

Mr Rory Cridland
Examining Authority
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our Int. Party ref: 20036971
Your ref: EN010133

Date: 12 October 2023

By email:
CottamSolarProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

**Order Granting Development Consent for the Cottam Solar Project (EN010133)
– Deadline 1 submission – Written summary following Issue Specific Hearing
1: Draft Development Consent Order**

Dear Sir

Please see our summary of oral submissions made at Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) 1 on 06 September 2023 below:

Schedule 17: Procedure for Discharge of Requirements

We commented on agenda item 6 (m) on the procedure for Discharge of Requirements.

We have concerns that the procedure outlined in section 17 of the Development Consent Order (DCO) will not provide sufficient time for adequate consultation to take place on the Discharge of Requirements.

Schedule 17, Paragraph 3(3), ‘further information and consultation’ references a 15-day turnaround from when the relevant planning authority receives further information and requires consultation with another party (i.e. The Environment Agency).

If the relevant planning authority does not issue the consultation until the fifth day, this would only provide the consultee with 10 working days to respond. The Environment Agency requests that this is amended to 20 working days to provide sufficient consultation timescales that align with those in the Development Management Procedure Order 2015, i.e. 21 days (equivalent to 15 working days) in addition to the 5 working days allocated for the relevant planning authority to issue the consultation.

Paragraph 4 (2)(c) – Appeals

Similarly with Paragraph 4, ‘appeals’, (2)(c) we would ask it to be amended to allow representations to be submitted within 20 working days. This is to allow the relevant planning authority sufficient time should they require consultee input.



It is our understanding from ISH1 that the applicant intends to align the DCO wording with that of the Gate Burton Energy Park draft DCO. This would satisfy our concerns when it comes to Schedule 17 for Cottam Solar Project, however, the appeals section has not yet been amended and as such, this concern is still outstanding following on from ISH1.

Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Kind regards

Keri Monger AssocRTPI
Planning Specialist

██████████ [@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:██████████@environment-agency.gov.uk)