

Meeting note

Project name	Maen Hir Solar Farm
File reference	EN010156
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	4 October 2023
Meeting with	Lightsource bp
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Pre-Scoping Meeting
Circulation	All attendees/ additional contacts to share meeting note

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.

Proposed Development

The Applicant gave an overview of the Proposed Development (PD), including the development areas, concept masterplan and timescales for the anticipated construction, operation, and decommissioning phases. The main elements of the proposed development remain the same as that discussed at the [Inception Meeting](#) in June 2023.

The operational phase of the PD is anticipated to be up to 60 years and the decommissioning is anticipated to take approximately 6 to 12 months.

Consenting Strategy

The Applicant gave an overview of the consenting strategy, including the Associated Development.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Applicant gave a contextual overview on designated landscapes, buried archaeological remains, woodlands and the visible energy infrastructure. It also spoke about the environmental assessment of Llyn Alaw, as well as the networks for National Cycle Routes, Rights of Way and natural green space in and around Anglesey.

The Applicant's intention is to submit its EIA Scoping Report during the week commencing 30 October 2023. A GIS shapefile will be supplied two weeks prior to the Scoping submission date. This will demonstrate the development areas for the solar arrays and the corridors for cable routes for grid connection, as well as potential access areas.

The Applicant's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) is intended to be drafted by Q2 2024, followed by the Environmental Statement (ES) and the DCO application submission date of Q4 2024. The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant is planning a draft document review; the Applicant confirmed that it will give consideration to this matter and update in future meetings.

The Applicant gave an overview of their current and upcoming environmental surveys. The Inspectorate asked the Applicant what its approach would be to defining the projects within the Cumulative Effects Assessment for the EIA. The Applicant is currently compiling a long list of projects for inclusion in the Cumulative Impact Assessment with the intention of sharing this with the relevant local councils and reviewing the list as the project develops.

Stakeholder engagement

The Applicant gave an update on its Stakeholder engagement and its progress made to date. Meetings have been held with the Isle of Anglesey County Council during the summer of 2023 and further meetings are planned.

The Applicant is planning on holding project update events to engage with local communities, to address any questions or concerns directly. The statutory consultation will be hybrid; a mix of virtual and physical events. This is to help expand the horizon of consultation with holidaymakers etc. It is also planning on issuing community newsletters.

AOB

The Applicant asked for the project website to be published on submission of the EIA Scoping Request. The Inspectorate also directed the Applicant to the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 7 for further information on scoping, including the formats for submitting the GIS shapefile and scoping request.

The Inspectorate asked whether the Applicant had planned, or is planning to, undertake a design review by the Design Commission for Wales. The Applicant confirmed that this is likely to be carried out in due course.