

# Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Cottam Solar Project
<b>File reference</b>	EN010133
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	14 November 2022
<b>Meeting with</b>	Applicant
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<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.

### ***Expected submission date***

The Applicant confirmed it would be working towards the 6 January 2023 for submission of Cottam Solar Project. The Inspectorate requested that the Applicant update the Inspectorate with any changes to the expected submission date.

The Inspectorate also asked when the GIS shapefile would be submitted. The Applicant suggested this could be submitted in advance of Christmas. The Inspectorate advised that this can be submitted as soon as it is ready and requested that it is at least 10 working days in advance of submission of the application. The Applicant stated that it would confirm the specific date via email.

### ***Submission logistics***

Both parties discussed the logistics for submission of the application. The Inspectorate advised that information around submission could be found in Advice Note Six on the Inspectorate's website. The Inspectorate confirmed that the warm-up letter would be sent prior to submission. The Inspectorate also requested that the Applicant provide contact details for the Local Authorities within the next two weeks so that warm-up letters could be sent to them.

The Inspectorate queried whether the documents would be shared through a files sharing site. The Applicant confirmed this would be the case. The Inspectorate then stated that it would provide a list of people who would need access to the site. The Inspectorate also provided advice around document sizes and directed the Applicant towards Advice Note Six and the appendices for Advice Note Six for more information.

The Applicant asked about sharing application documents with a Local Authority prior to submission, as per the Local Authority's request. The Inspectorate advised that this a

decision for the Applicant but recommended that the Applicant notify the Local Authority should documents be revised prior to submission. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider the need for file sharing agreements. The Applicant stated that it would make this clear when sharing. It was also indicated by the Inspectorate that consideration should be given to ensuring all relevant Local Authorities have access to these documents, should they be provided to any of the Local Authorities.

## ***Environment***

The Inspectorate queried whether any key environmental matters had arisen during consultation, including around archaeology. The Applicant suggested it was in an ongoing dialogue about archaeological matters.

## ***Technological explanation document***

The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant had produced a document that would explain the technology involved in the project. The Applicant explained that this information would be in the various documents that would be submitted and asked whether the Inspectorate sought something specific. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to look at the 'Technical Guide for solar power generation, storage, maintenance and decommissioning' document on the Inspectorate's website. This example document was produced for the Little Crow Solar Park (EN010101) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project case, which received consent in April 2022. The Applicant stated that it would explore this document and consider whether to submit something similar as part of its Application.

## ***Future stages***

Both parties discussed next steps and timings if the proposal were to be accepted. The Applicant queried whether the Inspectorate had reached a decision on its approach to the timing and resources allocated to this scheme and two other proposed developments in the local area that are anticipated to be subject to examination during similar timescales. It was stated by the Inspectorate that, due to the delay to submission of the Application, no firm determination had been made at this time. It was also stated by the Inspectorate that actual submission dates of the Applications, and whether they were to be accepted, would affect timings of the Examination process. It was recognised by both parties that the Examination process for three closely located schemes subject to a similar timetable could create additional pressures on as well as synergies for parties to the Examination.

## ***Specific decisions/ follow-up required***

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant will provide the shapefile at least 10 working days prior to submission.
- The Inspectorate will prepare for submission of the Application including providing details of officials requiring access to the documents at the point of submission to the Applicant.