Meeting note

Project name Stonestreet Green Solar

File reference EN010135
Status Final

Author The Planning Inspectorate

Date 26 May 2023

Meeting with EPL 001 Limited

Venue Microsoft Teams

Meeting Project Update Meeting

objectives

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.

Programme Update

EPL 001 Limited (the 'Applicant') explained that their project programme has been delayed by two weeks. The Applicant explained that it will start Statutory Consultation on the 12 June 2023 and run until the 17 July 2023.

The Applicant explained its intention to submit draft documents for review by the Inspectorate in July 2023. The Inspectorate advised that the draft documents service can take between 6-8 weeks depending on what the Applicant intends to submit.

The Applicant stated it intends to submit an application for Development Consent in September 2023.

The Applicant stated that it has published the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on 26 May 2023.

Grid Connection Update

The Applicant explained it is consulting on two route options for connection into the Sellindge substation. The Applicant explained that the redline boundary has expanded surrounding the crossing point of the HS1 railway line to allow optionality regarding the crossing method. The Inspectorate queried if this extension of the redline boundary would result in additional consultees. The Applicant responded that it would not as it would only be a minor expansion to the red line boundary.

Engagement Update

The Applicant explained it has conducted technical meetings with local authorities and has taken on board their comments and concerns.

The Applicant stated they are discussing trial trenching with Kent County Council and are waiting on a formal response. The Applicant also stated they have had positive discussion with Kent County Council over public rights of way.

Action Points

The Applicant to continue to update the Inspectorate should there be any changes to the programme timetable, including a specific date on when draft documents will be submitted.

The Applicant to confirm whether a Habitats Regulations Assessment report is to be provided as part of the suite of draft documents to review.

The Inspectorate will update their website to show the new expected submission date in Autumn 2023.