



The Planning Inspectorate

**East Yorkshire Solar Farm**

**EN010143**

**s51 Advice Log**

**Updated: 27 October 2023**

A new approach to the recording of s51 advice is being trialled on the East Yorkshire Solar Farm under the [NSIP Reform Early Adopters Programme](#).

This document contains the advice that has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate at meetings with the applicant (East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited (a Boom Power company)) and their consultants. The format used should be considered as transitional at this time as the approach is developed.

This log is a record of advice we have provided for this project.

There is a statutory duty under [section 51 of the Planning Act 2008](#) to record the advice that is given in relation to an application or potential application and to make this publicly available.

**East Yorkshire Solar Farm  
s51 Advice Log - Index**

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Meeting overview</b>
<a href="#"><u>20 July 2022</u></a>	Inception Meeting and Introduction to project
<a href="#"><u>11 November 2022</u></a>	Project Update Meeting
<a href="#"><u>25 January 2023</u></a>	Project Update Meeting
<a href="#"><u>11 July 2023</u></a>	Project Update Meeting and Early Adopters Programme Initiation
<a href="#"><u>15 September 2023</u></a>	Project Update Meeting, Early Adopters Programme Initiation, Draft Documents Review and Pre-Submission Matters

**East Yorkshire Solar Farm  
s51 Advice Library**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Meeting date: 20 July 2022</b>
Environmental Statement – visual impact	The Inspectorate advised that the Environmental Statement should illustrate the worst-case scenario in terms of landscape mitigation including winter photomontages for the Year 15 scenario.
Environmental Statement – cumulative impact	The Inspectorate highlighted some potential areas of concerns, the cumulative regional scale impacts of projects, for instance, in relation to agricultural land, archaeological resources and birds and landscape.
Biodiversity	The Applicant confirmed that its intention was to go beyond the 10% BNG and make the project as biodiversity positive as possible. It claimed to have a good track record in this respect and confirmed that an Environmental Management Plan would be produced as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) submission. The Inspectorate highlighted the importance of ensuring that sheep grazing densities do not impact on the biodiversity potential of the site.
Stakeholder and Consultation strategy	The Inspectorate advised that the accessibility of hard copy and downloadable documents (files size, broadband speed, etc) should be considered. It also advised that the Applicant should consider hard-to-reach/seldom heard groups and ask the Local Authorities for further advice.
Practical Arrangements for scoping and document templates	The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant of the Statutory Instrument template and of sending the GIS shape files before submitting the Scoping Report.
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Meeting date: 11 November 2022</b>
2023 Local Government Re-organisation in North Yorkshire and Cumbria	The Inspectorate raised the imminent 2023 Local Government reorganisation in North Yorkshire and Cumbria and stated that the Applicant may need to account for and reflect this within their application documents.
Statements of Common Ground and Statements of Commonality	The Inspectorate encouraged the progressing of Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) so that these were as advanced as far as possible by submission of the application.

	It was also noted that Statements of Commonality were becoming more common and can be useful
2023 Local Government Re-organisation in North Yorkshire and Cumbria	The Applicant confirmed that the statutory consultation will be targeted for February or March 2023, in preparation for submission in summer 2023. The Inspectorate also raised the timing of statutory consultation as being close to the implementation of the 2023 Local Government reorganisation and encouraged the Applicant to be mindful of potential consequences of the timing of the statutory consultation as outlined in the current project programme
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Meeting date: 25 January 2023</b>
Consultation materials	The Inspectorate explained the importance of making sure consultation material is clear and easy to understand and suggested the use of local landmarks to make locations easily identifiable when drafting plans.
Policy context – Timescales for designation of National Policy Statement Energy Suite.	The Applicant queried whether there was an update on the National Policy Statement energy suite, which was rumoured may be subject to further consultation and designation shortly. The Inspectorate advised that it was not currently able to comment.
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Meeting date: 11 July 2023</b>
Early Adopters Programme (EAP) - Programme Plan	<p>This is a mandatory component of the EAP. The Applicant must prepare a Programme Plan for publication on its website in order that stakeholders may understand, and where relevant contribute towards, key milestones in the build-up to the submission of the application. The Applicant is expected to update the plan if/when changes to the programme occur.</p> <p>The Applicant must also proactively share with the Inspectorate and principal consultees (e.g. statutory environmental consultees) a detailed Programme Plan which establishes when service interactions will be requested to occur e.g. meetings, review and feedback. All requested interactions associated with the EAP components engaged must be agreed in the detailed Programme Plan.</p> <p>The Inspectorate requested for the public Programme Plan to be published on the Applicant’s website within two weeks.</p>
Early Adopters Programme (EAP) – Use of s51 Advice Log	This is an optimised way to record interactions with the Applicant and any advice issued by the Inspectorate. A similar approach had been trialled previously on the <a href="#">A66 North Trans Pennine Project</a> case. The log would be

	maintained by the Inspectorate and a copy of the template shared with the Applicant for information.
Early Adopters Programme (EAP) – Use of multiparty meetings	The Inspectorate summarised its offer under this component and requested for the Applicant to confirm (i) any multiparty meetings that it would wish to engage as soon as possible following the meeting and (ii) the requested role of the Inspectorate in any meetings.
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Meeting date: 15 September 2023</b>
Consultations with Natural England	The Applicant outlined discussions that had been had with Natural England regarding Habitats Regulation Assessment and the location of functionally linked land for bird species. The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant that these discussions should be reflected within the documentation submitted as part of a Development Consent Order Application.
Submission process	In response to a query from the Applicant on the technical process of submission, the Inspectorate made clear that file sharing was standard practice, but they do not insist or recommend specific services.
Draft Documents	The Inspectorate advised that it seeks to work to a six to eight week turnaround time for Draft Document Review and this is the period being worked to currently.
Documents – Scale requirements in APFP Regulation 5 (4A)	The Applicant raised the topic of the scale it intends to use for figures to be included in the Environmental Statement, which in accordance with the approach on other recent solar DCO applications, will not follow the scale specified in APFP Reg 5 (4A). The Inspectorate did not provide a view on the scale of the figures in the Environmental Statement.