Meeting note

Project name	Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park
File reference	EN010126
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	2 October 2023
Meeting with	Ridge Clean Energy Ltd.
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting	Project Update Meeting
objectives	
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.

Update on landowner discussions

The Applicant reminded the Inspectorate of their changed cabling route from road to cross country and updated on the subsequent landowner discussions.

The Applicant stated that 60-70% of the land is owned by the Crown Estate and they are currently liaising with them regarding refining and changing the alignment of the route to meet their preferences.

The Applicant addressed that they have secured land agreements with the landowner for the solar and battery site and that the current landowner discussions are regarding the cabling route only.

The Applicant informed that most landowners have been supportive and have agreed in principle to the alignment of the route with some having signed the license agreements.

The Applicant informed that they have commenced the wintering bird surveys along the route and these will continue over the next few months.

Scoping

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate of their plans to re-scope due to realignments of the red line boundary and they hope to do so this year.

The Planning Inspectorate

The Applicant enquired about a recommended cut-off date for the scoping report and the Inspectorate advised to be mindful of the 28 days of consultation and to avoid the holiday period as consultees need sufficient time to engage. The Inspectorate and the Applicant agreed that mid-November would be the most appropriate time and if submission was likely to be later than this, then a submission early 2024 would be more suitable.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to send the revised red line boundary as set out in Advice Note 7 on the National Infrastructure (NI) website, as the Inspectorate require it two weeks before submission.
- The Inspectorate and the Applicant agreed to organise another project update meeting in early November to correspond about any project changes.