



Meeting note

Project name	Fosse Green Energy Project
File reference	EN010154
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	22 May 2023
Meeting with	Fosse Green Energy Limited
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Inception 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 Team and Introductions

The Applicant (Fosse Green Energy Limited) explained that they are a subsidiary of Windel Energy and Canadian Solar specialising in the development of renewable energy, in particular solar and battery energy storage systems. The Applicant is looking to develop a new solar farm with battery storage in the Lincolnshire and North Kesteven area.

Overview of the Project – Location and current activities

The Applicant shared the proposed development location which lies approximately 9km southwest of Lincoln. The proposed development will consist of a main site where the solar panels and battery storage will be located. The proposed development will also include a connection to the electrical distribution grid. New connection infrastructure including a sub-station will be required for the proposed development. The Applicant explained that the study area for the grid connection is located at Navenby and extends approximately 6 to 7km from the settlement of Navenby itself. The connection agreement will be linked to a proposed National Grid substation which will be located to the Eastern side of Navenby.

The Applicant explained that it is in the process of refining its proposed boundary for the main site and for the grid connection corridor. The Applicant also confirmed that it is currently working on the Scoping Report along with environmental surveys which are underway.

The Inspectorate advised The Applicant to ensure it engage with Local Authorities (LAs), key stakeholders, etc when completing the Archaeology Report.

Consultation and LPA

The Applicant described the public launch of the project which took place on the 11th May 2023. This was done through the following methods:

- Communications via email to elected representatives, MPs, ward councillors and parish councils
- 500 letters were sent out to neighbours of the potential development
- Press release was distributed to the local press
- The website containing information about the proposed development

Non -Statutory Consultation

The Applicant explained that a non-statutory consultation will run for six weeks and is anticipated to take place in June to July 2023. The Applicant plans to hold four in-person events and one online event. The consultation materials will include a project brochure, postcards to around 11,000 addresses, posters in local venues, advertisements, and updates to the website. The Applicant confirmed that it will be looking to make targeted communications with neighbours to the site, elected representatives, seldom heard groups, special and local interest groups, landowners, and technical stakeholders.

The Inspectorate advised that there are a lot of proposed developments currently within the Lincolnshire area, including others in the solar sector, and sought discussion from the Applicant on how it is considering the potential resourcing implications for Local Authorities (LAs) and other stakeholders. It was advised that the Applicant provide as much early information as possible about the development with the LAs and others and to be mindful of the need for ample time to be built into the programme to facilitate engagement given the volume of requests falling to authorities in the area.

Indicative Programme

The Applicant shared with the Inspectorate the predicted programme for the project, stating the intent to submit a DCO application in Q3 2024.

The Applicant is planning on holding a non-statutory consultation, a PEIR Report consultation and a statutory consultation between May 2023 and February/ March 2024.

The Applicant also shared its intention to request an EIA Scoping Opinion in early June. The Inspectorate advised that consideration should be given to avoiding EIA scoping during the non-statutory consultation period, as when the scoping consultation undertaken by the Inspectorate and any consultation undertaken by an applicant occur concurrently it can cause confusion for stakeholders and impact on the effectiveness of the consultations. The issue of other proposals planning consultation during this time frame was also raised. The Applicant accepted the need to ensure its consultation purpose and how to engage with it was communicated clearly. The Inspectorate also raised concern around the short notice that had been given of the intention to undertake EIA scoping and the implications for resourcing amongst authorities that may arise. The Inspectorate requested an exact date as to when the Scoping Request would be made to ensure resources are in place.

AOB

The Inspectorate discussed the process for setting up a project webpage on the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) website and a project mailbox and confirmed arrangements with the Applicant.

The Applicant confirmed that it will be looking for more regular update meetings from this point forward and general communication with The Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate made The Applicant aware of the draft document review service offered by The Inspectorate and recommended that this was taken into consideration to help support programme planning and making the Development Consent Order (DCO) submission.

The Applicant explained that they are in the process of signing a connection agreement for the proposed development. The Applicant confirmed that they are in discussions with key landowners and that land agreements are either already in place or are very close to being finalised.

Post Meeting Follow up on non-statutory consultation

The Applicant confirmed that it submitted the Scoping on the 19 June 2023, however, the non-statutory consultation will now take place September/October 2023.