



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Mallard Pass Solar Project
<b>File reference</b>	EN010127
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	31 March 2022
<b>Meeting with</b>	Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project update meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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.

### *Progress update*

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited (the 'Applicant') are developing the design of Mallard Pass Solar Farm (the 'Proposed Development') in response to stage one consultation feedback and survey/assessment outputs.

The Applicant informally issued the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to Local Authorities on 17 February 2022 and issued a formal draft SoCC on 23 March 2022. The Applicant noted that the statutory period for response had been extended to allow additional time over the Easter period. The closing date for responses is the 22<sup>of</sup> April 2022. The Applicant added that preparation of stage two consultation material (Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act), including Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) chapters, is underway. The Applicant anticipates commencing stage two consultation in May 2022.

### *Engagement*

The Applicant signposted relevant engagement it has had to date with various stakeholders. The Applicant has been engaging with Local Authorities, local interest groups and offered/held a number of on-site meetings with local residents. The Applicant continues to engage with local landowners, in relation to site specific concerns.

Dates for regular bilateral discussions are currently being discussed with LPAs.

## ***Scoping***

There was a discussion to confirm that the Planning Inspectorate consider the Scoping Report and Appendices when drafting a Scoping Opinion, which led to a wider discussion around matters raised within the Scoping Opinion. This included discussions on enhancement and mitigation measures, Burghley House and its inclusion in certain aspect chapter assessments, consideration of Internationally Designated Sites for bat species and why this was suggested for consideration, approaches to assessment of likely significant effects on archaeology and Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land.

The Inspectorate explained that agreements with statutory bodies assist in justifying the Applicant's approach and may help with Examination if the application is accepted.

The Applicant queried whether the Inspectorate had a view on the use of regional assessments for BMV land. The Inspectorate advised that most LPAs that have responded to Scoping consultations in relation to solar projects in the Lincolnshire area have requested cumulative assessment conducted on a county-wide basis and, therefore, advised the Applicant to consider this within their assessment and discuss this further with the LPAs.

## ***Other***

The Applicant explained that one response to the draft SoCC concerned deposit locations, which have since been changed.

There was a discussion on the redline boundary and how changes to the layout of panels and mitigation and enhancement may influence this.

