



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Gate Burton
<b>File reference</b>	EN010131
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	24 May 2022
<b>Meeting with</b>	Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams Meeting
<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.

### Statement of Community Consultation

The Applicant confirmed that the consultation with relevant local authorities on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) ran from 11 April to 13 May 2022. The Applicant noted that local authorities (LAs) in their responses, were broadly supportive of the approach taken and had suggested some minor changes to the proposed Statutory Consultation such as; the addition of one further regional newspaper for publication of the Section (s) 47 and s48 notices, inclusion of a map showing geographic proximity of the project relative to other schemes, one additional document inspection location and minor text updates to ensure greater clarification on certain elements.

### Statutory Consultation

The Applicant provided an overview of the upcoming Statutory Consultation. The SoCC will be published on 8 June 2022 and s48 notices will be published in newspapers from 8 June 2022. The Statutory Consultation will be held from 22 June to 5 August 2022 and will include seven events consisting of two online events alongside five in-person events. The Applicant noted that it had sought to avoid event dates overlapping with consultation events being held by other relevant applicants in the area over a similar time period, and that two in-person events would be held on a Saturday to ensure they remained accessible to those with weekday commitments.

## **Design Collaboration**

The Applicant showed a map which identified the connection corridors proposed to be shared by Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton sites. The Applicant considered that this approach will reduce impacts of the schemes through sharing cable corridors, with the common elements assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) and included in the Development Consent Order (DCO) of each application. Survey results and information sharing between the projects is ongoing to ensure consistency within the ES assessments. The Inspectorate queried whether an unforeseen delay to a single application could impact on the construction of the common connection elements. The Applicant explained that any potential delays would not impact construction of the common elements and they would be built out by whichever programme commenced first. The Applicant noted that commercial agreements would likely be in place between the Applicants of the three solar farm projects to take account of the finer points of implementation.

## **Natural England**

The Applicant explained that a planning advisor from Natural England (NE) had been appointed to the Gate Burton project. They further noted that their ecology team had had contact with NE.

The Inspectorate noted it hoped to have initial conversations with local authorities and some statutory environmental bodies to understand more about the approaches and resourcing to this project, along with other projects in close proximity.

## **Any Other Business**

The Inspectorate queried whether submission of the application was still expected in Q4 2022. The Applicant confirmed the programme is on schedule but noted that if any issues were to arise from the Statutory Consultation the priority to resolve these would take precedent over the need to maintain the current anticipated submission date.

The Inspectorate asked whether the Applicant intended to submit application documents in draft form pre-submission and noted that it was best to add this to the programme early if the Applicant would like a draft document review to be carried out by the Inspectorate. The Applicant confirmed it will consider a draft document review.