

# Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Stonestreet Green Solar</b>
<b>File reference</b>	<b>EN010135</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>18 March 2024</b>
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>EPL 001 Limited</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Microsoft Teams</b>
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	<b>Project Update Meeting</b>
<b>Circulation</b>	<b>All attendees</b>

## 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.

## Consultation Update/Stakeholder Update

The Applicant has recently undertaken targeted consultation, as a result of changes to the Order Limits, which closed on 12 March 2024.:

The Planning Inspectorate asked the Applicant how many landowners were within the Order Limits. The Applicant confirmed that there are four main landowners. Discussions have taken place with those parties and Heads of Terms are being prepared.

### Local Authorities

Monthly meetings are ongoing with Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and Kent County Council (KCC). Folkstone High District Council are no longer a host Authority as a result of changes to the Order Limits.

Draft Archaeological Management Strategy, Archaeological Landscape Assessment and Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation Report were shared with KCC, and feedback has been incorporated.

DCO Requirements drafts have been shared with ABC and KCC.

The Applicant's Public Rights of Way Strategy has now been agreed with KCC.

The Applicant is hopeful that by the DCO application submission it will have a small list of outstanding issues remaining. This is likely to include amount of archaeological trial trenching, landscape and visual impacts, the impact on Public Rights of Way.

## **Statutory Bodies**

The Applicant has also held discussions with several statutory parties. These include the Environment Agency (relating to flood storage area), Natural England (draft Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment shared), Historic England (draft Heritage Statement shared), UKPN/National Grid (connection to Sellindge substation), Network Rail/HS1 (Protective Provisions), Southern Water (Protective Provisions).

## **Programme Update**

The Applicant is targeting a DCO application submission date of 26 April 2024. The final Geographical Information System Shapefile will be submitted to the Inspectorate shortly after the meeting as well as the application fee payment. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that fees would increase on 1 April 2024 and the fees section on the Inspectorate's website would be updated shortly.

The Applicant confirmed that a local group has been raising concerns about the adequacy of consultation. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to document this matter in its Consultation Report, and to respond to the concerns raised. The Inspectorate also asked what engagement the Applicant had with the group; the Applicant confirmed that it had spoken with the group on several occasions. The Inspectorate encouraged ongoing dialogue with the group.