



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Dean Moor Solar Farm</b>
<b>File reference</b>	<b>EN010155</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>10 January 2024</b>
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>FVS Dean Moor</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Microsoft Teams</b>
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	<b>Project Update Meeting</b>
<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.

### Non- Statutory Consultation

The Applicant discussed the non-statutory consultation that had taken place between October and November 2023. The Applicant advised that both in person and online consultation platforms had been used along with undertaking parish council briefings. The Applicant further advised that the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) had been shared and agreed with Cumberland Council.

In response to the consultation undertaken to date the Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the project export capacity, and draft Order Limits remain unchanged from previous meetings however updates to the preliminary layout will be undertaken in response to comments raised within the community consultation. Confirmation was provided that the scheme is expected to be in operation for 40 years.

The Applicant provided a summary of the Project layout, including updates which were planned to be assessed within the PEIR, which will be published in the forthcoming Statutory consultation.

The Applicant advised that authorities have been constructive within the process to date. The Applicant had continued to engage with Cumberland Council and the Lake District National Park Authority along with arranging CPD sessions with members and officers to advise on the role of the local authority in the pre-application stage along with the Development Consent Order (DCO) process in general. Further to this the Applicant had met with Cumberland Council's Environmental Health Officer and Minerals Officer in addition to meeting with the Highways Authority and lead local flood authority.

The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant that a section 46 notice is required to be sent to the Inspectorate on or ahead of statutory consultation commencing.

## **Project Programme**

The Applicant provided an update to the project timeline and informed the Inspectorate that it is planning on undertaking a 6-week Statutory Consultation period, including Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in March 2024. Following the current timescales the Applicant therefore anticipates submission of the DCO application in November 2024.

The Applicant advised that the programme had been amended to reflect appropriate timings for draft document review and to respond to feedback as previously advised by the Inspectorate.

## **PEIR update**

The Applicant provided an update on the PEIR and advised the Inspectorate that refinement had taken place to the PEIR in response to the meetings which had been held with statutory consultees. The Applicant advised that the PEIR will assess above the current proposals to allow for flexibility. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that it should be explained in the Environmental Statement where scope has been refined along with any agreement that has been made.

The Inspectorate raised whether regard had been given to fire safety. The Applicant confirmed that a Battery Safety Management Plan will be produced, and this may be included as an outline in the PEIR as the specific arrangements for the Battery Energy Storage System have not been finalised.

## **AOB**

The Inspectorate advised that open communication is encouraged from the Applicant and once a Case Manager has been allocated further meetings can be set up to provide updates on progress.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that they request one months' notice for full team meetings if they are required and meetings should follow key milestones in the project. The Inspectorate advised that meetings can assist with identifying issues that have been raised through consultation and provide an indication as to what issues are likely to become key issues of examination.

## **Specific decisions/ follow-up**

The following actions were agreed:

- Project update meeting to be arranged to update the Inspectorate on feedback from the statutory consultation.