



Meeting note

Project name	Gate Burton
File reference	EN010131
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	29 April 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.

Environmental Survey/Scoping

The Applicant noted that elements of completed environmental survey work and potential to collaborate with Cottam Solar Farm had informed changes to the red line boundary (RLB). The Applicant explained that ecology and heritage survey work is continuing in these areas. The Applicant stated it has advanced the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which is currently undergoing internal review. As a result of this the Applicant noted it is increasing engagement with environmental bodies/ stakeholders. The Inspectorate queried the size of the changes to the RLB. The Applicant confirmed it has narrowed down the three potential cable corridors for the grid connection to one corridor and is exploring opportunities to work with Island Green Power (IGP) on the adjacent Cottam site to inform design options for the preferred corridor.

The Inspectorate queried how the Applicant will communicate this in its Statutory Consultation Material. The Applicant confirmed the alternatives and scheme description sections of the Statutory Consultation will provide the detail. The Applicant stated that in the alternatives section there will be an explanation of different routes and the constraints, and the desire to collaborate with IGP and reduce environmental impacts and construction impact by utilising one shared corridor. The Applicant further explained how it will show that the option has been broadened to accommodate flexibility and how construction might occur.

The Inspectorate queried if engagement with environmental stakeholders has brought up any specific issues in terms of the refinements of the RLB. The Applicant noted the new proposed site is limited in environmental sensitivity and it doesn't believe that anything significant has been raised at this stage.

Project Programme Update

Following on from the Non-Statutory Consultation carried out in January 2022, the Applicant explained that a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) had been shared with the relevant local authorities for comments. The Applicant stated it is working closely with IGP to understand the respective programmes and are hoping to align consultation activities to avoid any confusion for, or consultation fatigue in, local communities and wider stakeholders. The Applicant confirmed its intension to launch the Statuary Consultation in summer 2022.

Examination

The Applicant noted that there were several solar NSIP projects being promoted by a number of developers in the area/District/County (with varying degrees of proximity to each other). It was noted that the potential timelines of these projects could lead to examination programmes that were overlapping or running in close synchronicity. The discussion noted the potential for a series of meetings with various stakeholders to take a holistic look at solar NSIP activity in the area and possible routes to handling individual cases.