



## 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>	12 June 2024
<b>Meeting with</b>	Photovolt 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.

### Approach to further consultation

The Applicant confirmed they intended to carry out a further six weeks targeted consultation from 14 June 2024 to 28 July 2024, following the suggestion by a local authority to extend the consultation by an extra week. This consultation aimed to address minor red line boundary changes (57 in total) relating to transport access, feasibility and exclusion of unnecessary land. The Applicant described the consultation, which included consulting approximately 24000 households using postcards confirming how to access documents electronically and also making documents available at five public libraries. The Applicant confirmed that members of the public would be able to respond via email, post and telephone. The Applicant noted it would include a summary of feedback received in its final consultation report. The Inspectorate advised full information about the targeted consultation should be detailed in the report, including the justification for the targeted approach.

### Programme Update

The Applicant anticipated submitting the Development Consent Order (DCO) in September 2024 [now proposed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024]. The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant to keep them updated on any changes and advised that warm up letters would be issued to the relevant Local Authorities in advance of submission, regarding responses on the adequacy of consultation.

The Applicant also confirmed meeting with the local authorities to update them on their statutory consultation and discuss the adequacy of the consultations.

## **Update on draft documents**

The Inspectorate advised that it would need six to eight weeks to review the draft application documents. The Applicant confirmed this had been factored into the planned programme.

The Applicant planned to submit the draft application documents including the project description, 25 related plans, 13 master plans and Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement (ES).

The Applicant inquired about the file transfer method for large documents to which the Inspectorate suggested using a file sharing platform and suggested to do a test run before sending all files. The Inspectorate advised that all draft application documents should be received at the same time for review once test run is successful.

## **Any other business**

The Applicant responded that it has revised the cable route corridors, which had triggered the further consultation. Chapter 6 of the ES explained the changes.

The Inspectorate signposted the Applicant to the Ministerial Statement on solar energy for consideration. The Inspectorate reiterated that the application should set out the land classifications of the Proposed Development site, and where the Proposed Development is located on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land, this should be appropriately justified.

The Applicant confirmed that it will submit information to inform a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) as an appendix to the ES rather than a separate document. It would produce a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) document alongside Historic England. The HIA would form part of the Environmental Statement.

The Applicant confirmed that a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) was in place with the relevant local authorities (LA) and regular meetings were being held to discuss Statements of Common Ground (SoCG). The Applicant intended to consent the National Grid substation within its site boundary. The selected site was on the short list from National Grid (NG), and it will continue to engage with NG on this matter and are working towards a joint statement. The Applicant would provide options within the draft DCO in this regard.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to start to consider suitable venues for future hearings should the application be accepted for Examination.

The next meeting would be arranged after the draft application documents review, if required.