



Dean Moor Solar Farm

Environmental Statement Appendix 2.9: Stakeholder Engagement

on behalf of **FVS Dean Moor Limited**

March 2025
Prepared by: Stantec UK Ltd
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Firma Energy



Dean Moor Solar EHO Meeting

Project/File: 3461

Date/Time: 15 November 2023 / 4pm

Location: MS Teams

Attendees: [REDACTED] Cumbria Council,
[REDACTED] (Logt),
[REDACTED] (c - Planning),
[REDACTED] (EIA),
[REDACTED] (Planning).
[REDACTED] (Stantec – Ground Conditions), ,
[REDACTED] (Stantec – Air Quality)

Dean Moor Solar		
Agenda		Action
Project Update [REDACTED]		
1.	Introductions and Overview of the Scheme The proposal is for a solar farm of approximately 150MW export capacity and a 100MW Battery Energy Storage System. The Site is currently in agricultural use. Development will last for circa 40 years. The Site is located in west Cumbria between the villages of Branthwaite Edge and Gilgarran.	
2.	Environmental Constraints A Glint and Glare Assessment will be provided as an appendix to, and will inform the landscape assessment within the Environmental Statement (ES). Existing vegetation is expected to provide screening, and modern panels are becoming better at minimising glare (and maximising the absorption of light). On the basis the Project was unlikely to result in significant effects on nearby residential receptors (and aviation) the Planning Inspectorate were satisfied that G&G did not need to be scoped in to the EIA. Within the EIA Scoping Report, the Applicant proposed that operational plant and equipment, which is the main source of noise from the Project (the Battery Energy Storage Systems and Substations) will be sited in areas of the site which is furthest from residential dwellings,	

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<p>and where any potentially significant noise and vibration effects on residential receptors can be avoided. On this basis, the Planning Inspectorate was happy to agree that noise and vibration could be scoped out of the EIA.</p> <p>Construction waste will be managed through standard mitigation measures to be described within the draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (which will be submitted for consideration).</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>Programme The Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) is currently being prepared which functions as a draft of the ES that will be submitted. The Council will be consulted on the draft PEIR through the Statutory consultation in February 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIA Scoping Opinion received in September; • Non-statutory consultation ended November 3rd • Statutory consultation – February 2024 • Draft documents – August 2024 • Submission – October 2024 • Examination – February 2025 • Secretary of State Decision – February 2026 <p>This PEIR not the last time that the Council can provide input and if any new information comes forward after the PEIR stage then it can be considered in the ES.</p>	
<p>Scoping feedback from PINS [REDACTED]</p>	
<p>4.</p> <p>Ground Conditions Comment from PINS in the Scoping Opinion: <i>“The Inspectorate notes that the conclusions of the Phase 1 Ground Conditions Assessment include a moderate risk on construction without mitigation measures in place. It is noted that the Applicant considers that this risk can be adequately mitigated through adoption of standard measures. However, the Phase 1 Ground Conditions Assessment recommends that ground investigation is undertaken to confirm the anticipated low levels of potential contaminants and/or allow for further stages of assessment.”</i></p> <p>This issue will be addressed through the inclusion of a Ground Conditions Chapter in the PEIR and the ES. Further discussion on the timing of the investigation of potential contaminants is needed.</p> <p>Air Quality PINS have agreed to scope out air quality in relation to vehicle emissions.</p>	

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	<p>PINS have requested more information about dust suppression techniques and the location of potentially sensitive receptors. This will be addressed by seeking to agree a proportionate approach based on standard mitigation.</p> <p>Noise and Vibration PINS requested further information about construction noise impacts. This will be addressed by submitting a Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment as an appendix to the ES and cover both the construction and operational phases. PINS confirmed their agreement to this approach.</p> <p>Glint and Glare PINS agreed that Glint and Glare does not need to be an EIA topic and agreed to the approach of submitting a Glint and Glare Assessment as an appendix to the Landscape and Views Chapter.</p>	
Ground Contamination [REDACTED]		
5.	<p>Both naturally occurring and man-made ground stability hazards have been identified on the Site. However, the nature of the Proposed Development means that these are not considered to be significant constraints, subject to confirmation of actual ground conditions. It is anticipated that the hazards can be mitigated through design, such as exclusion zones around mine entries and selection of adjustable foundation solutions for the solar arrays.</p> <p>The estimated risk has been generated using worst case assumptions, including the scale and nature of contamination and the likelihood of harm occurring without mitigation. In reality, the degree of ground disturbance for the Proposed Development is minimal. In addition, implementation of health and safety at work legislation including the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM 2015) and the Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR 2012) require risk assessments and method statements to be prepared. It is therefore considered that such risks can be adequately mitigated through adoption of standard mitigation measures, which will be justified as being appropriate by ground investigation to confirm the actual ground conditions present.</p> <p>The proposed approach is for the PEIR to be informed by the existing Phase 1 and CMHA reports. Mitigation comprising CEMP and targeted investigation will be undertaken to inform the detailed design post</p>	

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<p>application. Further Phase 2 assessment will be secured as a DCO requirement or REAC commitments.</p> <p>The PEIR is informed by the Phase 1 Coal Mining Hazard Assessment report.</p> <p>The Applicant will also do a targeted investigation to inform the detailed design once there is more certainty about elements of the design. Aspects like cable trenches for example are subject to change.</p> <p>[REDACTED]: This is a good approach to take. You will have the Phase 1 ground investigation and Coal Mining Risk Assessment. The phased approach is good.</p> <p>PINS may attach conditions to contamination. If you will only know the areas affected when works commence, then they would probably go with the full suite of contamination conditions just in case. That would be the approach we would take.</p> <p>[REDACTED]: Do you have example conditions so that we can rate the wording into the PEIR?</p> <p>[REDACTED]: We use standard conditions for contamination so and that and also the model conditions which were provided many years ago which most authorities use and is more of a phased approach.</p> <p>[REDACTED]: The Applicant is looking at draft solar farm requirements so can compare against that.</p>	<p>Emma to send examples of conditions used for contamination.</p>
[REDACTED]	
<p>6. The Local Authority has investigated air quality within its administrative boundary as part of its responsibilities under the Local Air Quality Management regime. To date no Air Quality Management Areas have been declared.</p> <p>The construction works have the potential to create dust. During construction, in accordance with the IAQM guidance, a package of mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise the risk of elevated PM10 concentrations and dust nuisance in the surrounding area. The mitigation measures will be incorporated into the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (secured by requirement in the DCO).</p> <p>With mitigation in place the construction impacts are judged as not significant.</p> <p>[REDACTED]: Will the assessment be able to demonstrate</p>	

Agenda		Action
	<p>there will be no increase in background noise?</p> <p>Yes</p>	
7.	<p>What guidance are you working to in relation to construction noise and dust?</p> <p>Only the piling machine will have construction effects (screw piling and stake piling). The piles are typically a depth of around 2m as a standard but can vary between 1.5-2.5. Piles are not always necessary and concrete 'shoes' can be used instead. Geotechnical assessment measure up to 4m deep. 4m will be included as the worst case scenario but they would not be deeper than 2.5.</p> <p>The noise construction effects would be controlled to be between 8am-5pm.</p> <p>Other mitigation measures will be not allowing vehicles to idle on Site and these will be outlined in a Traffic Management Plan.</p>	
8.	<p>PINS wanted qualitative assessment of in relation to sensitive receptors. While the construction phase will cause some dust, mitigation measures will be standard measures applied to a construction site as there are not many sensitive receptors in the area. After mitigation, there would be no significant residual effects.</p> <p>It comes down to how much spoil will be stored and it does not sound like it will be much. If the measures are suitable and the spoil that is moved around the Site is limited then this is a proportionate approach to take.</p>	
Glint and Glare		
9.	<p>would expect that Glint and Glare would be considered by the planning officers. EHO consideration of lighting is focussed on nuisance from lighting, for example floodlights.</p> <p>Glint and Glare Assessment will be included in the landscape report. Glint and glare assessments consider any adverse effects on amenity of local residences and businesses and will outline mitigation measures such as changing the layout and/or screening. This will provide the necessary input for the Council to consider the impacts associated with this topic.</p> <p>There will be some access lighting but no permanent lighting and it would all be motion-activated.</p>	

Agenda		Action
Statement of Common Ground/Record of Engagement		
10.	A Statement of Common Ground will be agreed with the Council to outline areas of agreement over the matters discussed. Meeting minutes from this meeting will be used to show evidence of engagement around the matters discussed and will be included in the front of the ES chapters.	
AOB		
11.	N/A	

Dean Moor Solar Minerals Meeting

Project/File: 3461
 Date/Time: 16 November 2023 / 16:30pm
 Location: MS Teams
 Attendees: Cumberland Council Minerals Team (IBV); Stantec:

Dean Moor Solar		
Agenda		Action
Project Update		
1.	Introductions and Overview of the Scheme The proposal is for a solar farm of approximately 150MW export capacity and a 100MW Battery Energy Storage System. The Site is currently in agricultural use. Development will last for circa 40 years. The Site is located in west Cumbria between Branthwaite Edge and Gilgarran.	
2.	Programme The Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) is currently being prepared, and will be published as part of our Statutory Consultation in February. This is effectively a draft of the Environmental Statement (ES) that will be submitted. This is not the last time that the Council can provide input and if any new information comes forward after the PEIR stage then it can be considered in the final ES. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIA Scoping Opinion received in September; • Non-statutory consultation ended November 3rd • Statutory consultation – February 2024 • Draft documents – August 2024 • Submission – October 2024 • Examination – February 2025 • Secretary of State Decision – February 2026 	

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Review of the Scoping Feedback from PINS and Proposed Approach	
<p>3. Mineral Safeguarding Area for Brick Clay and Sand and Gravel</p> <p>Comment from PINS in the Scoping Opinion: <i>“The Scoping Report identifies that the adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) indicates that the site is located within a Minerals Safeguarding Area (MSA) for brick clay and a Minerals Consultation Area. The Applicant proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that the Proposed Development would not sterilise the mineral resource as minerals could be extracted, if required, following decommissioning.”</i></p> <p>There is the option for a desk-based minerals assessment. The Applicant is not proposing that the Phase 2 Ground Investigation would assess the presence of the mineral.</p> <p>The Applicant is hoping to include a technical note to summarise a qualitative assessment of the impact on mineral resources as a supporting report to the Environmental Statement (as opposed to assessing within the Ground Conditions chapter of the Environmental Statement).</p> <p>[REDACTED] (IBV): There will be no permanent buildings in development and our rough estimate is that less than 5% of the Site would be affected by disturbance beyond the topsoil.</p> <p>[REDACTED] (Minerals): The Council needs to carefully consider the impact on minerals resources for individual Projects to ensure the availability of these resources is not negatively affected.</p>	
<p>4. [REDACTED] (Minerals team)</p> <p>The majority of the Site is within the Minerals Safeguarding Area for brick clay.</p> <p>[REDACTED] (Minerals): Can confirm that the resource is brick clay. The Project’s assessment should reference the Local Plan.</p> <p>Para 5.66 of the Cumbria Minerals Waste Local Plan identifies that brick clay is not commercially exploited in Cumbria with the exception of a specialist brickworks near High Greenscoe quarry at Askham-in-Furness.</p>	

Agenda		Action
	<p>We do not anticipate this resource will be in significant demand in the short term.</p> <p>The Plan identifies a strategic area adjacent to High Greenscoe quarry as an area to enable continued extraction of brick-making mudstones, as well as safeguarding brick clay generally.</p>	
5.	<p>[REDACTED] (Minerals team)</p> <p>A small section of the Site (a section of the Branthwaite Edge road) which is within the Site boundary falls into the MSA for sand and gravel.</p> <p>Para 4.736 of the EIA Scoping Report identifies that the Site is a historical open cast mine and therefore any safeguarded mineral (brick clay) will have been removed to facilitate coal extraction. Because the development is temporary the resource will not be permanently sterilised.</p> <p>If it was the case that the Site was entirely sand and gravel and the Council did not have any other mineral reserves then it would mean there would be no access to sand and gravel in the area for 40 years. However, it seems that the part of the Site with sand and gravel will not have anything on it anyway and there is only a small sand and gravel area</p>	
6.	<p>[REDACTED] (ded approach to Minerals Safeguarding Minerals team)</p> <p>Reference to the impact on minerals does need to be included within the EIA. The presence of sand and gravel should be identified. However, logically it can be concluded that it will not be important.</p> <p>The Minerals team is not suggesting that any ground investigation has to be done, as long as the issue of safeguarding is recognised and it is demonstrated why the brick clay is not of concern.</p> <p>Ensure that Policy DC15 of the Cumbria Minerals Waste Local Plan is referenced. The need for prior extraction of the minerals resource needs to be considered when determining proposals for non-minerals development within the MSA.</p>	The Applicant to include additional paragraphs to demonstrate that the area is safeguarded as an area of brick clay and sand and gravel
7.	<p>Surface Coal Resource</p> <p>The Scoping Feedback from PINS recommends “<i>the ES should include an assessment of the potential impact of loss of access to mineral resources (including surface</i></p>	

Agenda	Action
<p><i>coal resource) during the lifetime of the Proposed Development where there is potential for likely significant effects to occur. The ES should demonstrate that the Minerals Planning Authority has been consulted in respect of the proposals and that the Proposed Development does not impact on future ambitions for minerals extraction within the region."</i></p> <p>There have been proposals for a colliery in the southern part of the Site and there are isolated 17th century workings in the record. The Northern part has been mined and restored. The baseline data provide in the Phase 1 investigation shows that there are coal seams in the area. What approach do you recommend for this issue?</p> <p>(Minerals): This aspect is less familiar and it has been set up as a safeguarded area for coal. The pragmatic view would be that the area is not needed for coal.</p>	
<p>8. Restoration Scheme Records</p> <p>(BV): Do you have any records of the restoration in association with the surrounding land e.g. what soils were used, the settlement levels? This could be useful for our consideration of historic contamination for the part of the Site which was previously Potato Pot Colliery.</p> <p>(Minerals): We can look into whether there is a record in the GIS.</p>	<p>Minerals Team to look for whether there is a historic record of the restoration scheme in the GIS files.</p>
Statement of Common Ground/Record of Engagement/Future Consultation	
<p>9. This engagement will be logged as a meeting referenced at the front of the chapters in the ES. In addition, a Statement of Common Ground will be prepared in partnership with the Council and submitted. We can use this minute, and our email correspondence to inform the SoCG. PINS will contact the Council asking for comments, it would be useful if you are included on the list of consultees.</p> <p>(Minerals): The Minerals and Waste team sits with Westmoreland and Cumberland councils so it is worth considering myself as a direct contact in the future for anything that needs comment.</p> <p>PINS manage the formal statutory consultation so they will ask you for your comments. You will be included on our list of contacts.</p>	<p>Stantec to ensure that Rachel Whaley is included as a contact for future engagement.</p>

Agenda		Action
Questions		
10.	<p>What is the operational lifetime of the project?</p> <p>Consent is granted for 40 years and there is only a 40-year lease on the land. Consent will not change the classification of the land to brownfield – it will not sterilise any minerals access and will return to greenfield agricultural use.</p> <p>Is it going to PINS because of the scale of the ment?</p> <p>Yes, it is over 50MW so it will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State.</p>	
AOB		
11.	N/A	