



Meeting note

Project name	West Burton Solar Project and Cottam Solar Project
File reference	EN010132 and EN010133
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	31 May 2022
Meeting with	Island Green Power
Venue	Microsoft Teams
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.

Progress Update

The Applicant noted it is engaging with various Statutory Consultees. The Applicant further explained it has progressed the site layout and is refining the cable corridor routes.

The Applicant stated it is progressing towards its Statutory Consultation and it is finalising its PEIR documents. The Statutory Consultation is anticipated to open on 15 June for a six-week period as its second phase of defined consultation. The Applicant noted it has approximately six deposit locations and it is proposing to work closely with and align consultation timeframes with Low Carbon and Gate Burton solar projects; this is to seek to provide information to allow the wider, cumulative context of the proposed schemes to be understood and is working closely with their team. The Applicant stated it is considering an approach where it may drop into and attend Gate Burton consultation sessions.

Archaeology Evaluation Approach

The Applicant stated it proposes to take an evidence-led, targeted approach to archaeological trial trenching and initial meetings with the host authority, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), agreed on this approach. Since submitting a draft Written Scheme of Investigation and trial trenching plans, LCC has requested an alternative percentage-based approach of 3+1%. The Applicant noted that it was concerned this would elongate the timeframe and costing of the project significantly and favoured a targeted, evidence-led approach as initially agreed by using trenching to define the extent of existing archaeology as identified by the geophysical surveys. The Applicant explained that LCC alternately stated in

meetings with the Applicant that it would prefer trenching to be located in 'blank' areas to characterise the archaeological baseline where it is currently unknown as geophysical surveys can fail to pick up significant areas of archaeology based on a number of factors e.g. geology. The Applicant would like to consider a staged approach if LCC agree to this.

The Inspectorate advised it would aim to organise a meeting between LCC and the relevant Applicants to discuss the approach to trial trenching in the hope to reach some form of agreement as currently, LCC have not had the opportunity to communicate its position to the Inspectorate.