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Bristol, BS1 6PN

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To the Applicant
(By email only)

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010133

Date: 9 February 2023

Dear Ian,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 51

Application by Cottam Solar Project Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Cottam Solar Project

Advice following issue of decision to accept the application for examination

On 3 February 2023 the Secretary of State decided that the application for the above project satisfied/ d the acceptance tests under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The Planning Inspectorate's acceptance checklist and the application documents have been published and made available on the project page of our website.

In undertaking checks at the acceptance stage, the Inspectorate has made some initial observations in relation to the application. This letter comprises advice to the Applicant provided under section 51 of the PA2008 in respect of these initial observations. The Applicant should pay attention to its content and consider how appropriate action might be taken in response.

Consultees identified on a precautionary basis

Given the individual circumstances of this case, the Planning Inspectorate advises taking a precautionary approach to consultation under s42(1)(a) of PA2008 to ensure that all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the application are given the opportunity to participate fully in the Examination of the application. On this basis, the Applicant may wish to serve notice on the bodies listed in Box 6 of the section 55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008; unless there is a specific justification why this is not necessary.

Book of Reference and Consultation Report inconsistency

A small number of persons or organisations were identified in the **Book of Reference (Doc C4.3)** who did not appear to be reflected in the s44 table provided in **Appendix 5.8**

(**Doc C5.8**) of the **Consultation Report (Doc C5.1)**. On this basis, the Applicant may wish to check the BoR and serve notice on any missing s44 persons as referred to in Box 10 of the section 55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56 of the PA2008; unless there is a specific justification why this is not necessary.

Minor errors and omissions

A number of minor errors and omissions have been identified, including those identified in Box 10 and Box 30 of the section 55 checklist. The Applicant may wish to carry out a detailed review of the relevant documents and submit updated documents.

Ramsar sites

The Applicant may wish to address an issue identified in Box 31 of the section 55 checklist in relation to the consideration given to Ramsar sites in the Habitats Regulation Assessment.

Please pay close attention to the advice set out in this letter and act on it accordingly. Ensuring that documentation is complete and accurate in a timely manner will assist other parties and the Examining Authority and contribute to a more efficient examination.

We trust you find this advice helpful, however if you have any queries on these matters then please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Simon Raywood

Simon Raywood
Case Manager

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