



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Byers Gill Solar
<b>File reference</b>	EN010139
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	12 December 2022
<b>Meeting with</b>	JBM Solar (“The Applicant”) and their representatives
<b>Venue</b>	Virtual meeting
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting following issue of EIA Scoping Opinion.
<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.

### Introduction

A quick introduction was made of those present representing the Planning Inspectorate and new representatives of the Applicant (JBM Solar).

### Project Update

A project and programme update was provided by the Applicant during which the Applicant confirmed to the Inspectorate that it is currently undertaking ecological, geophysical and agricultural land classification surveys, including the area for the cable route. The ecological, geographical and geophysical surveys, and engagement are currently continuing into the foreseeable future. The Applicant anticipates Statutory Consultation will commence in Spring 2023. The Applicant was clear that it was mindful of the timing of Elections to Host Local Authorities and the desirability of not having a conflict in timing between the Electoral process and the Statutory Consultation.

The Applicant was encouraged to keep the Inspectorate informed of changes in the programme of the Project to assist resource planning.

### Scoping Opinion Feedback and Clarification

The Applicant requested clarification on particular points in the Scoping Opinion around cultural heritage, landscape and visual impacts, battery storage, traffic and transport and waste management; the Inspectorate clarified that supporting information may be provided as separate assessments or appendices with the application where appropriate and this should be cross-referenced in the Environmental Statement to the information it is supporting.



## **Any other Business**

The Inspectorate raised the need for the Applicant to consider the approach to be taken with respect to the 2023 Local Government Re-Organisation in North Yorkshire and Cumbria. It was recognised that although the host authorities for this scheme are unaffected, thought needed to be given to how this may need to be reflected in consultees for the Byers Gill Solar Project.

The meeting was concluded by the Inspectorate, and questions were raised on when the next project update meeting would be undertaken. The Applicant was unsure specifically on the date but indicated that the next Project Update Meeting with the Inspectorate would likely take place in Spring 2023.

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

The following action was agreed:

- Planning Inspectorate Environmental Services Team to provide clarification on Scoping Opinion point reference 3.5.5 – Wider Impact on farm holdings.

## **Post Meeting Note:**

The following clarification was provided by the Inspectorate on Monday 12 December 2022 to the Applicant on Scoping Opinion reference 3.5.5 following the meeting:

*“Regarding the query on section 3.5.5 of the Scoping Opinion (‘Wider impact on farm holdings’), the Scoping Report provided that to scope out wider impacts to farm holdings required further evidence to confirm that the landowners in the Site Area have voluntarily agreed to give up their land for the Proposed Development and that the full range of potential significant effects have been considered. As an example, such evidence could include a short statement to confirm that no compulsory acquisition will be required as part of the Proposed Development.”*

