

## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Stonestreet Green Solar
<b>File reference</b>	EN010135
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	01 December 2023
<b>Meeting with</b>	EPL 001 Limited (“The 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.

### Project Update

The Applicant explained that the submission date originally planned for October has been extended due to the identification of additional category 1 and 2 landowners and minor changes made to the order limits in relation to the Sellindge substation connection. The Applicant is now predicting a January submission date.

### Consultation Update

A period of targeted consultation was undertaken to consult these additional landowners and those impacted by the adjusted order limits. Considering the changes are minor, the Applicant does not anticipate many responses to the consultation. The expected substation connection date is flexible and if construction is delayed it can delay from October 2025 into 2026.

### Engagement Update

The Applicant discussed the regular ongoing meetings with Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and Kent County Council (KCC). The principal issue raised by ABC relates to the scale of the Proposed Development. Follow up meetings will be held with these Local Authorities (LAs) to discuss responses to the consultation. Discussions with KCC to agree an approach to matters relating to archaeology and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) are currently ongoing. Whilst broad agreement has been reached, trial trenching is still under discussion and is unlikely to reach agreement before

submission. An additional meeting will be held in December 2023 to discuss the strategy for addressing PRow routes.

There has been good progress in discussions with Network Rail who are concerned about works with potential to impact the local railway line. The Applicant intends to make use of an existing duct which will reduce possible impact.

The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency on an alternative cable route to avoid flood storage areas. This consultation has informed design and appropriate standoffs and is anticipated to be agreed prior to submission.

Following the objection from National Grid (NG) on the inclusion of their asset within the red line boundary, the Applicant has since agreed with UK Power Networks (UKPN) that no works would be undertaken on NGs asset other than to connect. Agreement has not currently been reached with NG on this matter, but the Applicant is undertaking further discussions with UKPN and NG to resolve the objection.

Engagement with Historic England and the Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is currently ongoing. The Applicant has decentralised the location of battery storage. This is to reduce the amount of energy lost through conversion and to increase the distance between battery units to reduce the risk of potential incidents. Consultation with KFRS has informed safety management plans and appropriate access to each of the battery sites.

## **Programme Update and Path to Submission**

The Applicant is currently expecting to submit the application for a Development Consent Order in late January 2024. Regarding plans and drawing scales within the submission, the Applicant noted that some scales will differ from the recommended 1:2500 scale. The Inspectorate recommended inclusion of reasoning and justification for any choices made relating to scale size.