



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	<b>East Park Energy</b>
<b>File reference</b>	<b>EN010141</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>21 September 2023</b>
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>RNA CAMBSBED1 Ltd</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.

### Proposed Development

#### The site location and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping boundary

The Applicant explained that the Proposed Development has a generating capacity of >50 megawatts. The Applicant has an export agreement in place with National Grid to provide 400 megawatts of renewable energy generation via the Eaton Socon Substation, located to the west of St Neots. The project also includes 100MW of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

The project would operate for forty years, at which point the development would be decommissioned, or re-applied for, depending on national or local energy requirements at that time.

It was explained that it would be a cross boundary application which covers Bedford Borough Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. A core group of landowners had been identified, negotiations on terms were underway with landowners for the grid connection corridor.

The Applicant explained the technical elements of the Proposed Development and that it is looking to achieve grid connection without seeking compulsory acquisition (CA) powers. However, the Development Consent Order (DCO) may include CA powers as a fallback option.

There would be no Special Category Land or Crown Land within the Order Limits. The site is not Green Belt land. Some land had been excluded because of the proximity of Scheduled Monuments and Heritage Assets. There were no statutory constraints on the site. The Applicant was considering the use of existing access roads to minimise impacts on the local



road network. Some flood zones have been identified and the Applicant was considering Natural England classification guidance for grading the affected land.

## **An update on baseline Environmental Assessment work**

The Applicant explained that a number of surveys have been carried out including:

- ecology;
- cultural heritage;
- agricultural land classification;
- landscape and visual; and
- noise.

It was stated that these surveys had not yet been shared with the Local Authorities (LAs) but the LAs are aware of the Proposed Development.

## **The short-term project programme**

The Applicant was intending to submit the Scoping Report at the end of October 2023. Stakeholders and statutory undertakers would be fully engaged once the non-statutory consultation begins. The Applicant intended on submitting the DCO application in Q1 2025.

The Applicant was reminded of the guidance within [Advice Note 7](#) regarding the submission of a Scoping Report, including ensuring that the GIS shapefile meets the technical specifications listed and is provided a minimum of 10 days in advance of the submission of the Scoping Report. The Applicant was also reminded to avoid the release of confidential or sensitive information within the Scoping Report.

## **An overview of the forthcoming non-statutory consultation and associated communications activity**

The Applicant plans a two-phase consultation: phase 1 – non-statutory consultation (October 2023 which will run for 4 weeks); phase 2 – Statutory Consultation (May to June 2023). The Applicant advised that consultation with LAs and key stakeholders would be ongoing up until the submission of the DCO application. Local MPs would also be briefed prior to the non-statutory consultation launch, alongside leaders of the host authorities.

The LAs have not yet identified any hard-to-reach/seldom heard groups but engagement would continue.