

Green Hill Solar Farm - EN010170

Green Hill Solar Farm Limited

Section 51 Advice Log

Version: 14 April 2025

There is a statutory duty under [section 51 \(s51\) of the Planning Act 2008](#) for the Planning Inspectorate to record the advice that it gives in relation to an application or potential application, and to make this publicly available.

This document comprises a record of the advice that has been provided by the Inspectorate to the applicant (Green Hill Solar Farm Limited) and their consultants during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by the Inspectorate after every interaction with the applicant during which s51 has been provided. The applicant will always be given the opportunity to comment on the Inspectorate's draft record of advice before it is published.

The applicant will use this Advice Log as the basis for demonstrating regard to section 51 advice within the application.

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| Date of meeting | Meeting overview |
| <u>30 October 2024</u> | Inspectorate comments on the Programme Document. |
| <u>14 February 2025</u> | Inspectorate comments on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone |
| <u>25 March 2025</u> | Project update meeting |

| Project name -s51 Advice Library | |
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| Topic | 30 October 2024 |
| Inspectorate comments on the Programme Document. | <p>The Applicant supplied the Inspectorate with its initial Programme Document in line with the Expression of Interest process, after the publication of the 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Having reviewed the document, the Inspectorate considers that it mostly covers the expected content as set out in the government's pre-application guidance at paragraph 10. However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more detail could have been provided regarding the Applicant's initial view of the main issues that they have identified at this stage for resolution and activities they will undertake to address those; • the Applicant should include an initial identification of the risks involved at the pre-application stage (accepting this might change as the project progresses through pre-application in consultation with statutory bodies); • while the Programme Document confirms that the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) will be three months before the anticipated submission (currently anticipated for February 2025), a more precise date for submission of the AoCM and application would be required as soon as practicable; • it would be helpful if the Programme Document could provide approximate timescales for project update meetings with the Inspectorate and list any future meetings with key stakeholders to enable those parties to deploy resources effectively; and • the Applicant should ensure that its Programme Document is hosted and maintained on the Applicant's website as soon as practicable. |
| 14 February 2025 | Advice on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) |
| General | It is expected that the views of local authorities on the adequacy of consultation are included in the AoCM. |
| General | It is unclear whether the Marine Management Organisation and the Greater London Authority have been consulted or whether the applicant is of the view that consultation is not applicable. The applicant is advised to ensure that all relevant statutory consultees are consulted, and where the applicant has considered it unnecessary to include a specific statutory consultee, to provide an explanation as to why. |

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| General | It is expected that the applicant includes information that the applicant notified the Inspectorate of the proposed application and that this was done on or before commencing consultation under section 42. |
| Paragraph 3.4.3 | It would be helpful if an explanation of how section 44 category 3 persons were identified and a brief explanation of the applicant's ongoing commitment to due diligence in relation to identification of persons with an interest in land could be provided in the AoCM. |
| Section 5 | The applicant is reminded to demonstrate the regard given to consultation responses under section 49 in its Consultation Report. |
| Topic | Meeting date: 25 March 2025 |
| Advice pages | <p>The applicant was advised that the Inspectorate has recently published an advice page on 'Preparing Applications for Linear Projects'. The applicant was advised that the design documents should include explanations for the reasoning why certain widths for the cable corridors are required at particular locations so that it is clearly presented to the Examining Authority. The Inspectorate advised that the advice page provides examples to assist applicants in how to display such information.</p> <p>The advice page can be accessed here: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Preparing Applications for Linear Projects - GOV.UK</p> |
| Project programme | The applicant was advised that the timing between the anticipated submission date and start of the examination as currently programmed is viewed as short by the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate advised that in order to have a short pre-examination period the documents provided at submission should be of a high quality and not require further information or changes to be made prior to the examination. |
| Consultation | <p>The applicant was advised that if undertaking targeted consultation after statutory consultation, it should be made clear in the Consultation Report who was consulted and the reasoning as to why they were consulted.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also advised that the applicant should avoid including unnecessary personal data in the Consultation Report.</p> <p>In answer to a question from the Inspectorate, the applicant said that it was continuing to consult the relevant Fire and Rescue Authority through its adviser on safety matters regarding the management of the proposed Battery Energy</p> |

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| | Storage System (BESS) and would take account of the latest guidance on the issue. |
| DCO submission requirements | <p>The applicant was advised that documents that contain sensitive information (such as the locations of habitats of protected species) should be marked as confidential. The Inspectorate advised that documents marked as confidential are not published and instead are replaced with confidential cover sheets. Confidential information should be separated out as much as possible into individual reports to prevent whole sections of the application documents being withheld from publication.</p> <p>The applicant was advised to make use of the section 55 (s55) checklist that is available on the Inspectorate's website, as it can provide a helpful guide to the type of questions and compliance checks the Inspectorate needs to answer before making its decision on whether to accept an application.</p> <p>The applicant was advised that once the application documents have been prepared for submission, it may be useful to ask someone outside of the immediate project team to review them, for proof-reading purposes and for identifying any superfluous or duplicative content that could be removed.</p> <p>The applicant was also advised to clearly state in the application documents if they are departing from any requirements or statutory guidance. Justification for doing so should be clearly set out.</p> |
| Compulsory acquisition | The applicant was advised that it should be made clear in the application documents where survey details are incomplete, owing to (for example) an inability to access particular areas of the site where landowner agreement has not been obtained. The Inspectorate advised that all surveys should be progressed and concluded, wherever feasible, before the application is submitted in order to avoid having to make any potential change request that would need to be considered by an Examining Authority. |
| Post-meeting note | Following the Planning Inspectorate's comments in February on the applicant's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AOCM) statement, the applicant has since submitted a revised AOCM statement addressing those issues raised, which will be published on the project page of the Inspectorate's website. |