



Meeting note

Project name	Gate Burton Energy Park
File reference	EN010131
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	3 March 2022
Meeting with	Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd
Venue	Microsoft Teams meeting
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 Overview

The Applicant noted that the Scoping Report presented four potential cable route options. The first stage of consultation is complete, and feedback has helped to refine the cable route options. The Applicant stated its final decision on preferred corridor is expected by PEIR/ Statutory Consultation which is planned for mid-June.

The Applicant noted it is due to start a formal process which will set out the constraints to the four cable route options to demonstrate reasoning for the preferred option. The Applicant detailed some of the heritage matters in the cable route areas, specifically for the most northern and southern options, as well as noting local wildlife clusters/ sites and areas of standing water. The Applicant questioned if the Inspectorate had any feedback on the way in which the Applicant could document the corridors constraints; the Applicant stated it is currently adopting a RAG rating system. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to justify the option chosen.

The Applicant explained it has had meetings with other project teams in the area regarding sharing sites, cable routes etc. to ensure landowners are not repeatedly asked for the same information and to reduce any potential confusion. The Applicant noted it aims to work collaboratively with the other projects in relation to sharing cable routes.

The Inspectorate queried if Local Authorities (LA) are well prepared for the three projects proposed. The Applicant explained it is engaging in meetings with the local authorities on a regular basis.

Non-statutory consultation update

The Applicant explained its Non-statutory Consultation started on 11 January 2022 and ended on 18 February 2022. The Applicant stated it held seven events (two online and five in person).

Environmental Scoping Opinion

The Applicant raised queries to the Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion; the Inspectorate provided clarification on specific points.

The Inspectorate directed the Applicant to review the recently published West Burton Scoping Opinion as there may be some relevant information to inform their application; types of panels and associated impacts, cumulative effects between West Burton, Gate Burton and Cottam, potential co-ordination between these projects to reduce environmental impacts where possible, decommissioning and waste, tidal flooding and climate change projections, grazing beneath the panels and viability of mitigation and impacts to ground-nesting birds.

Environmental Scoping Report

In addition to the general points around the Scoping Opinion, the following matters were also discussed in detail:

Lighting strategy (para 3.5.1), veteran trees (para 3.3.2) and glint and glare effects on boat users (para 3.10.4): the emphasis is on demonstrating no LSEs. If it can be demonstrated there is no potential for a likely significant effect on a receptor, the receptor can be scoped out. If there is a potential for a likely significant effect on a receptor, impacts to that receptor should be assessed in the Environmental Statement.

Bentonite/drilling fluid break-out (para 3.4.3): post meeting note. The impact should be identified and de-risked e.g. through a commitment secured through the Development Consent Order where appropriate principles and objectives of the mitigation are clearly set out.

Water quality sampling (para 3.4.4): water quality impacts are anticipated to be based on a risk assessment that does not require input of raw background water quality data. The use of existing Environment Agency data to inform an assessment of water quality is acceptable where it is representative and appropriate. The approach should be agreed with the EA.