



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Peartree Hill Solar Farm</b>
<b>File reference</b>	<b>EN010157</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>11 January 2024</b>
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>RWE</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.

### Scoping Opinion

The Applicant confirmed receipt of the Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion on 20 December 2023.

The Applicant queried about further scoping discussions and the Inspectorate informed that it is unable to change or add anything to its Scoping Opinion. The only way the Inspectorate could provide further scoping advice would be for the Applicant to submit another Scoping Request. The Inspectorate advised that subsequent decisions to scope out matters and any agreement of such with relevant consultees should be evidenced in the Environmental Statement.

### Land Update

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the land required for the Proposed Development was being secured via voluntary agreements. The Applicant discussed the optioneering of cable routes to Creyke Beck Substation, which was ongoing with the intention to refine the cable routes by the end of January 2024. It was anticipated that the Development Consent Order (DCO) application would contain a single option for the cable corridor to the Substation.

The Inspectorate enquired about agreements with landowners and the Applicant confirmed it had written to them as part of non-statutory consultation and, once the cable route has been refined, further consultation would take place with relevant parties to secure voluntary agreements.

The Applicant discussed the next steps including further engagement with consultation bodies, continuation of survey programme and iterative development of mitigation and enhancement design.

### Non-statutory Consultation



The Applicant detailed their non-statutory consultation including newsletters to approximately 11,000 local people, outreach events to 'Hard to reach' and 'seldom heard' groups, discussions with two MPs, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) and six other Local Authorities (LA) and five events, three in person and two webinars. Over 100 feedback responses were received during the non-statutory consultation period, which were mainly feedback form responses.

The Applicant noted that an in-depth review of the feedback responses would help to shape the design and that the non-statutory consultation responses would be published on the Applicant's project webpage. The Applicant will address the feedback in a technical assessment report.

Prior to non-statutory consultation, the Applicant confirmed that they were engaging with developers in close proximity to their proposed development site, also of national significance, which includes Dogger Bank Creyke Beck and East Yorkshire Solar Farm.

## **Update on next steps and timeframes**

Statutory consultation is likely to commence in April 2024 for six weeks, with the intention of submitting the DCO application in Autumn 2024.

The Applicant advised that they had drafted the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and would be consulting on the draft with ERYC in February 2024. The Inspectorate enquired about the Applicant's engagement with ERYC. The Applicant noted that engagement is ongoing and it has commenced discussions with a view to completing a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).

The Applicant confirmed that initial discussions had taken place with certain statutory bodies, including Historic England and Natural England.

The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant of the need to provide a s46 notification prior to statutory consultation commencing.

## **AOB**

Following the previous meeting, the company name has fully transitioned to RWE from JBM Solar Ltd. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to make it clear in all correspondence and in consultation and application documents.

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

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant and the Inspectorate to meet post-statutory consultation (end of May) to discuss application submission practicalities.