

Arrow Valley Solar Section 51 Advice Log Version: 16 September 2026

This document comprises a record of the s51 advice that has been given by the Planning Inspectorate to the applicant Arrow Valley Solar Limited during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by the Planning Inspectorate after every interaction with the applicant within which s51 advice has been given.

The applicant will always be given the opportunity to comment on the Planning Inspectorate's draft record of the s51 advice given before it is published on the relevant project page on the [Find a National Infrastructure Project website](#).

The role of the advice log at the acceptance stage

Section 55(4) of the PA2008 requires the Planning Inspectorate to consider, amongst other things, the extent to which the applicant has had regard to the s51 advice given by the Planning Inspectorate in connection with the application when deciding if the application can be accepted for examination. Section 51 advice includes:

- advice given about applying for an order granting development consent
- advice given about making representations about an application for an order granting development consent

The applicant will use this advice log as the tool for demonstrating:

- regard to the s51 advice given to the applicant by the Planning Inspectorate
- regard to any s51 advice given to others by the Planning Inspectorate

The applicant will submit a final version of this advice log which demonstrates regard to all s51 given by the Planning Inspectorate at the pre-application stage as part of the application.

Arrow Valley Solar – Applicant meeting index

Date of meeting	Meeting overview
<u>24 February 2026</u>	<u>Inception Meeting</u> • Consenting programme and issue resolution • Preparation for examination • EIA scoping • Stakeholder engagement • Design evolution and application documentation • Consultation • Land and rights tracker • Risks and issue resolution • Programme Document • Application documentation
<u>20 July 2026</u>	• Email advice - Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025
<u>16 September 2026</u>	• Interim Environmental Report • Project Design

Arrow Valley Solar – Log of s51 given to the applicant

Meeting date: 24 February 2026

Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Consenting programme and issue resolution	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to maintain and regularly update its Issues Tracker throughout pre-application. The applicant was advised to engage with statutory parties as early as possible to agree the scope of surveys, assessments and mitigation. The Inspectorate explained that this would assist in understanding issue resolution before submission and identifying whether any further section 51 advice is required.	The Applicant submitted an Issues Tracker to the Planning Inspectorate on 2nd September 2026 ahead of the Project Update Meeting on 16th September. This Issues Tracker will continue to be updated throughout the pre-application stage, and a further update will be provided at the next Project Update Meeting (pre-submission). The Applicant has commenced early engagement with the following parties, to ensure that issues are identified and discussed at the earliest opportunity: host authorities, host Parish Councils, relevant Councillors, Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Heart of

		England Forest, and Bidford Flying and Gliding Club.
Preparation for examination	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to review issues arising in current solar examinations and the types of questions being asked by Examining Authorities. The Inspectorate advised that this would assist in planning pre-application activities and preparing the application.	The Applicant's parent company has extensive experience of recent solar DCO examinations through its wider portfolio of NSIPs. As of October 2026, two of its consented projects are progressing towards construction, four projects are currently within the Examination stage, and one is at Recommendation. Issues arising within these examinations and across the wider solar industry are kept under review, and lessons learnt are being applied to Arrow Valley Solar to ensure that any common issues arising can be addressed at the earliest opportunity.
EIA scoping	The Inspectorate stressed the importance of receiving the GIS shapefile at least 10 working days before submission of the scoping request.	The Applicant issued the Planning Inspectorate with the GIS shapefile 10 working days before submission of the Scoping Request.
Stakeholder engagement	The Inspectorate reiterated the importance of clear and effective early engagement to ensure that interested parties, including members of the public unfamiliar with the process, are appropriately informed as the project progresses.	The Applicant has commenced early engagement with the following parties, to support an understanding of the proposals and project programme: host authorities, host Parish Councils, relevant Councillors,

		Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Heart of England Forest, and Bidford Flying and Gliding Club. This engagement will continue throughout the pre-application stage. The Applicant recognises that there has not previously been an NSIP located in the area, and as such stakeholders have varying levels of familiarity with the NSIP process. Where appropriate, the Applicant has taken steps to explain the NSIP process, highlighting the opportunities available for stakeholders to participate and provide comments. The Applicant launched a public consultation on 28th September 2026, providing stakeholders and members of the public with the opportunity to share their views on the Scheme. The project team will review all feedback received, and where appropriate, take this into account as the design of the Scheme evolves.
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Design evolution and application documentation	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to clearly demonstrate the evolution of the design of the proposed development within its application documents, such as a Design Approach Document. The Inspectorate advised that the applicant should explain how design principles, national policy, consultation responses, place-based considerations and mitigation have influenced the design process. The Inspectorate emphasised that a transparent design process would be important during examination.	A Design Approach Document will be submitted, which will set out the design evolution of the Scheme throughout the pre-application stage. This document will include narrative on the solar sites and the cable route corridor. A Design and Access Statement will also be produced, providing a summary of the design at the point of submission.
Consultation	The Inspectorate advised that the applicant should clearly explain what is being consulted on, why consultation is taking place and when further information will become available, particularly where questions cannot yet be fully answered.	The Applicant launched a public consultation on 28th September. The Interim Environmental Report (IER) sets out the environmental information available for the Scheme, which includes the front-end Environmental Statement chapters and the following sections of each technical chapter: • Scope of the assessment • Consultation • Legislation, Policy, and Guidance • Method of Assessment • Baseline Conditions. The IER and other consultation materials clearly sets out what information is being consulted on, and

		what information is outstanding and will be shared with stakeholders at a later point (including survey results). The Applicant is also hosting a series of consultation briefings and webinars with host authorities, Parish Councils, Councillors and members of the public, where the consultation material content and structure will be clearly presented.
Land and rights tracker	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to aim to provide a detailed Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker by the next project update meeting, although it noted this was less critical than the Issues Tracker.	A detailed Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker was issued to the Planning Inspectorate on 2 nd September, ahead of the Project Update Meeting on 16 th September.
Risks and issue resolution	The Inspectorate advised that, to support an efficient examination process, the applicant should seek to resolve the main issues arising from the proposed development as far as reasonably possible before submission. The Inspectorate explained that this would reduce unresolved issues and minimise the need for change requests later in the consenting process.	Advice noted. The Applicant has commenced preparation of Statements of Common Ground with the following parties: host authorities, Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. The Applicant has commenced Statements of Common Ground at the earliest opportunity in order to reach agreement on as many matters as

		possible with stakeholders prior to submission. The Applicant will review consultation responses following the closure of consultation and will draft further Statements of Common Ground with interested parties where required.
Programme Document	The Inspectorate advised that the applicant should include its view of the main issues identified at this stage and the activities proposed to address them within the Programme Document. The applicant was also advised to identify project risks and explain how those risks would be monitored and managed.	Section 5 of the updated Programme Document outlines the Main Issues for Resolution which have been identified during the pre-application stage to date. The Applicant will continue to engage with stakeholders on these issues and seek to resolve as many as possible prior to submission. Additionally, the Applicant has submitted an Issues Tracker to the Planning Inspectorate, which outlines the project issues in greater detail alongside a RAG rating of likelihood of resolution prior to submission.
Application documentation	The Inspectorate advised that it would be useful for the applicant to indicate within the Programme Document whether it intends to submit a Design Approach Document and a Policy Compliance Document with the application.	Advice noted. A Design Approach Document and a Policy Compliance Document will be submitted with the application.

Meeting date: 20 July 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Email Advice - Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025	In light of the amended legal framework which will be introduced from 24 July 2026 by the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, the Planning Inspectorate issued written advice to the applicant on 20 July 2026 requesting for: - evidence within the submitted application in relation to duties under s46 and s48 of the PA2008 to be provided as an appendix to any engagement summary document that the applicant may choose to submit or, where the applicant chooses not to submit such a document, as a discrete document titled 'Section 46 and section 48 information' - evidence within the submitted application in relation to new s55(4)(e) of the PA2008 to be provided in a submission version of this expanded advice log template	Advice noted. Evidence related to the s46, s48, and s55 requirements will be submitted as part of the application.
Meeting date: 16 September 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given

Interim Environmental Report	The Inspectorate noted that it may be helpful for the interim Environmental Report to clearly identify what work has been completed, what remains outstanding, and what information is currently available.	The Interim Environmental Report (IER) sets out the environmental information available for the Scheme, which includes the front-end Environmental Statement chapters and the following sections of each technical chapter: • Scope of the assessment • Consultation • Legislation, Policy, and Guidance • Method of Assessment • Baseline Conditions. The IER clearly sets out what information is being consulted on, and what information is outstanding and will be shared with stakeholders at a later point (including survey results). The Applicant is also hosting a series of consultation briefings and webinars with host authorities, Parish Councils, Councillors and members of the public, where the consultation material content and structure will be clearly presented. The Applicant continues to engage regularly with host authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency, and Historic England, to provide foresight
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		of information which will be shared later in the project programme.
Project Design	The Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful for the applicant to explain how engagement has influenced the overall design of the project, as this will assist the Examining Authority in understanding how issues raised have been addressed and how stakeholder input has shaped the proposals. The Inspectorate also advised that a new section 55 checklist is being developed for projects submitting in the near future and noted that the applicant will be able to see how the updated requirements are being applied.	The Applicant will be submitting a Design Approach Document, which will set out the evolution of the design from the EIA Scoping stage to submission stage. This will include commentary on how survey data, technical assessments, engineering considerations, and stakeholder feedback has influenced the design of the Scheme. The Applicant will also be submitting an Engagement Report, which will summarise the feedback received during consultation and will set out how the Applicant has responded to this feedback in the final design and application documents. The Applicant notes that a new Section 55 checklist is available. The Applicant has reviewed this document and will ensure that all requirements are met prior to consultation.

Person s51 advice given to	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given