

Meeting note

Project name	Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park
File reference	EN010126
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	8 August 2023
Meeting with	Ridge Clean Energy Ltd.
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Update

The project consists of a proposed solar farm and battery storage on a former RAF airfield in Lincolnshire. The Applicant explained there is woodland space within the site as well as Temple Wood, a large wood to the southeast outside of the proposed site boundary. There are very few properties near the site boundary and the project is already well screened by the surrounding vegetation.

Site Design

The Applicant updated the Inspectorate that they plan for additional electrical infrastructure onsite to aid with the connection to the grid. In addition, the cable route has been amended to be cross country rather than in the road verge, which will lead to further conversations with additional landowners.

Persons with an interest in land

The Applicant confirmed that a large part of the new proposed cable route is owned by a single landowner with approximately seven additional landowners. Discussions with these stakeholders, Network Rail and the Environment Agency about land take have begun, as well as discussions regarding the benefits of the scheme.

Consultation to date.

Six different events were held in the six different villages around the solar farm and battery storage site, the Applicant relayed that the project was well received and there were around 250 attendees in total. The events were also attended by local councillors. The applicant has also consulted with the local MP, and relevant stakeholders such as Network Rail, the Environment Agency, Black Sluice Internal

Drainage Board, Lincolnshire Highways, and Anglian Water. The Applicant confirmed that they would run statutory consultation in spring 2024.

Current Project Schedule

The Applicant plans to re-engage with the Local Authorities and will soon look to establish Planning Performance Agreements and provide an update on changes to the schedule. The Inspectorate queried if the project had an increased range of cumulative effects from surrounding infrastructure. It was confirmed that the project is situated near several different proposed projects near the point of connection, and the Applicant is in contact to discuss different approximated construction and connection dates.

AOB

- Environmental queries were referred to the Inspectorate and [Section 51 Advice](#) was provided after the meeting.
- Another Project Meeting date to be confirmed shortly.