



Meeting note

Project name	Fenwick Solar Farm
File reference	EN010152
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	11 October 2023
Meeting with	Fenwick Solar Project Limited
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	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.

Project Update

The Applicant was exploring two potentially viable options for grid connection and discussed efforts to narrow the working site boundaries of the grid connection corridor between the generating farm and local Thorpe Marsh substation. The Applicant was considering a 400kV system for the entire cable route. Following the non-statutory consultation and engagement with landowners, the red line boundary for the photovoltaic (PV) panel site area had been extended further south.

Production of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report was expected in March 2024. Statutory Consultation is expected to occur over six weeks within April and May of 2024. Submission of the Environmental Statement and Development Consent Order (DCO) application is now Q4 2024.

The Applicant planned for a draft document review between the Statutory Consultation and the submission of the DCO with further details to be provided in due course.

Consultation and Engagement Overview

The non-statutory consultation ran for four weeks from 27 June 2023 to 24 July 2023. A brochure explaining the proposal was mailed out to residents and businesses in the area. Other consultation material included drop-in events, online webinars, press coverage and a website page.

The Applicant listed population density and venue availability as the considerations for locations of drop-in events. The Inspectorate advised that common issues with venue selection (for the examination) include distance of venues from local populations and projected site, as well as payment for parking. The Applicant stated that there were no current concerns about venues.

Key feedback themes from the non-statutory consultation included visual impacts, traffic complications, landscape character, Public Rights of Way, agricultural land loss, local wildlife protection and the community benefit fund.

The Applicant continued to engage with the Host Authority; City of Doncaster Council. Engagement with specialists on air quality, flood risk and water environment, archaeology and built heritage, highways, minerals and Public Rights of Way had taken place. Ongoing areas for discussion included landscape and visual amenity, agricultural land, noise, biodiversity and cumulative projects. The Applicant has also been communicating with other adjoining authorities such as North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire.

The Applicant listed other bodies which have been engaged with including:

- Historic England;
- Environment Agency;
- Yorkshire and Humber Drainage Boards;
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities & UK Health Security Agency;
- The Burnet Heritage Trust;
- Don, Dearne and Rother Network; and
- Natural England (NE).

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to evidence all attempts at engagement within the consultation report should they experience any issues obtaining responses.

Any Other Business

The Inspectorate shared that a month's notice would be required upon the Applicant deciding a date for a following update meeting.

