

Cottam Solar Project

Written Summary of the Applicant's Oral Submissions & Responses at Issue Specific Hearing 6, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 and Open Floor Hearing 3

Prepared by: Pinsent Masons LLP
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Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Cottam Solar Project Ltd.
Examination Deadline 6

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#	ExA Question / Item for discussion	Applicant's response
Agenda Item 1 - Welcome, opening remarks and introductions		
1	Welcome and introductions	<p>The ExA opened the hearing and the following parties introduced themselves:</p> <p>The Applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claire Brodrick, Legal Director at Pinsent Masons LLP (solicitors for the Applicant) <p>No local authorities or other Interested Parties were in attendance.</p>
Agenda Item 2 - The purpose of the hearing and how it will be conducted		
2	The purpose of these hearings	<p>The ExA explained the purpose of the hearings, noting that the hearings are being conducted under regulations 14, 15 and 16 of the Infrastructure Planning Compulsory Acquisition Regulations 2010, and noting that this hearing would comprise an issue specific hearing, a compulsory acquisition hearing and an open floor hearing, held concurrently. The ExA also confirmed the hearings were primarily for the purpose of hearing from those who wish to make oral submissions in respect of the Applicant's proposed changes to the application, set out in the Change Application ([AS-042] to [AS-071]).</p>
Agenda Item 3 – Applicant's update on Change Application		
3	Brief summary by the Applicant of Changes to the application and any effect these have on the Applicant's case.	<p>Ms Brodrick noted that there are five changes to the Application proposed by the Applicant. She noted that she would describe each briefly, adding that further detail on each of the changes is set out in the Change Application and Consultation Report [AS-063]. She described the changes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change 1 – An extension to Order limits to the south of Torksey Ferry Road. It comprises and extension of the Order land for works to construct and operate the underground 400kV cable and associated development. She noted that the grid connections for this Scheme together with two other solar projects, the Gate Burton Energy Park and Tillbridge Solar Park are all located and being connected into the Cottam substation, which is on the former Cottam Power Station site. Ms Brodrick noted that there have been ongoing discussions with EDF Energy and Uniper, who own or have a leasehold interest in the former Cottam Power Station site and have apparatus located there. She further noted that there are plans for redevelopment of that site following the decommissioning of the power station. During discussions relating to voluntary land agreements and protective provisions with both EDF and Uniper, both parties indicated a preference for the cables to enter Cottam substation from the south. Therefore the Applicant put together, in collaboration with the Gate Burton Energy Park and Tillbridge Solar Park developers, a relocated the route for the cables so that they can connect into the substation from the south. She added that a similar change application was made for the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO application, and that was similarly accepted and examined as part of that examination. Change 2 – Ms Brodrick noted that this change is related to Change 1, and comprises an extension to Order Limits to the east and west along Torksey Ferry Road and to land to the north of Torskey Ferry Road. She added that this change is to accommodate access during construction for the majority of the road and (for some parts of the road) access to the cables during operation. She added that the land to the north of Torksey Ferry Road, which is an access point into EDF's land, is only

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		<p>to accommodate access during construction. Ms Brodrick confirmed that this alternative route is being proposed due to concerns raised by EDF that access through the Cottam Power Station site, through the Cable Route Corridor, could have an impact on their demolition works and future redevelopment plans, depending on whether the timings of those two sets of works overlap. She added that, again, the change mirrors the change that was accepted in the Gate Burton Solar Park examination. She noted that part of Torksey Ferry Road was originally included within the Order Limits for the Scheme, confirming that it is an extension to the east and west that is being proposed as part of this Change Application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change 3 – This change is an extension to Order Limits along A156 High Street, Marton, which relates to construction access point reference AC108. Ms Brodrick noted that a review of the construction access points was taken in collaboration with the Gate Burton Energy Park developer to try and achieve alignment between the construction access points along the Shared Cable Route Corridor. She added that, as part of the exercise, it was identified that a slightly longer visibility splay was needed in this location. She confirmed that this change means that the Order Limits match the Order Limits for the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO in this location. • Change 4 – Ms Brodrick confirmed that this change comprises an extension to, and removal of land from, the Order Limits at Normanby by Stow. She added that the ExA may recall a number of comments were raised at Open Floor Hearing 1 (see [REP-050]) and submitted into the Examination by the landowners who live in dwellings at West Farm and West Farm Cottages, raising concerns about the proposed cable route along an existing access track between their properties and indicating a strong preference for the cable to be re-routed south of those properties. She confirmed that the Applicant has liaised with these parties and is proposing a new route, running from the crossing of the River Till in a south-westerly direction, crossing Normanby Road approximately 100m north of the junction with Coates Lane. The cable route would then rejoin the existing cable route corridor approximately 500m to the west of Normanby Road. This has resulted in an extension of the cable route by 950m. As part of this change, the original route in the Order Limits has been removed. • Change 5 – This change is a small extension to the Order Limits at Stone Pit Lane, Willingham by Stow. This is to facilitate abnormal load access 13. Ms Brodrick noted that discussions with the landowner have been ongoing, and he has indicated there is an underground storage tank and apparatus within his field, however the exact location is currently unknown and the landowner is not able to provide details. She added that landowner is concerned that the construction of the abnormal load access could potentially pose a risk to any underground apparatus, and therefore agreement has been reached with the landowner so that an alternative route within his land, in the same field to the east of Stone Pit Lane, could be used once surveys have been carried out pre-construction to determine the exact location of the underground apparatus. She confirmed that this change is therefore to give flexibility for the access route within that field once the exact location of the underground apparatus has been determined pre-construction. <p>Ms Brodrick also referred to further detail being available about the changes on the revised Works Plans ([AS-045], now [REP4-005]) and Land Plans ([AS-044] now [REP4-004]) submitted with the Change Application.</p> <p>She added that the Supporting Environmental Information Report (SEIR) [AS-064] assessed each of the changes on a topic by topic basis to determine if there were any changes to the assessment conclusions that formed part of the Environmental Statement</p>

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		submitted with the DCO Application. She confirmed that section 5 of the SEIR [AS-064] sets out the conclusions and states that for all topic matters, with the exception of landscape and visual impacts (LVIA), no new or different likely significant effects were identified. Ms Brodrick confirmed that, in respect of LVIA, new significant effects for transport receptors TO83 and TO85 were identified relating to the temporary removal of sections of hedgerow for construction access, at the construction and year 1 phases of assessment that had not been identified in the Environmental Statement (see Chapter 8 [REP2-008]). She added that those significant effects will reduce when the hedgerows are replanted and grow back.
Agenda Item 4 – Representations from Additional Affected persons and Additional Interested Parties		
4	Representations from Additional Affected persons and Additional Interested Parties including in relation to the Proposed Development and the proposed provisions of the Change Request.	No representations were made.
Agenda Item 5 – Responses by the Applicant		
5	Responses by the Applicant (if not done individually under item 6).	No responses were required from the Applicant.
Agenda Item 6 – Other matters		
6	Other matters	<p>Ms Brodrick noted that the ExA would not have yet had the chance to review the Deadline 5 submissions submitted on 27 February 2024, but noted that the Applicant has provided responses to the ExA's questions relating to the Change Application, particularly on Torksey Ferry Road (please see the Applicant's Responses to the ExA's Third Written Questions [REP5-032]).</p> <p>Ms Brodrick also noted that Applicant has provided a general update on the status of negotiations with landowners and statutory undertakers (see [REP5-028], [REP5-029] and [REP5-030]). She confirmed that a number of signed Statements of Common Ground were submitted as part of the Deadline 5 submissions (see the Statement of Commonality for a summary of progress [REP5-027]). The exception to this is Lincolnshire County Council, which is far progressed, and the Applicant hopes to have this signed and submitted in by the close of examination.</p> <p>Ms Brodrick raised that, prior to the close of examination, the Applicant hopes to provide further updates on statutory undertakers and the section 135 consent which is being sought from The Crown Estate.</p> <p><i>Post hearing note: Please see the Applicant Closing Statements [EX6/C8.1.36] and Applicant Responses to Deadline 5 Submissions [EX6/C8.1.37].</i></p>
Agenda Item 7 - Close		
7	Close	The ExA closed the hearing.