

## High Grove Solar – EN0110010

### High Grove Solar

### Section 51 Advice Log

**Version: 12 November 2024**

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 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.



## High Grove Solar - s51 Advice Library

Topic	Meeting date: 12 November 2024
Engagement with statutory advisors	<p>The Applicant confirmed that discussions with local authorities, the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England regarding their scoping responses are ongoing. The Applicant is due to meet with Anglian Water.</p> <p>In answer to a question from the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant said work on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was progressing, as well as relevant discussions with Natural England regarding methodology. Surveying of any archaeology on or near the site was ongoing, in discussion with the County archaeologist and Historic England.</p>
Cumulative effects	<p>In answer to a question from the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant confirmed that cumulative effects was one of the issues raised by members of the public in the responses received during the applicant's non-statutory consultation (held between September and October 2024). The Applicant is engaging with other developers and National Grid to explore any joint mitigation or enhancement measures that could be employed.</p>
Siting of substation	<p>In answer to a question from the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant said that there were common risks within the solar industry in relation to the delivery of new substations. Discussions with National Grid regarding the siting of the new substation and who would construct and operate it are ongoing. The Applicant explained it would likely include the new substation within the Development Consent Order (DCO) to provide certainty that it could be delivered and expediate delivery.</p> <p>The Applicant understands that the outcome of National Grid's siting study is not likely to be available in advance of statutory consultation, therefore the PEIR will assess a range of potential options.</p>
Cost recovery	<p>The Planning Inspectorate advised that invoices for its pre-application fees are issued to applicants twice a year, normally in October and April. The Planning Inspectorate's <a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus</a> sets out the usual invoicing cycle and the level of fees charged for each service tier including the daily rate (see paragraph 14). Additionally, the government's guidance on the <a href="#">Planning Act 2008: Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 - cost recovery by the Planning Inspectorate and public authorities</a> explains the legislative provisions and purpose for charging pre-application fees,</p>

	<p>with paragraph 15 of the guidance setting out information about how applicants will be charged by the Planning Inspectorate.</p>
<p>Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) and Principal Areas of Disagreement (PADSS)</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate advised that at present there was no specific preference as to whether Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) or Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS) should be produced. PADSS are a required component of the Fast Track procedure and (as the <a href="#">2024 Pre-application Prospectus</a> explains), are initiated by applicants and then owned and authored by relevant consultees. PADSS specifically provide a record of the pre-application areas of disagreement from the perspective of the consultee. In relation to a Fast Track application, PADSS assist the decision about whether the number and complexity of residual issues at the point of submission would preclude an application from achieving a robust examination within a maximum of four months. A decision on whether to create PADSS would likely be informed by the Applicant's choice of service tier, complexity of the project and the extent of multiparty discussions with consultees and issues in contention.</p> <p>The Applicant noted that where SoCG <u>and</u> PADSS are provided, there can be duplication of material between the two sets of documents. The Planning Inspectorate advised that approaches that provide brevity and avoid duplication are welcomed. The Applicant noted that they would therefore not intend to provide <u>both</u> SoCG and PADSS.</p>
<p>Programme Document feedback (post-meeting note)</p>	<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 overall that it covers the expected content as set out in the government's pre-application guidance at paragraph 10, namely setting out realistic timescales and related information on its pre-application activities.</p> <p>However, in updating its Programme Document, the Applicant should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• making reference to whether its Programme Document has been shared with local authorities, statutory consultees and others and whether they are content with the proposed programme</li> <li>• whether the applicant will include an Issues Tracker</li> <li>• include dates in its programme timetable for the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone, any Evidence Plan meetings and any multiparty meetings (if scheduling these), obtaining other consents or</li> </ul>

	<p>permissions (if required), draft documents for review by the Inspectorate (if anticipating to submit these), and for any project update meetings to be held with the Inspectorate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• progress with any Planning Performance Agreements with relevant Local Authorities or statutory undertakers.</li> </ul> <p>It would also be helpful if the Programme Document explained how the design approach will be managed and communicated during pre-application as well as any relevant information about the development of the draft DCO and Explanatory Memorandum. The Applicant will need to publish its Programme Document on its website as soon as practicable.</p>
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Meeting date: DD Month YYYY</b>