



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Botley West Solar Farm
<b>File reference</b>	EN010145
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	13 March 2024
<b>Meeting with</b>	Photovoltaic Development Partners (PVDP) on behalf of SolarFive Ltd
<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.

### Statutory consultation

The Applicant confirmed that statutory consultation closed on 8 February 2024, with approximately 1000 items of feedback. The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant thoroughly demonstrates regard to concerns raised during consultation in the Consultation Report and recommended that the Applicant engage with consultees throughout the process. The Inspectorate enquired as to whether a community newsletter is likely to be issued to summarise the consultation feedback; the Applicant confirmed that this is likely to take place in due course.

The Applicant advised that it held Planning Performance Agreements with the relevant Local Authorities.

### Red line boundary refinement

The Applicant informed that as a result of consultation feedback, changes were being proposed to the red line boundary which includes removing cable options and including a new route, all of which the Applicant informed the Inspectorate it planned to undertake further targeted consultation on shortly. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure an explanation is provided in the Consultation Report in due course as to why the consultation was targeted as opposed to full.

The Applicant stated that all cable route options would be considered in the Alternatives chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES).

The Applicant informed that it was pursuing consent for a National Grid substation on land owned by the Applicant and explained that a joint statement with National Grid would be submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider the Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects' approach to optionality and the Examining Authority's examination of it, as a previous example, with the caveat that the application was currently undetermined. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to include a stand-alone document within the DCO application to fully explain the optionality.

### **Environmental update**

The Applicant informed that agricultural use of the land may be retained through conservation grazing management and that target Biodiversity Net Gain would be achieved through an optimum management regime. The Inspectorate queried whether grazing management would be secured as if not, this could not be relied upon as mitigation in the ES. The Applicant acknowledged this and confirmed that mitigation relied upon in the ES would be appropriately secured through the DCO.

The Inspectorate advised that information relating to how the Proposed Development may enhance National Landscapes may be requested within Examination.

### **Any other business**

The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant planned on submitting draft documents for review and advised the Applicant on which documents are often included in draft documents submission. The Inspectorate informed that this review would take between six to eight weeks and recommended leaving sufficient time after receiving feedback to edit documents prior to submitting them as part of the application.

The Applicant confirmed that an updated programme, including dates for targeted consultation, draft document submission and the DCO application submission date would be provided as soon as possible after the meeting.