Local Plan allocation MU3 which is a mixed use allocation for housing and green space. The indicative number of dwellings proposed for this site is 1,683, forming part of the Council’s housing supply for the planned period. The allocation is subject to a phased Masterplan Framework covering the entire site to ensure that development is brought forward in a comprehensive manner.

5.14 The Carlton Masterplan Framework (CMF) was adopted in November 2021 following a six-week public consultation exercise. The CMF recognises that land in the ownership of Premier Foods, including the application site, is safeguarded for future employment uses and 'expansion of Premier Foods Bakery'.

5.15 Despite the CMF identifying the application site as safeguarded land, it is pertinent to provide due consideration to adopted Local Plan policy. Whilst the site is allocated for housing development in the Local Plan, the detailed form of development was reserved through preparation of a framework masterplan that would set out how this allocation could be delivered. Through the CMF's consultation process, it was highlighted that the application site is within Premier Foods' ownership and the site is now safeguarded for Premier Foods' use to support the existing factory. The CMF has been prepared and approved pursuant to policy MU3. It confirms that the application site is not proposed for contributing to housing delivery, thus the use of the site as a solar farm ancillary to the bakery is not contrary to the Council's vision for the site and its use for Premier Foods expansion, as set out by the CMF.

5.16 Reducing the bakery's carbon footprint is an essential component of Premier Foods' corporate ESG strategy, seeking to reduce carbon emissions by 43% by 2030 and to achieve net zero emissions by 2040. The ESG strategy is articulated through three key strategic pillars of product, planet and people. Major sustainability targets have been set under each pillar. Along with the target of reducing emissions, the ESG strategy for the planet pillar aims to achieve validation of decarbonisation targets by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

5.17 In June 2023, Premier Foods' 2030 decarbonisation targets were approved by the SBTi following a rigorous validation process, asserting that it has some of the most ambitious targets for reducing emissions amongst UK businesses. The SBTi has recognised these are in line with international efforts to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees, based on extensive mapping of greenhouse gas emissions for its operations and supply chain.

5.18 The solar farm will provide up to 50% of the Carlton bakery's power needs, with excess energy fed back into the local grid. This proactive and effective action has the potential to make an important contribution to climate change objectives.

5.19 The proposed development will play an important contribution to assist national and local targets for deriving energy from renewable sources and moving towards a net zero carbon economy. In addition, as a significant local employer, with circa 680 people based at the Carlton site, the increased energy resilience that would be afforded by the proposed solar farm will help to protect and sustain the Carlton bakery business long-term.

5.20 The scheme will feed energy directly to the factory, to support its transition to a lower carbon future, which will enable cost savings to be reinvested into the bakery.

5.21 At a local level, the scheme will significantly contribute to meeting the Council's ambition for 20% of energy consumed within the Borough to be derived from renewable resources. Similarly, the scheme will help to meet the UK Government's ambition to reach net zero by 2050, providing a critical step to improve energy security for the UK in accordance with Policies SD1, CC1 and RE1. The proposal supports the needs of a flourishing business, thus compliant with the CMF guidance.

5.22 Accordingly, the principle of development is considered acceptable. Furthermore, there are not considered to be any significant adverse effects which cannot be prevented or mitigated satisfactorily, as outlined below.

**Design**

5.23 Policy D1 (High Quality Design and Place Making) asserts that development is expected to be of a high quality and should respect local character.

5.24 The proposed solar panels are designed to be south facing, away from existing residential dwellings and to ensure maximum sunlight hours, thus maximising the amount of energy the solar farm can produce.

5.25 A Buried Services Survey and Trial Pit and Manhole Report was undertaken to understand what below ground infrastructure exists within the site. Yorkshire Water's sewage infrastructure pipes were found to be located centrally within the site, from east to west and from the northeastern corner of the site to the west of the site. Following engagement with Yorkshire Water, a 6m buffer on either side of the sewage pipes has been designed into the scheme to ensure that Yorkshire Water has sufficient access for maintenance purposes.

5.26 Existing vegetation and additional planting around the perimeter of the site will provide visual screening of the panels from adjacent properties, from the public highway and other visually sensitive receptors. The planting includes a wide-range of native, shade tolerant species, including nectar and pollen-rich species to attract invertebrate prey for a variety of animals in the local area, thus enhancing the site's biodiversity and creating a biodiversity corridor at the perimeter.

5.27 A 5m ecological buffer, with 6m around the existing ash tree, is proposed along the northern, southern and western boundaries, whilst a 10m buffer is provided along the eastern boundary. The CMF requires a minimum 20m green setback for environmental visual screening, between the Premier Foods bakery site and the housing allocation located immediately to the east. Whilst the CMF doesn't make it clear how the green setback should be delivered, during pre-application discussions, the Council clarified that a 10m "green setback" between the solar panel array and the application site's eastern boundary is required, with the other 10m being delivered under any forthcoming scheme for residential development on the allocated land.

5.28 Overall, the design of the scheme complies with Policy D1, with any visual impact being temporary until the additional planting grows to mitigate views to and from the site.

**Landscape and Visual Impact**

5.29 Paragraph 013 (Reference ID: 5-013-20150327) within the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy section of the PPG states that "the visual impact of a well-planned and well-screened solar farm can be properly addressed within the landscape if planned sensitively".

5.30 Policies LC1 (Landscape Character) and D1 (High Quality Design and Place Making) identifies that development will be expected to respect, retain and enhance character and distinctiveness of the individual Landscape Character Area in which it is located. Policy DG1 (General Development) echoes this

policy and sets out that development will be approved if it is compatible with neighbouring land, appropriately reflects, protects and improves the character of the local landscape, adverse impacts on the environment are minimised and mitigated, and it includes landscaping to provide a high-quality setting.

5.31 A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been prepared as part of the Landscape Visual Appraisal and indicates the potential extent of visibility of the development before mitigation measures, such as additional screen planting, are considered. The ZTV is based on the proposed solar panel height of 2.5m.

5.32 The ZTV illustrates that views of the proposals would be limited to immediately south and east of the site, and on the elevated ground in the wider study area. Views are very limited of the site from properties along Shaw Lane, due to existing vegetation and fencing. It is unlikely that there will be views of the site from Carlton village to the west due to screening from the Carlton bakery and intervening vegetation. Pockets of visibility are shown from a limited number of public rights of way and transport routes on the higher ground west of the Cudworth and Shafton. The ZTV suggests that there are distant views from the viewpoint on Rabbit Ings Country Park 1.8km northeast from the site. The proposals form a small component of the landscape as part of the wider view and would be seen in the context of large-scale industrial areas and residential development. Therefore, the impact of the proposals on the visual receptors would likely be low.

5.33 The site comprises a very small part of the wider Northeast Barnsley Settled Arable Slopes character area within the study area. Characteristics described within the Barnsley Landscape Character Area Assessment December 2002 that are relevant to the site include *"large areas of residential and industrial development creating a strong urban influence"* and *"scrubby margins, unmanaged field boundaries and compartmentalised field units on urban edges give a degraded quality to the landscape."* Further detracting features stated in the character assessment include *"significant number of primary and secondary vehicular routes gives an active pace to the landscape"* and further states *"power lines are visually striking elements across open farmland"*.

5.34 The value of the site and the immediate surroundings is assessed as medium-low, given the presence of man-made influences, the close proximity to the urban edge, and the presence of unmanaged rural-urban field margins.

5.35 The predicted sources of landscape and visual effects are summarised as follows. Firstly, it is important to note that the effects of solar farms are reversible whereby once the solar farm is removed, the site will revert to its original condition.

5.36 There will be temporary changes to the landscape during the construction period – for example, arising from the introduction of site compounds, introduction of machinery and their associated movements to and from the site. Similarly, there will also be permanent effects at completion, such as loss of some scrub vegetation and minor tree loss along with new areas of planting and enhancement of existing grassland.

5.37 The site offers substantial existing boundary vegetation in the form of mature high hedgerows and trees creating a very contained site. This provides a considerable amount of existing screening of the proposals. Hence, there is very limited intervisibility of the proposals in the wider study area.

5.38 The proposed solar farm will be viewed in a wider urbanised setting consisting of the built form of Barnsley and its associated large scale industrial areas. The residential area of Upper Cudworth will experience a small visual change, as there may be localised visibility where there will be a minor alteration to the composition of the view.

5.39 The limited views from the Trans Pennine Trail, the local road Shaw Lane and public right of way BL(Barnsley Co. Borough)32#1 will initially have a small magnitude of change, and this will reduce to negligible over time as existing and new hedgerows and scrub mature.

5.40 Due to the long-range distance and wider context in which the proposals will be viewed, Rabbit Ings Country Park with the highest sensitivity, the magnitude of visual change will be negligible.

5.41 Over time the new infill hedgerow and scrub planting around the site boundary will be allowed to grow to augment the existing and this will further reduce visual effects. All the visual effects will be reversible and temporary.

5.42 Overall, very limited amounts of vegetation within the site will be removed. Proposed new hedgerows and scrub planting will enhance the landscape features of the site and provide a long-term benefit. The underlying grassland will also be retained and enhanced to improve habitat and biodiversity. While some perceptual aspects of the landscape will alter with the introduction of the low-level solar panels, the partial effects on the character within the site itself will be reversible at the end of the life of the development, causing no long-term harm to the underlying character.

5.43 As part of the Landscape and Visual Appraisal, photomontages have been produced to illustrate the likely view of the proposed development from two public viewpoints.

5.44 The two chosen public viewpoints are VP1 (view from Royston Road/ Upper Cudworth residential area) and VP2 (view from Shaw Lane/ Trans Pennine Trial) based on year 0 and year 10. As illustrated by the Year 10 photomontages, direct views to the site would be completely intercepted by the additional planting.

5.45 Overall, the proposal will have limited landscape and visual impact in planning terms and would not conflict with core Policy RE1, which supports the development of schemes for the generation of renewable energy resources.

**Glint and Glare Impacts**

5.46 A Glint and Glare Study has been prepared by Pager Power to assess the potential effects of glint and glare by the development. It considers the possible impacts upon road safety, residential amenity, and aviation activity associated with Yorkshire Air Ambulance Nostell Helicopter Port.

5.47 Whilst the study concludes that solar reflections are geometrically possible towards a 400m section of Shaw Lane, screening in the form of existing vegetation is predicted to significantly obstruct views of reflecting panels, such that solar reflections will not be experienced by road users. No impacts are predicted upon this section of Shaw Lane and mitigation is not required.

5.48 Additionally, solar reflections are geometrically possible towards 39 of the assessed 61 dwellings. Screening in the form of existing vegetation and/or buildings is predicted to significantly obstruct views of reflecting panels, such that solar reflections will not be experienced by residents at 26 dwellings. No impact is predicted upon these 26 dwellings, and mitigation is not required.

5.49 For the remaining 13 dwellings, solar reflections are geometrically possible for more than three months per year, but less than 60 minutes on any given day. Existing vegetation is predicted to significantly obstruct views of reflecting panels for residents on the ground floor of dwellings, with potentially some views being deemed possible from above ground floor levels. Therefore, a low impact upon residential amenity is predicted at these 13 dwellings, and mitigation is not recommended.

5.50 With regard to aviation activity, the assessment identified that solar reflections originating from the proposed development towards the 2-mile approach paths for YAA Nostell Helicopter Port are predicted to be of acceptable glare intensities in accordance with the associated guidance and industry best practice or occur outside a pilot's primary field-of-view (50 degrees either side relative to the runway threshold bearing). No significant impacts upon aviation activity associated with YAA Nostell Helicopter Port are predicted, and mitigation is not required. Detailed modelling is not recommended.

5.51 Overall, there are no significant impacts are predicted upon road safety, residential amenity, and aviation activity associated with YAA Nostell Helicopter Port. No mitigation is considered necessary.

**Ecology and Arboriculture**

5.52 Policy BIO1 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) asserts that development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough. Development should also encourage biodiversity enhancements, maximise biodiversity and geodiversity opportunities, and follow the national mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate) which is used to evaluate the impacts of a development on biodiversity interest.

5.53 The applicant undertook a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) to inform the design of the scheme. There is one statutory wildlife site within 1km of the application site, the Dearne Valley Wetlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The SSSI is an important habitat for birds. However, the proposed solar farm will not give rise to any direct effects on the integrity or the designated site nor will it likely result in any indirect effects.

5.54 Regarding the site itself, the PEA identified a 'hedgerow priority habitat' along the northern and eastern boundary, which is indicated on the Proposed Site Layout Plan. This hedgerow habitat will be retained and enhanced with planting of additional native species rich hedgerow together with other shade tolerant and pollen rich species to further extend the priority habitat.

5.55 Furthermore, a 5-10m ecological buffer is proposed along the site perimeter between the retained hedgerows/trees and the PV array fence line to provide additional ecological enhancement and biodiversity connectivity. Further ecological enhancements include native wildflower planting to provide pollen and nectar to bees and butterflies, subsequently providing pollination services to surrounding agriculture. A Planting Plan has been prepared to identify and

clearly illustrate the proposed species of wildflower and grassland mixes and scrub planting.

5.56 Regarding protected species, the PEA identified that the site has below average potential to support great crested newts (GCN). There are small areas of scrub vegetation that may need to be removed on site, which may be suitable to support populations of reptile. The site may also support populations of other common species, including bats, birds, and hedgehog.

5.57 Further surveys could not be undertaken to assess the presence / absence of GCN due to access being denied by the neighbouring landowner. However, given the below average potential of the site to support GCNs, appropriately, a Herpetofauna Method Statement (HMS) has been prepared by Wharton and submitted with the application. The HMS sets out a detailed method of working to ensure that the proposal does not breach of the relevant legislation for herpetofauna. Providing that all measures detailed within this report are implemented in full, no impacts resulting in significant effects to GCN, other amphibians or reptiles are anticipated.

5.58 The Natural England Biodiversity Metric 4.0 metric has been used to calculate the biodiversity net gain associated with the proposed solar farm. The scheme is anticipated to deliver 2.09 habitat biodiversity units (10.13% gain in habitat units) and 0.09 hedgerow biodiversity units (12.25% gain in hedgerow units).

5.59 A biodiversity net gain (BNG) of 10.13% is achieved.

5.60 Furthermore, an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and supporting Tree Constraints and Tree Protection Plan has been produced by Wharton to support the application. The AIA assesses the potential direct and indirect impacts associated with construction of the proposed development on existing trees. Where necessary, the AIA further identifies necessary compensation and mitigation measures where these are deemed appropriate.

5.61 A total of 9no. arboricultural features were surveyed across the wider site comprising 2no. individual trees and 7no. groups of trees. These include 1no. category B, 7no category C and 1 no. category U features.

5.62 To implement the proposed development, there will be an overall loss of 1no. category C group of trees (low quality). There will also be some partial loss of 4no. category C groups of trees. However, the partial removals comprise a small percentage of the total size of the groups and, given their low quality, will have a small impact on the overall arboricultural value of the site.

5.63 The proposed individual tree removals are all confined to category C (low quality) features set within the confines of the site and are largely obscured from view beyond the site boundaries. As such, their removal will have minimal impact from an arboricultural perspective. Furthermore, the proposed development will provide 24 new trees together with other new habitat enhancement, which will achieve a biodiversity net gain of 10.13%.

**Access / Highways / Car Parking**

5.64 Policy T3 (New Development and Sustainable Travel) asserts that new development will be expected to provide a Transport Statement or assessment in line with guidance set out in the NPPF. Policy T4 (New Development and

Transport Safety) sets out that new development should not create or add to problems of safety or the efficiency of the highway and should provide all transport users within and surrounding the development with safe, secure and convenient access and movement.

5.65 A Transport Statement has been prepared by Evoke to support the full planning application. The highway network within the vicinity of the site has been reviewed, taking into account the suitability for HGV use as well as a review of personal injury and accident data. Given that the proposed construction route will follow the same route as the majority of current bakery HGV traffic (Fish Dam Lane / West Green Way / A628), it is considered suitable to accommodate construction traffic in terms of carriageway widths and weight restrictions.

5.66 Further to this, given that the number of vehicle movements associated with the construction phase is anticipated to be marginal and is likely to fall within day to day variations currently experienced on the local highway network, there are not considered to be any existing highway safety issues that would be exacerbated by the proposed development.

5.67 The internal highway network within the Carlton bakery site is considered safe and suitable for use as part of the construction phase and once the proposed development is operational.

5.68 The proposed construction vehicle movements will not be perceptible compared with baseline movements. The proposed development is therefore not considered to result in a severe residual impact, nor would it create an unacceptable impact on highway safety.

5.69 A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) has also been prepared by Evoke to ensure that the construction works and operational period are implemented to minimise any highway impact, highway safety and amenity of the area surrounding the site. Overall, it is considered that the measures and control processes outlined in this TMP are appropriate. The scheme is therefore considered to comply with Policies T3 and T4 of the Local Plan.

**Flood Risk**

5.70 The site is Flood Zone 1 and greenfield run off rates will be maintained as part of the development. However, the site area is 2.87ha thus triggering the requirement for a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).

5.71 Policy CC3 (Flood Risk) sets out that the extent and impact of flooding will be reduced by not permitting new development where it would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding from any sources of flooding or would give rise to flooding elsewhere.

5.72 A FRA incorporating Surface Water Management Plan has been undertaken by Millward to assess the impact of the development upon flood risk over the anticipated lifetime of the development. The assessment has identified that the solar panels in the field will lead to the interception of water before it hits the ground level. The pitch of the solar panels also mean that the velocity of water is low and that water would drip off the edge (rather than a sheet flow) onto the vegetated surface. The panels will not alter the existing topography of the field and will not ultimately change the existing drainage characteristics of the field. No specific SuDS measures are necessary.

5.73 As there are no new access tracks or buildings proposed under this proposed scheme, there are no new impermeable areas that are introduced requiring any form of drainage mitigation.

5.74 The proposed Surface Water Management Plan consists of the following measures:

- Undertake a post-installation check of the site to ensure that existing vegetation coverage on the field has been maintained and any exposed areas of sub soil are suitable reinstated / seeded as required.

- Undertake an annual visual check to ensure that there are no instances of any exposed areas of subsoil without grass / vegetation. Any areas to be reinstated / seeded as required.

5.75 The FRA also recommends for the substation area to be installed 50mm above the existing ground level.

5.76 The assessment concludes that the proposal will not result in unacceptable risk of flooding from all sources to the site itself and elsewhere, provided the recommended mitigation measures are implemented. The development will result in no significant effects on the existing greenfield nature of the site, thus is compliant with Policies GD1 and CC3.

**Noise**

5.77 Policy GD1 (General Development) states that development will be approved if there will be no significant adverse effect on the living conditions and residential amenity of existing and future residents. Development must also be compatible with neighbouring land and should not significantly prejudice its current or future use.

5.78 Solar farms are not typically noisy. However, there are various electrical components forming part of the scheme including 3no inverters and 1No transformer. These components can emit low noise levels; thus a Noise Assessment has been prepared by Ion Acoustics to assess the potential noise impacts arising from the scheme.

5.79 The nature of solar farms is such that electricity is only generated during daylight hours. Electricity generation may extend in times considered part of the night during the summer, i.e. early mornings before 0700hrs. The proposed solar farm would not be operational at the quietest times of the night, nor during the late evening.

5.80 Operational noise has been assessed against a background noise limit of LAr 38 dB which has been derived by noise studies of the local area. Overall, the calculations for the operational noise levels indicate that noise from the solar farm would be low in absolute terms and comply with all noise limits.

5.81 Given the above, it is considered that there are no noise-related issues associated with Premier Foods solar farm that should prevent the development being given planning permission. Therefore, the proposal would comply with Policy GD1 and would not result in detrimental noise impacts to the amenity of occupiers of surrounding dwellings.

**Residential Amenity**

5.82 In accordance with policy GD1 (General Development), the proposed development will not result in any significant adverse impacts on residential amenity. The sections above have provided robust justification to confirm the development will have no significant impacts relating to:

- Landscape and visual impact from neighbouring properties
- Glint and glare impact from neighbouring properties
- Noise impact from neighbouring properties
- Construction and operational traffic on the local highway network.

**Canal and Riverside Trust**

5.83 During the pre-application process, the Canal and Riverside Trust provided a response requesting for the consideration and potential incorporation of a green corridor as part of the scheme. The Trust suggested that the disused canal could be reinstated. However, the CMF clearly allocates the site for Premier Foods expansion. There is no other adopted or emerging planning policy setting out the requirement for a green corridor to be incorporated within the scheme.

5.84 The proposed development is not contrary to the adopted Local Plan and CMF; thus the design is therefore considered to be acceptable in its current form.

**Energy and Sustainability Statement**

5.85 The UK Government has a target of Net Zero emissions by 2050. The Government's 'Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (October 2021)' sets out the vision for the UK to be powered entirely by clean electricity by 2035, subject to security of supply. The Strategy aims to decarbonise industry in line with net zero goals and seeks to support industry to switch to cleaner fuels, helping to improve resource and energy efficiency.

5.86 Barnsley MBC's ambition is to promote sustainable development and to reduce the borough's impact upon climate change. It has set a target of 20% for all energy consumed to be derived from renewable energy sources by 2025.

5.87 Reducing the Carlton bakery's carbon footprint is an essential component of Premier Foods' corporate ESG strategy, seeking to reduce carbon emissions by 43% by 2030 and to achieve net zero emissions by 2040. In June 2023, Premier Foods' 2030 decarbonisation targets were approved by the SBTi following a rigorous validation process, asserting that it has some of the most ambitious targets for reducing emissions amongst UK businesses. The SBTi has recognised these are in line with international efforts to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees, based on extensive mapping of greenhouse gas emissions for its operations and supply chain.

5.88 When both Phase 1 and 2 of the proposed solar farm are implemented and fully operational, it will deliver up to 2MWp, saving 1,020 tonnes of $CO_2$ per year. The solar farm will provide up to 50% of the Carlton bakery's power needs, with excess energy fed back into the local grid. This proactive and effective action

has the potential to make an important contribution to climate change objectives. Overall, the proposed development provides a critical step to improve energy security for the UK in accordance with Policies SD1, CC1 and RE1.

## 6.0 Statement of Community Engagement

6.1 Paragraph 39 of the NPPF acknowledges that early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties.

6.2 The applicant has engaged with Barnsley MBC through the pre-application process to discuss the principle of development and the material planning considerations that should be addressed as part of a planning application. Accordingly, the submitted planning application has addressed those comments raised during the pre-application meeting and the Council's subsequent pre-application response.

6.3 The Barnsley Local Plan Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (April 2020) encourages applicants to engage with local communities and Ward Members before making an application. Early engagement is identified as providing a whole host of benefits, which includes early problem recognition and resolution, thereby avoiding possible objections at a later stage.

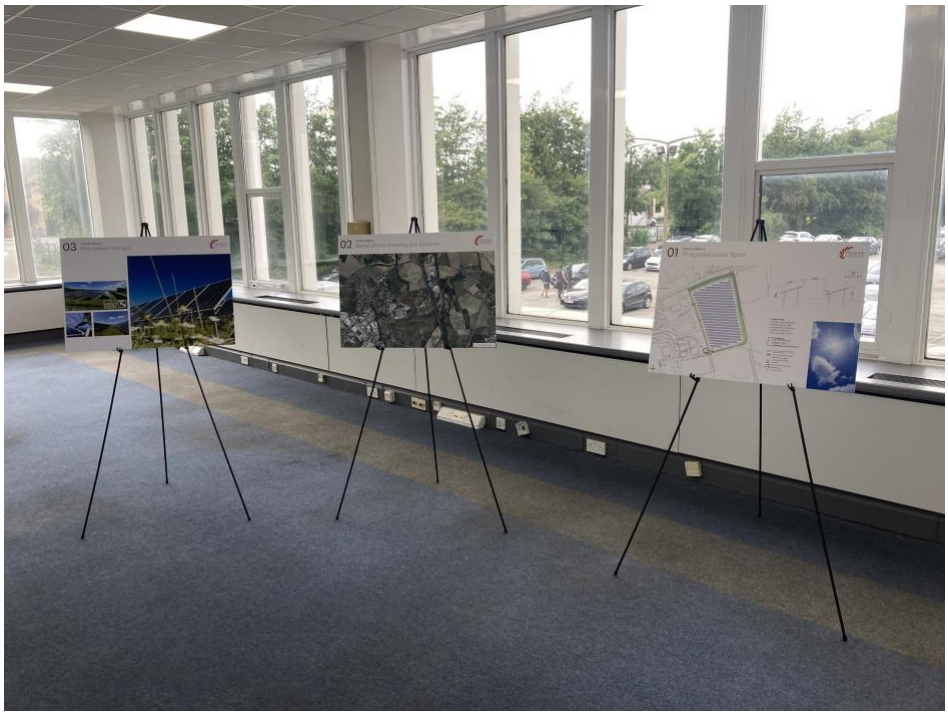
6.4 To inform the preparation of its planning application, Premier Foods engaged with neighbouring residents by hosting a public engagement day at the Premier Foods Bakery. The overall aim of the public engagement sessions was to provide a transparent and inclusive process that could enable the local community to get involved. Importantly, responses and comments received during the public engagement sessions were taken into account during the preparation of the application.

6.5 The applicant issued letters to local neighbours a week in advance. The letter described the proposed development with explanatory information on how it accords with adopted local and national planning policy. The letter also briefly highlighted why solar has been chosen as the renewable energy source to meet the bakery's energy needs and why the proposed location has been chosen to deliver the scheme. Furthermore, an email address was included on the letter so that members of the public had the opportunity to send any questions / comments for a period of 28 days. This provided an opportunity for those who may have been unable to attend the public engagement sessions the chance to express their views.

6.6 Two engagement sessions were undertaken on Tuesday 25th July 2023, with Session 1 being held between 1pm-3pm, whilst Session 2 was held between 6pm-9pm.

6.7 Three A1 photo boards were produced and displayed at the engagement event to illustrate the site location in the context of the surrounding area, the proposed site layout plan, and visualisations to demonstrate what the solar panels would look like once installed. Photographs of the boards are shown overleaf. The boards are reproduced in full at Appendix 1.

*Photographs of public exhibition set-up*




6.8 A feedback form was produced comprising Likert scale type questions with choices ranging from ‘Strongly Agree’ to ‘Strongly Disagree’ to acquire a holistic view of people’s opinions and their level of agreement. This is reproduced at Appendix 2.

6.9 To determine which aspects of the proposal were most important to local people, a scale / rank question was included to enable people to rank which aspects of the project were the most important and which were the least important. The chosen aspects were:

- Generating green electricity
- Visual impact of the project
- Minimising impact from traffic during construction

- Local ecology and wildlife

6.10 A final question inviting people to provide any other comments was also included.

6.11 A total of five people attended the community engagement day to express their views and address any queries. Four out of five of the attendees completed the Feedback Forms provided.

6.12 100% of the responses supported the solar farm in the proposed location, considered that solar power had an important part to play in de-carbonising the UK's energy supply and, in principle, supported solar projects in their area.

6.13 50% of the responses considered that the proposal would result in significant benefits to biodiversity, whilst the other 50% remained neutral and neither agreed nor disagreed.

6.14 Furthermore, in terms of which aspects of the proposal were most important and least important, 100% of the responses identified that the most important aspect of the development was the production of green energy. 50% of the responses considered that visual impact and minimising impact from traffic during construction were the least important.

6.15 Two separate email responses were received, with the first confirming support for the scheme. The second email response raised several queries but did not specifically confirm if they supported or objected to the scheme.

## 7.0 Conclusion

7.1 The planning application seeks full planning permission for the installation of a solar farm of up to 2MW generating capacity, a substation and associated infrastructure, together with the erection of perimeter fencing and CCTV posts.

7.2 It has been demonstrated that the principle of development for a solar farm on this site is acceptable. The proposal is located on land safeguarded for Premier Foods expansion. The solar farm is ancillary to the use of the existing bakery and will support Premier Foods' vision for a lower carbon future. The development will provide long-term energy security, thereby helping to protect and sustain the Carlton bakery business long-term.

7.3 There is substantial support at a national level for renewable energy development, and a demonstrable need for the UK to continue to deliver renewable energy projects. This need is made even more urgent by the ongoing energy crisis and the costs of electricity for commercial and domestic users. The proposal contributes to assisting national and local targets for deriving energy from renewable sources and moving towards a net zero carbon economy.

7.4 The submitted plans demonstrate that the proposal can be delivered within the parameters of the site and can successfully incorporate significant landscape and ecological enhancements, including biodiversity net gain.

7.5 The planning application has taken careful consideration of the relevant material considerations and the planning policy context. The technical reports and plans submitted to support the planning application demonstrate that the proposed development results in no significant adverse effects relating to ecology, drainage, highways, landscape, noise, or residential amenity.

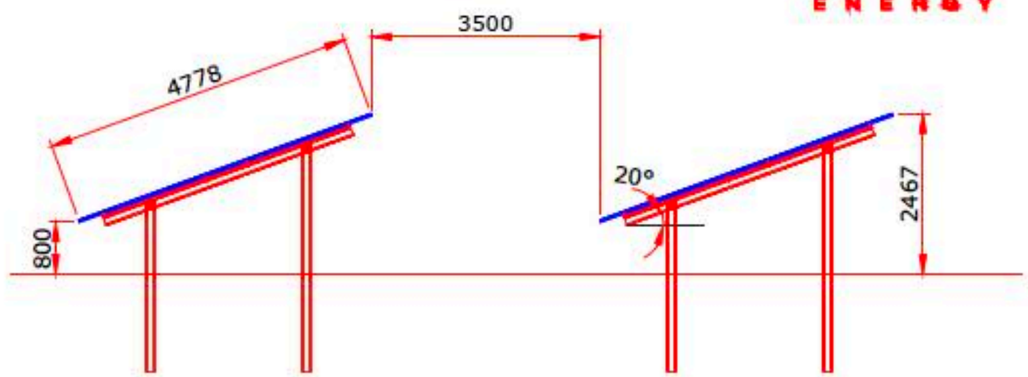
7.6 Pursuant to Section 38(6) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, determination must be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

7.7 It maintained that the scheme does not conflict with the requirements of the NPPF and local planning policy contained within the Barnsley Local Plan (2019). There are no material considerations that indicate the application should not be approved in accordance with the development plan. Therefore, planning permission should be granted in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

## Appendix 1

### Public Exhibition Display Boards

# 01 Carlton Bakery
# Proposed solar farm


**1. System Details**

1.1 Installed Power: 2458.9 kWp

1.2 Installed Modules: 3670

1.3 Module Power: 670Wp each

1.4 Module Inclination: 20°

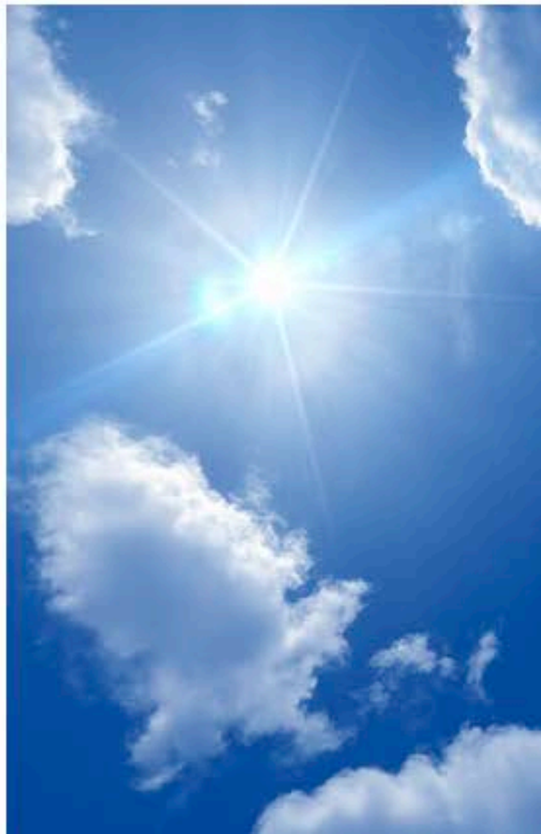
1.5 Mounting System: Hi-tech

**PV Modules:**
STP670S-D66/Wmh

**Power:** 670Wp

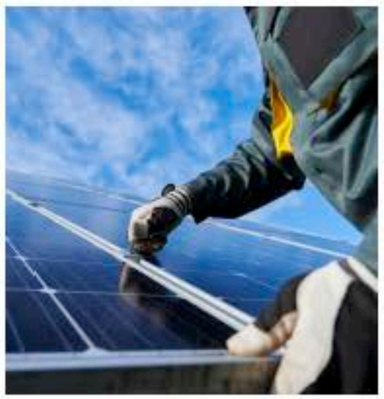
**Dimensions:** 2384x1303x35mm

- Landscape screening /biodiversity enhancement zone
- H2A - hedgerow (priority habitat)
- Application site boundary
- 2.1m green mesh weld fence
- Substation
- Existing secure access retained
- Double leaf gate
- 4m high CCTV poles



# 02 Carlton Bakery
# Aerial photo showing site location

# 03 Carlton Bakery
# Precedent images



## Appendix 2

### Feedback Form Sample

**Public Consultation for Proposed Solar Farm**
**Premier Foods, Carlton Bakery, Fish Dam Lane**
**FEEDBACK FORM**
**July 2023**

1. **I support solar…**

| *Strongly disagree* | | | | *Strongly agree* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

2. **The UK should invest more in renewable energy to tackle climate change…**

| *Strongly disagree* | | | | *Strongly agree* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

3. **Solar power can play an important role in de-carbonising the UK's energy supply…**

| *Strongly disagree* | | | | *Strongly agree* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

4. **In principle, I support solar energy projects in my area…**

| *Strongly disagree* | | | | *Strongly agree* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

5. **The solar farm will make a positive contribution to local biodiversity…**

| *Strongly disagree* | | | | *Strongly agree* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

6. **The local community will benefit from renewable energy….**

| *Strongly disagree* | | | | *Strongly agree* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

***Please see overleaf for more questions***

**7. This is an appropriate site for a solar farm…**

| *Strongly disagree* | | | | *Strongly agree* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**8. I support this solar farm project…**

| *Strongly disagree* | | | | *Strongly agree* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**9. Which aspects of the project are more important to you?**

Please rank from *1* (most important) to *4* (least important|)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Generating green electricity | ☐ | Visual impact of the project | ☐ |
| Minimising impact from traffic during construction | ☐ | Local ecology and wildlife | ☐ |

**10. Please let us know if you have any other comments:**

***Please see overleaf for more questions***