

## Beacon Solar

### Section 51 Advice Log Version: 09 September 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 Planning Inspectorate to the applicant Beacon Solar Limited and their consultants during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by The Planning 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 Planning Inspectorate's draft record of advice before it is published.

The applicant will use this advice log as the basis for demonstrating regard to s51 advice within the application.

| Project name<br>s51 Advice Log - Index |  |
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| Date of meeting                        | Meeting overview   |
| <a href="#">09 September 2025</a>      | <p><u>Inception Meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Introductions – including Section 51 advice and Security and protection of information policy</li> <li>• The proposed development</li> <li>• The pre-application service offer</li> <li>• Practical Arrangements</li> <li>• Next steps</li> <li>• Any other business</li> </ul> <p>A meeting note is available for this meeting on the Find a National Infrastructure Project Website. <a href="#">View meeting note</a> (PDF, 143KB).</p> |

| Project name - s51 Advice Library       |  |
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| Topic                                   | Meeting date: 09 September 2025  |
| Inception Meeting Note                  | A meeting note is available for this meeting on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website.<br><a href="#">View meeting note</a> (PDF, 143KB).   |
| Section 51                              | 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. It was confirmed that any advice given under section 51 does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.   |
| The proposed development                | The Inspectorate asked the applicant if the BESS will have import as well as export capabilities, and whether this has been discussed with local fire and rescue authorities. The applicant advised they do not intend to have import capabilities and that engagement with fire and rescue teams will occur as the proposed development progresses. |
| Environmental constraints and issues    | The Inspectorate highlighted that questions and Statements of Common Ground regarding grid connections are being raised in current examinations.   |
| Early engagement with local authorities | The Inspectorate advised that Suffolk County Council's NSIP Centre of Excellence has produced guidance for local authorities on the DCO process. This may be helpful for council members involved in the project.  |
| EIA scoping                             | The Inspectorate advised that, where possible, applicants should seek agreement with relevant consultees on matters to be scoped in or out of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Evidence of such agreement should be included in the Scoping Report.  |
| EIA scoping                             | The Inspectorate advised that the red line boundary should represent the development as a whole and not separate out cable route corridors. If cable routes and solar development are scoped separately, references in the Scoping Report should be clear.   |
| Environmental surveys                   | The Inspectorate asked whether any cable corridors within the order limits will pass through or near watercourses and advised that where this is potentially the case, any relevant receptors such as riverine species and potential impacts from  |

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|--------------------|---|
|                    | <p>Electro-Magnetic Fields should be addressed in the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The Inspectorate asked whether there is possibility of functionally linked land falling within the site boundary. The applicant's current understanding is that no functionally linked land would be located on site on the basis that the closest European site is approximately 20 km away.</p>  |
| <b>Topic</b>       | <b>Programme Document: 09 September 2025</b>  |
| Programme Document | <p>The Inspectorate advised that the Programme Document should include a further description of the development, including its main components, expected land take, indicative generating capacity, and nearby major infrastructure. It should also contain a high-level summary of main issues and proposed activities, with updates to the main issues table as progress is made. Indicative dates for future Project Update Meetings and any multiparty meetings or evidence plans should be included. Additionally, the document should provide information on other required licences or consents, Crown Land or Special Category Land, and whether it has been or will be shared with statutory bodies. In later iterations, it would be helpful to include details on targeted consultation and whether a Design Approach Document and Policy and Compliance Document will be submitted.</p> |