



Meeting note

Project name	White Elm Solar Farm
File reference	EN0110003
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	04 June 2024
Meeting with	ELMYA RPC UK
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Inception Meeting
Circulation	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. The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted.

Introduction to the project

The Applicant provided an introduction to the proposed development outlining that it will comprise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a grid connected solar PV generating station together with battery energy storage system (BESS), access, landscaping and associated development. The site is located 7.5 kilometres to the north of Stowmarket within the three parishes of Mendlesham, Wickham Skeith and Thwaite. The site lies west of the A140 and extends to approximately 675 acres. The Applicant noted that there are a number of public rights of way running across the site and conservation areas adjacent to the site with a number of associated listed buildings. The Applicant advised that the majority of the site comprised arable fields of relatively low value for biodiversity.

The Applicant outlined that a 300MW AC Import/Export connection offer had been obtained from National Grid into a 400kV transmission system with an estimated connection date for 2031. The Applicant stated that the proposed development would connect to existing grid infrastructure through a new substation with the exact substation location still to be determined by National Grid. The Applicant stated that the connection is not associated with the National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury project. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that the project should be refined as far as possible in advance of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping, and that where optionality remains this should be reflected clearly in any scoping request made.

The Applicant advised that the proposed development would have an operating capacity greater than 50 MW DC with an associated BESS facility. The Inspectorate were advised

