



EAST PARK ENERGY

East Park Energy

EN010141

Consultation Report Appendices Part 6

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EAST PARK ENERGY

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Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Consultation Report Appendices Part 6

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CONTENTS

Appendix 6-1 Consultation Report Appendix 6-1: Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement [EN010141/DR/5.2]

APPENDIX 6-1 CONSULTATION REPORT
APPENDIX 6-1: ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION
MILESTONE STATEMENT [EN010141/DR/5.2]



EAST PARK ENERGY

East Park Energy

EN010141

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement

September 2025

Version 01

EAST PARK ENERGY

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement

Version	Date	Status
01	September 2025	Issued to Planning Inspectorate

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	2
1.1	Purpose of this document.....	2
1.2	The Scheme	4
2.0	Overview of consultation and engagement to date.....	5
2.1	Overview	5
2.2	Non-statutory consultation.....	8
2.3	Statutory consultation	10
2.4	Landowner engagement.....	12
3.0	Statement of community consultation	13
3.1	Development of the SoCC.....	13
3.2	Consultation on the SoCC	13
3.3	Publication under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008	24
3.4	Adherence with the SoCC	24
4.0	Next steps	31
4.1	Updating stakeholders.....	31
4.2	Consultation responses	31
4.3	DCO application	33
	Table 1 Overview of stakeholder meetings.....	7
	Table 2 Regard had to comments on early draft of the proposed SoCC	14
	Table 3 Regard had to comments on draft SoCC	20
	Table 4 Detail of compliance with Section 47 of the PA 2008	24
	Table 5 SoCC commitments and evidence of compliance	25

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this document

1.1.1 This Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement ('the Report') has been prepared by BSSL Cambsbed 1 Limited ('the Applicant') as part of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the East Park Energy project ('the Scheme').

1.1.2 The Scheme is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) as it:

- Comprises the construction or extension of an electricity generating station (Section 14(1)(a));
- Is in England;
- Does not generate electricity from wind;
- Is not an offshore generating station; and
- Its capacity is more than 50 MW (Section 15(2)(c)).

1.1.3 As such, an application for a DCO for the Scheme will be made to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. The DCO will include the necessary rights and powers to ensure the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Scheme. Whilst the Applicant is seeking to agree voluntary land agreements, the DCO will also seek compulsory acquisition powers (if required).

1.1.4 In April and May 2024, the Government introduced guidance that sets out its requirements and expectations in the preparation of an application for development consent:

- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('the Guidance'); and

- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application prospectus ('the Prospectus').

1.1.5 An updated version of the Prospectus was published on 30 June 2025.

1.1.6 The Guidance and Prospectus introduce a new Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM), aimed at providing the Applicant with an opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a document setting out:

- The consultation undertaken to date;
- How the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) have been met; and
- An overview of consultation feedback, including how this is informing the design of the Scheme.

1.1.7 To inform the AoCM, the Guidance sets out that a written submission should be prepared by the Applicant. The submission, which is a non-statutory requirement, should enable the Planning Inspectorate to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the application to date, thereby minimising the risk of non-acceptance following Submission.

1.1.8 The Guidance states that the AoCM *"should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficient towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no longer than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application."*

1.1.9 The Guidance also states that the AoCM *"should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available."*

- 1.1.10 Under Section 55(4)(b) of the PA 2008, as part of the Acceptance stage the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views of local authorities about the adequacy of consultation.
- 1.1.11 The Applicant has taken a proactive approach to pre-application engagement with consultees and local communities, which has helped the Applicant to understand concerns and shape proposals ahead of submission.
- 1.1.12 This Report provides an overview of the engagement and consultation activity undertaken to date, and how it has met with the requirements of the PA 2008.

1.2 The Scheme

- 1.2.1 The Scheme comprises a new ground-mounted solar photovoltaic energy generating station and an associated on-site Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land to the north-west of St Neots, Cambridgeshire. The Scheme also includes the associated infrastructure for connection to the national grid at the Eaton Socon National Grid Substation.
- 1.2.2 The Scheme would allow for the generation and export of 400 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity, as well as the storage of 100 MW of electricity in the BESS. The precise generating capacity and storage capacity will be subject to detailed design, but it should be noted that the Applicant has a grid connection agreement with National Grid for 400 MW export and 100 MW import.
- 1.2.3 The Scheme falls within the definition of 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development', as defined within the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) 2017 ('the EIA Regulations'). An Environmental Statement (ES) will therefore be submitted alongside the DCO application. A request for a scoping opinion was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 30 October 2023, with the scoping opinion subsequently published and adopted on 8 December 2023.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The Applicant has conducted extensive pre-application consultation when preparing its DCO application. This has included early engagement with stakeholders and communities to introduce the Scheme, a period of non-statutory consultation and a period of statutory consultation intended to meet the requirements set out in the PA 2008 and the EIA Regulations.

2.1.2 The main stages of consultation undertaken were:

- **17 October – 21 November 2023:** A five-week non-statutory public consultation was held to introduce the Scheme and provide an early opportunity for stakeholders and members of the public to provide feedback.
- **24 September – 29 October 2024:** A five-week statutory public consultation was held to present the developed design of the Scheme, including changes made since the non-statutory consultation. The consultation also served to fulfil the requirements set out in the PA 2008 and the EIA Regulations.

2.1.3 Key local stakeholders, including parish councils, Members of Parliament (MPs), landowners, and district and county councillors, were informed of the proposals at each stage of consultation and invited to attend briefings on the Scheme.

2.1.4 **Table 1** provides an overview of the meetings the Applicant has had with local stakeholders throughout the pre-application stage.

Table 1 Overview of stakeholder meetings

Date of meeting	Stakeholder(s) in attendance
13 th October 2023 and 16 th October 2023	Elected representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Bedford Borough Council.
18 th October 2023	Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Bedford, and elected officials from Bedford Borough Council.
8 th November 2023	MP for North Bedfordshire.
14 th November 2023	Representatives from Pertenhall and Swineshead, Great Staughton, Staploe, Kimbolton, and Hail Weston Parish Councils.
22 nd May 2024	MP for North Bedfordshire.
16 th July 2024	MP for North Bedfordshire.
18 th September 2024	Elected representatives from Huntingdonshire District Council and Bedford Borough Council.
19 th September 2024	Elected representatives from Huntingdonshire District Council and Bedford Borough Council.
23 rd September 2024	Elected representatives from Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.
30 th September 2024	Representatives from Great Staughton Parish Council.
14 th October 2024	MP for Huntingdon.
25 th October 2024	Representatives from British Horse Society, Bedford Local Access Forum, Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum and Trails Trust.
27 th March 2025	Representatives from Great Staughton Parish Council.
6 th June 2025	MP for Huntingdon.

2.1.5 As the design of the Scheme has evolved, the Applicant has also engaged with a range of statutory consultees, including Huntingdonshire District Council, Bedford Borough Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and National Highways. It has also engaged with landowners for the land within the application site, including at each stage of public consultation and at regular intervals outside of formal consultation periods.

2.1.6 This engagement helped shape the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) published at the statutory consultation and will inform the ES submitted as part of the Applicant's DCO application. The Applicant expects to continue this engagement in the months ahead.

2.1.7 Prior to the statutory consultation the Applicant prepared a SoCC, the purpose of which was to set out how it proposed to consult with people living in the vicinity of the proposals in accordance with the PA 2008. The Applicant consulted the host local authorities (Huntingdonshire District Council, Bedford Borough Council and Cambridgeshire County Council) on the contents of a draft SoCC prior to the statutory consultation, as set out in Chapter 3.

2.1.8 The Applicant is currently analysing responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will produce a Consultation Report as part of its application for development consent.

2.2 Non-statutory consultation

2.2.1 A five-week non-statutory public consultation took place between 17 October and 21 November 2023. In line with the Gunning Principles, the consultation took place at a time where plans for the Scheme were at a formative stage, so that feedback could inform their further development.

2.2.2 The consultation was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings, newspaper and social media adverts, including:

- A newsletter mailing to 1,492 residential and business addresses within the parishes of Pertenhall & Swineshead, Little Staughton, Hail Weston, Staploe, Great Staughton, and Bolnhurst & Keysoe (the parishes in which the Scheme is expected to be located);
- Letter and/or email notifications to:
 - elected representatives with an interest in the Scheme at Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, and Bedford Borough Council;
 - MPs whose constituencies the Scheme would be situated in;
 - parishes the Scheme would either be located in or adjacent to;

- bodies who would be considered statutory consultees under Sections 42 to 44 of the PA 2008 at the statutory consultation stage;
- landowners for the land that would host the Scheme;
- Adverts on Facebook and Instagram, targeted at users living within 10 miles of the Scheme;
- A press release to local media outlets; and
- An advert in a local newspaper (Hunts Post).

2.2.3 Information about the proposals during the non-statutory consultation was available on the project website, eastparkenergy.co.uk. Additionally, the Applicant held three face-to-face public exhibitions in Keysoe, Hail Weston and Little Staughton, which saw a total of 283 attendees. Outside of these events, dedicated contact channels were established for those who had questions about the Scheme or needed to get in contact with the project team.

2.2.4 A total of 375 responses were received to the non-statutory consultation. Whilst this figure differs from that recorded in the Non-statutory consultation report, all issues raised in feedback were considered and responded to as part of this report, which was made available as part of the statutory consultation in autumn 2024.

2.2.5 The key changes to the Scheme that were implemented as a result of feedback received at the non-statutory consultation included:

- The identification of a potential alternative BESS and Substation location within Site D, referred to as Option 2;
- Solar development removed from the north and east of East Park Site C in response to consultation feedback, and following the discovery of the remains of a Roman town in this area;

- Solar development removed from areas west of Little Staughton in response to consultation feedback;
- Solar development removed from land north of The Kangaroo (a residential property on Staughton Road) in response to consultation feedback;
- Solar development added to the west of East Park Site C to compensate for the loss of developable area in Site C;
- Realignment of solar development fencelines to provide suitable buffers to existing public rights of way, and to remove development from areas identified as being within fluvial Flood Zones 2 and 3;
- Solar development fencelines consolidated across the Scheme to rationalise boundaries and reduce the amount of fencing;
- Change in site access, with the removal of two proposed site access points along the B645 near Hail Weston, and addition of a new site access north of East Park Site D, and a further new site access utilising an existing private access to the north-west of Site C;
- Changes to the alignment of the 400 kV grid connection in response to feedback from the affected landowners; and
- Change in position and alignment of the cable corridors between Site B and Site C, and between Site C and Site D.

2.3 Statutory consultation

- 2.3.1 A five-week statutory public consultation took place between 24 September and 29 October 2024. The consultation, which was one week longer than required under the PA 2008, took place at a time where detailed plans for the Scheme had been developed.

2.3.2 The consultation, which was undertaken in line with the requirements of the PA 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and the EIA Regulations, was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings, newspaper and social media adverts, including:

- A newsletter mailing to 1,606 residential and business addresses within the parishes of Pertenhall & Swineshead, Little Staughton, Hail Weston, Staploe, Great Staughton, and Bolnhurst & Keysoe;
- Letter and/or email notifications to:
 - elected representatives with an interest in the Scheme at Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, and Bedford Borough Council;
 - MPs whose constituencies the Scheme would be situated in;
 - parishes the Scheme would either be located in or adjacent to;
 - bodies or people identified as statutory consultees under Sections 42 to 44 of the PA 2008;
 - bodies the Applicant chose to engage with as non-prescribed consultees;
- Adverts on Facebook and Instagram, targeted at users living within 10 miles of the Scheme;
- A press release to local media outlets; and
- Statutory notices in a national newspaper (The Guardian), local newspaper (Hunts Post) and the London Gazette, in accordance with Sections 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.

2.3.3 A suite of consultation materials was developed to support the consultation, including a consultation brochure, newsletter, feedback form, exhibition

boards. These documents, alongside the PEIR and other plans, were available from the start of the consultation period on the project website, eastparkenergy.co.uk.

- 2.3.4 The Applicant held four face-to-face public exhibitions in Keysoe, Hail Weston and Little Staughton, along with a day of bookable 1:1 meetings in Pertenhall, which saw a total of 315 attendees. Outside of these events, dedicated contact channels continued to be available for those who had questions about the Scheme or needed to get in contact with the project team.
- 2.3.5 A total of 958 responses were received to the statutory consultation. Following this, the Applicant is in the process of considering all feedback submitted as it prepares an application for development consent. As part of this application, the Consultation Report will demonstrate how the Applicant has had regard to consultation feedback in line with Section 49 of the PA 2008.

2.4 Landowner engagement

- 2.4.1 Throughout the pre-application phase, the Applicant has sought to identify and engage with the landowners of the proposed parcels which could host the Scheme.
- 2.4.2 Prior to the statutory consultation, the Applicant carried out diligent inquiry in order to identify all persons who fall within the categories set out in Section 44 of the PA 2008 for the Scheme. From this, the Applicant identified persons with Category 1 and Category 2 land interests in line with Section 44 of the PA 2008, but no persons with Category 3 land interests.
- 2.4.3 Such persons will be listed in the Book of Reference, which will be submitted as part of the DCO application.
- 2.4.4 All land interests have been consulted about the Scheme in accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008, further detail of which will be provided in the Consultation Report.

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.1 Development of the SoCC

- 3.1.1 Following the non-statutory consultation in 2023, the Applicant drafted, consulted on and published a SoCC in line with Section 47 of the PA 2008.
- 3.1.2 The purpose of the SoCC was to establish how the Applicant would consult and engage with the local communities likely to be affected by the Scheme.
- 3.1.3 The host local authorities were consulted on the content of the draft SoCC, following which the SoCC was amended and finalised prior to the start of the statutory consultation.

3.2 Consultation on the SoCC

- 3.2.1 The Applicant identified Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Bedford Borough Council as host local authorities in accordance with Section 43 of the PA 2008. Accordingly, it sought the view of these local authorities as it prepared the SoCC.
- 3.2.2 An early draft of the proposed SoCC was issued to the host local authorities on 16th January 2024, with a request that any response was submitted by 6th February 2024.
- 3.2.3 Comments were received from all three host local authorities. **Table 2** outlines the comments made by the host local authorities on the early draft of the proposed SoCC, along with the Applicant's response to these comments.

Table 2 Regard had to comments on early draft of the proposed SoCC

Local authority	SoCC ref.	Comment	Applicant's response
Cambridgeshire County Council	3.0	Suggested stylistic change to description of located of the application site.	Section 3.0 updated in line with comments.
Huntingdonshire District Council	3.0	Noted and agree with recommendations of CCC.	As above.
Bedford Borough Council	3.1	Need to state land take. Circa 1,000ha.	Section 3.1 updated to refer to approximate size of the Scheme in hectares.
Bedford Borough Council	3.2	Add section on emerging concerns from community regarding scheme?	This information was included in the Consultation brochure published as part of the statutory consultation, but the Applicant does not consider that this information is required in the SoCC. No change made.
Huntingdonshire District Council	3.2	Is reference to doubling the renewable energy capacity qualified data?	The data is sourced from a government dataset (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics). Reference to source of data added as footnote.
Bedford Borough Council	3.2	Need to understand what the East Park Legacy Fund means; management and ownership structure and duration.	At the time of preparing the early draft of the proposed SoCC, this information was unconfirmed and therefore not available for inclusion. No change made, but information on this topic was included in the consultation materials published as part of the statutory consultation.
Bedford Borough Council	3.2	Need to evidence statement that consumer costs are soaring.	Language in section 3.2 modified and reference to House of Commons Library research briefing (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics) added.
Huntingdonshire District Council	5.1	Appreciate “for example” list of matters that feedback will be sought on – but to me this appears loaded based on the listed questions which are quite detailed.	The questions outlined in Section 5.1 were not all the questions that the Applicant proposed to ask for feedback on. However, it is important to recognise that the need for the Scheme is established and that there are topics the Examining Authority will have expected the Applicant to have asked for specific feedback on. No change made to the SoCC.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.1	How will you be addressing decommissioning?	The questions outlined in section 5.1 were indicative and not exhaustive. However, the Applicant amended the list to make reference to

Local authority	SoCC ref.	Comment	Applicant's response
			decommissioning, and it sought views on decommissioning as part of the statutory consultation.
Bedford Borough Council	5.1	Need to recognise upfront cumulative effect.	The Applicant does not believe the suggested change is relevant to the scope of the Statement of Community Consultation. No change made, but the Applicant did present information on cumulative impacts as part of the statutory consultation.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.1	Is it worth mentioning BNG, community fund? More relatable to residents?	The questions outlined in section 5.1 were indicative and not exhaustive. Furthermore, the Applicant has already consulted on the legacy fund as part of the non-statutory consultation. No change made, but information on biodiversity net gain and the proposed legacy fund did form part of the Applicant's statutory consultation.
Bedford Borough Council	5.1	What is its legacy? How is this delivered and funded over 40 year period?	The Scheme would have long-term benefits beyond the proposed legacy fund, including supporting energy security and the UK's net zero targets. No change required.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.1	Just to be clear. Will there be a single non-technical summary for the complete PEIR, or non-technical summaries for each section of the PEIR?	A single non-technical summary of the PEIR was made available as part of the statutory consultation. No change required.
Huntingdonshire District Council	5.1	Understood based on previous sessions that the consultation would be 2 stage on the PEIR. The wording here does not suggest this or when the information will be consulted on.	The PEIR was consulted on as part of the statutory consultation, not as a standalone consultation. No change required.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.2	Suggest adding to list of those who would be consulted Local Authority Councillors representing wards within and bordering the consultation zone.	Section 5.2 updated to make clear that local authority councillors will be consulted.
Bedford Borough Council	5.2	Add Ramblers to list of local interest groups.	Section 5.2 updated to include the Ramblers Association in the list of local interest groups.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.2.1	Add ward to north of Hail Weston to consult due to landscape impact	Southlow & Midloe, and Little Paxton parish councils added to the list of consultees contained within paragraph 5.2.1.

Local authority	SoCC ref.	Comment	Applicant's response
Huntingdonshire District Council	5.2.1	Add Southoe & Midlow, and Little Paxton Parish Council's to reflect the ZTV within the Scoping Report.	As above.
Cambridgeshire County Council	6.0	Will large print be available to those that request? Possible Audio? All documentation must be available in formats that can be read by people who care for example colour blind and available in braille?	Section 6.0 updated to make reference to information being available in alternative formats (such as accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille) upon request.
Huntingdonshire District Council	6.0	Print and font size? Hard 'library' copy with Parish Clerk?	The print and font size of consultation documents, such as the PEIR, was as per the Planning Inspectorate's advice note on the preparation and submission of application documents. Whilst the Applicant did not consider that providing paper copies of consultation materials to the parish clerk was appropriate in a digital-first world, these were available to view at consultation events and paper copies of most documents were available free-of-charge on request. No change required.
Cambridgeshire County Council	6.0	I have seen an online interactive map used before where you can 'pin' a comment. Is anything like this proposed?	This tool was used at the non-statutory consultation but was not considered a success due to negative feedback on the tool from consultation respondents. As such, the Applicant did not make use of it at the statutory consultation. No change made.
Huntingdonshire District Council	6.0	Exhibitions should have options for times of the week/day. How will the events be promoted?	The Applicant held a weekend daytime consultation event as part of the statutory consultation, alongside three weekday daytime/evening (finishing at 7pm) consultation events. Section 6.0 updated to include further details of how the consultation will be promoted.
Bedford Borough Council	6.0	How often will the events be?	Section 8.3 updated to set out the Applicant's intention to hold up-to four events. Following the formal consultation on the draft SoCC, a further update included details of when and where these events were taking place.
Cambridgeshire County Council	6.0	How long in advance will you advertise the event and through what media?	Section 6.0 sets out the Applicant's plan to use newspapers, direct mail, a website and social media to advertise the statutory consultation, with this activity taking place shortly prior to the start of the consultation.

Local authority	SoCC ref.	Comment	Applicant's response
Huntingdonshire District Council	6.0	What would be in the press notice? Period of time for comments?	The press notice included a description of the Scheme, location of exhibitions and deadline for comments. Section 6.0 updated to make reference to this.
Cambridgeshire County Council	6.0	A variety of times to reach most people.	The Applicant held a weekend daytime consultation event as part of the statutory consultation, alongside three weekday daytime/evening (finishing at 7pm) consultation events. Section 6.0 updated to include further details of how the consultation will be promoted.
Cambridgeshire County Council	6.0	Any there are any parish newsletters?	Where they exist, the Applicant believes that the frequency of such newsletters was not timely for the consultation. No change made.
Cambridgeshire County Council	6.0	Need to define the notice period being given.	The first newspaper notice appeared alongside the start of statutory consultation. No change made.
Cambridgeshire County Council	6.0	Are there any local Facebook pages to link with?	Facebook adverts were targeted at all users within a defined area. No change made.
Huntingdonshire District Council	6.0	On seldom heard groups, Cambridgeshire County Council have provided a list of Gypsy and Traveller Groups and we will provide a list of community groups in the area.	Once provided, the Applicant consulted the groups identified by the Council. No change made.
Bedford Borough Council	8.1	How will the local insights be recorded?	Local insights will be captured in the Consultation Report, but the Applicant does not consider that this information is required in the SoCC. No change required.
Bedford Borough Council	8.1	Add dates and venues of non-statutory consultation.	This information will be included in the Consultation Report, but the Applicant does not consider that this information is required in the SoCC. No change made.
Cambridgeshire County Council	9.1	It is noted that feedback will be in writing unless there are exceptional circumstances. How will this be communicated to the public? Some hard to reach groups may find writing a barrier unless they are aware of alternative routes via the phone.	The Consultation brochure published as part of the statutory consultation set out that feedback would be accepted by telephone in exceptional circumstance. Section 9.1 updated to make this clear.

Local authority	SoCC ref.	Comment	Applicant's response
Bedford Borough Council	9.3	Statement that any future targeted consultation would be undertaken in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC needs to be a more committed statement.	Section 9.3 updated in line with comments.
Bedford Borough Council	10.0	Put in months for consultation – not just “summer”.	The final version of the SoCC included the dates of the statutory consultation, which were subject to change at the time of the consultation on the early draft of the proposed SoCC. No change made at the time of the consultation on the early draft of the proposed SoCC.
Bedford Borough Council	10.0	Set out more what the opportunities are for public representations at the examination.	Cross reference to guidance on Planning Inspectorate's website added.
Huntingdonshire District Council	Contact us	Data protection. How will data be handled and stored.	'Contact us' section updated to include statement on how data will be processed and handled.

- 3.2.4 The host local authorities were formally consulted on the draft SoCC on 26th April 2024, with any comments requested to be submitted by 29th May 2024.
- 3.2.5 Comments were received from all three host local authorities. **Table 3** outlines the comments made by the host local authorities on the draft SoCC, along with the Applicant's response to these comments.
- 3.2.6 Following consideration of the comments received, a copy of the SoCC published alongside the statutory consultation is included in **Appendix 1**.

Table 3 Regard had to comments on draft SoCC

Local authority	SoCC ref.	Comment	Applicant's response
Cambridgeshire County Council	2.1.2	May be worth stating geographically where, regional, national, Europe.	The existing text in section 2.0 sets out that, whilst the Applicant's portfolio of projects has been centred in Scotland, moving forwards it is seeking to strengthen its footprint across the UK. As such, no change to SoCC made.
Cambridgeshire County Council	2.1.2	Clarification: EN-3 Footnote 43 'For planning purposes, the proposed development will be assessed on the impacts of the total number of panels installed on the site (i.e., the impacts of the overplanted site)'; and, the related total potential capacity generated. Can this be provided?	Footnote 43 is no longer part of the current version EN-3 (November 2023). The comparable footnote would appear to be footnote 92, which does not base the assessment on the total number of panels installed on the site but on the impacts of the full extent of the Scheme, including any overplanting. This is the approach taken in the Environmental Impact Assessment, and does not form part of the summary description of the proposals provided in the SoCC. As such, no change made.
Cambridgeshire County Council	3.2.1	Can it be clarified if this is referring to AC current or DC current?	Footnote added to 3.2.1 clarifying that the anticipated output is measured in AC.
Cambridgeshire County Council	3.2.1	Clarification: MW storage capacity of the BESS, can this be stated to ensure it is not over-scaled to requirement, which in turn reverts to harm.	The project description is based on that included in the PEIR and other documents. For consistency with these documents, no change made to the SoCC.
Cambridgeshire County Council	3.2.1	Can this be quantified?	The project description is based on that included in the PEIR and other documents. For consistency with these documents, no change made to the SoCC.
Cambridgeshire County Council	3.2.1	Is this or can this be expressed as how much the Scheme will deliver annually as a baseline minimum (GW)?	3.2.1 expanded to explain that the proposed solar array ' <i>...would generate approximately 430 GWh of electricity per annum...</i> '.
Cambridgeshire County Council	3.2.1	East Park Legacy Fund: need clarification what this is, etc. Currently there is no further information on what many will see as a potentially important benefit.	Further detail on the Legacy Fund was included in the materials published as part of the statutory consultation. The Applicant did not consider that any further information is needed within the SoCC, as the focus of this document was on <i>how</i> the Applicant will consult rather than on <i>what</i> the

Local authority	SoCC ref.	Comment	Applicant's response
			Applicant is consulting on. As such, no change made to the SoCC.
Cambridgeshire County Council	3.3.1	This statement cannot be evidenced in terms of energy price to consumer. Should be removed.	The Applicant notes the comment and has removed the statement from the SoCC.
Cambridgeshire County Council	3.3.1	Not sure this (' <i>connection to the National Grid is available to BSSL in the relatively near term</i> ') is a benefit.	The Applicant notes the comment and has removed the statement from the SoCC.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.1.1	International, national, regional or local. This is to ensure consideration of manufacturing and logistics. i.e. import of PVs and other equipment.	The Applicant believes the comment is a matter for the EIA process, rather than the SoCC process. As such, no change made.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.1.1	Add 'operational' for completeness. Whilst envisaged less than construction and decommissioning, replacement still needs to be considered. Potential to amount to significant if panels need to be replace within the 40 year permission. Also to consider the replacement of large infrastructure such as batteries or transformers.	5.1.1 amended to read ' <i>...How BSSL can ensure the Scheme manages any disruption for local residents during construction, operation, and decommissioning works...</i> '
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.1.1	Clarify completion - end of construction or end of the 40 year permission	5.1.1 amended to remove ' <i>upon completion</i> ' from text.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.2.1	Add 'organisations'.	5.2.1 amended to read ' <i>...Our communication channels (detailed later in this SoCC) can be used by interested parties, organisation or individuals to get in touch...</i> '
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.2.3	Local authorities and...	5.2.3 amended to read ' <i>...Seldom heard groups' within the consultation zone, who have been drawn to our attention by Local Authorities and Parish Councils...</i> '
Huntingdonshire District Council	5.3.1	Petenhall - I believe there is an 'r' but defer to BBC (BBC confirm Pertenhall)	5.3.1 amended to correct spelling error.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.3.3	Suggest adding to the map to show boundaries	Figure 1 of the SOCC revised to better show parish council boundaries.
Cambridgeshire County Council	5.3.3	Can [the following] be added. Brampton and Buckden county division - SW boundary is close to site D.	Figure 1 of the SoCC revised to include Diddington, and Southloe & Midleoe Parish Councils.

Local authority	SoCC ref.	Comment	Applicant's response
		This would incorporate Diddington, Southoe & Midlow Riseley - NW boundary is close to site A.	
Cambridgeshire County Council	Figure 1	Can this include the 10km effect area.	The Applicant believes that the consultation zone it has identified is proportionate to the scale of the Scheme, as it includes all of the parish councils that would host it. As such, no change made to the SoCC.
Cambridgeshire County Council	Table 1	Detail of exhibition events is missing from column. Knowing where is important as the site covers a number of villages.	Table 2 of the SoCC amended to include detail of public consultation events.
Cambridgeshire County Council	Table 1	<i>Press releases</i> - Consideration needs to be given to the notice period for events and readvertising closer to the time.	Comment noted, no change to the SoCC required.
Cambridgeshire County Council	Table 1	<i>Community Information Line</i> - Can it be stated this information will be printed on all material? (particularly important for those not wishing to or cannot use the web site).	Table 1 amended to read ' <i>...A community information line will be available for anyone who has questions about the proposals via 0808 258 5991 Monday – Friday 9am to 5:30pm. Detail of the community information line will be included on consultation material provided to the public...</i> '.
Cambridgeshire County Council	Table 1	<i>Press notice - local newspaper</i> - Where there is the opportunity look to use local parish newsletters	Where they exist, the Applicant believes that the frequency of such newsletters was not timely for the consultation. No change made to the SoCC.
Cambridgeshire County Council	Table 1	<i>"Social media adverts with details of the proposed application and the consultation will be distributed at a 10-mile radius to the site"</i> - Not sure this follows. Better placed above related to postings.	The Applicant believes that the wording of the text is accurate/clear. As such, no change made to the SoCC.
Huntingdonshire District Council	6.1.2	Will it take 10 days to consider if the request can be accommodated, or the details then provided? Support the approach for these requests, but not sure on timescales and this could be a delay for people to be able to participate	6.1.2 amended to read ' <i>If any consultees need information available on the Scheme website in a different format, such as accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille, they can call the community information line to request this. The request will be considered, and a response provided, within in 10 working days.</i> '

Local authority	SoCC ref.	Comment	Applicant's response
Cambridgeshire County Council	8.3.1	<i>Weekday events end time (7PM)</i> - To maximise attendance a broader timeframe for those returning home from work would be advantageous.	In response to feedback from the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant held two additional in-person consultation events compared to the non-statutory consultation, including one that featured bookable 1:1 appointments for more in-depth conversations about the proposals. The Applicant believes these measures were sufficient in broadening access to in-person consultation events. As such, no change to the end time of consultation events was required.
Cambridgeshire County Council	10.0	Reflect revised programme.	10.1.2 updated to read ' <i>September – October 2024: Statutory consultation...</i> '
Cambridgeshire County Council	N/A	Can I check if you have identified as part of the hard to reach community the private traveller site on Kimbolton Road, which is between Hail Weston and Great Staughton? Do you have any specific plans for this community when at Statutory Consultation to share, or us LAs can assist with?	The Applicant can confirm that the traveller site was captured in the distribution area for the consultation zone mailing.

3.2.7 Following the amendments highlighted in **Table 3**, the final SoCC was published as part of the launch of the statutory consultation on 24 September 2024.

3.2.8 Copies of the emails to/from the host local authorities regarding the draft SoCC, along with a copy of the draft SoCC itself, will be included in the Consultation Report that will form part of the Applicant's DCO application.

3.3 Publication under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

3.3.1 In accordance with the requirements set out in Section 47(6) of the PA 2008, the Applicant made the SoCC available for viewing for the duration of the consultation. This is set out in **Table 4**.

Table 4 Detail of compliance with Section 47 of the PA 2008

Legislation	Detail of compliance
S47(6(za)): [The applicant must] make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land.	The SoCC was available to view on the project website from 24 September 2024. A paper copy of the SoCC was also available to view at all in-person consultation events, and available via post upon request.
S47(6(a)): [The applicant must] publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected.	A notice advertising the publication of the SoCC was published in the Hunts Post on 18 th September 2024.
S47(6(b)): [The applicant must] publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.	No additional requirements were prescribed at the relevant time.

3.4 Adherence with the SoCC

3.4.1 **Table 5** sets out how the statutory consultation was undertaken in compliance with the published SoCC, as per the requirements of Section 47(7) of the PA 2008.

3.4.2 The Consultation Report and its supporting appendices will include further evidence of this compliance.

Table 5 SoCC commitments and evidence of compliance

SoCC ref.	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
5.1.1	<p>BSSL will be seeking feedback on all aspects of the proposed application for the Scheme. This will involve asking community members to give their feedback about the proposals. For example, BSSL will be seeking feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which will identify the receptors and the likely significant effects of the Scheme. • How BSSL can ensure the Scheme manages any disruption for local residents during construction, operation, and decommissioning works. • What benefits the Scheme could bring on both a local and national level, such as contributing towards Net Zero and providing security of energy supply. • How BSSL can best realise the long-term benefits of the Scheme. 	<p>The feedback form published as part of the statutory consultation seeks views specifically on the PEIR and potential disruption during construction, operation and decommissioning works (Q5), and on the benefits the Scheme could bring (Q6, 7, 8 and 9).</p> <p>Additionally, Q10 allows feedback form respondents to give feedback on any areas they feel not covered by a specific question on the feedback form. Respondents who gave their feedback by email or post were able to structure their response in whatever way they chose.</p>
5.1.2	<p>The full extent of the Scheme will be consulted on as part of the process. Draft outline construction methodologies for the proposed application will also be consulted on.</p>	<p>Information on the full extent of the Scheme, including draft outline construction methodologies, were published as part of the statutory consultation materials. As outlined above, respondents were able to give feedback on these topics via any of the advertised feedback channels.</p>
5.2.1	<p>Our communication channels (detailed later in this SoCC) can be used by interested parties, organisation or individuals to get in touch with the development team to find out more information and comment on our proposals.</p>	<p>Contact channels (email, telephone and freepost address) were made available prior to, during and following the statutory consultation, with several comments and requests received through these channels.</p>
5.2.3	<p>We will also consult the following groups and individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish councils representing parishes within the immediate vicinity of the Scheme. • Local Authority Councillors representing wards within and bordering the consultation zone. • Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the consultation zone. 	<p>Letters (23rd September 2024) and/or emails (24th September 2024) were issued to all of the stakeholders listed in 5.2.3 in order to consult them on either a prescribed or non-prescribed basis during the statutory consultation.</p>

SoCC ref.	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Seldom heard groups’ within the consultation zone, who have been drawn to our attention by Local Authorities and Parish Councils. These groups, which are listed in Appendix A, represent people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials. • Local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife. 	
5.3.2	Properties within the consultation zone will receive a leaflet informing them of the statutory consultation and how to provide feedback through the post.	A newsletter that includes the content stipulated in 5.3.2 was issued by post to all residential and business addresses in the consultation zone on 23 rd September 2024.
5.3.3	<p>In addition, we will also consult the following neighbouring Parish and Town Councils on behalf of their residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimbolton and Stonely Parish Council • Perry Parish Council • Riseley Parish Council • St Neots Town Council • Southoe and Midloe Parish Council • Little Paxton Parish Council • Buckden Parish Council 	Letters (23 rd September 2024) and/or emails (24 th September 2024) were issued to all of the parish councils listed in 5.3.3 in order to consult them on either a prescribed or non-prescribed basis during the statutory consultation.
Table 1	(How we will publicise the statutory consultation) Distributing consultation leaflets with details of the consultation website, communication channels and exhibition events to all addresses within the consultation zone.	A newsletter that included the content stipulated in Table 1 was issued by post to all residential and business addresses in the consultation zone on 23 rd September 2024.
Table 1	(How we will publicise the statutory consultation) The consultation website will be updated for people to find out more information and provide their feedback on the proposed application.	The contents of the consultation website matches the description outlined in Table 1.

SoCC ref.	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
Table 1	(How we will publicise the statutory consultation) Press releases will be issued to local news outlets, such as Cambridgeshire Live, Hunts Post and Bedford Today.	A press release publicising the statutory consultation was issued to the outlets listed in Table 1 (along with BBC Look East, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, BBC Three Counties Radio, ITV News Anglia and Heart East Anglia) was issued on 23 rd September 2024.
Table 1	(How we will publicise the statutory consultation) A press notice including a description of the scheme and deadline for comments will be displayed in the London Gazette and a local newspaper.	Statutory notices were placed in the Hunts Post on 18 th September (Section 47 and Section 48) and 24 th September 2024 (Section 48), and in the London Gazette (Section 48) on 24 th September 2024. The notices match the description outlined in Table 1.
Table 1	(How we will publicise the statutory consultation) Direct mail letters to Councillors, MPs, seldom heard groups within the consultation zone and other outreach method as appropriate, such as target social media collateral and sharing information at key community locations.	Letters (23 rd September 2024) and/or emails (24 th September 2024) were issued to all of the stakeholders listed in Table 1 in order to consult them on either a prescribed or non-prescribed basis during the statutory consultation.
Table 1	(How we will publicise the statutory consultation) Community and seldom heard groups identified by District and Parish Councils are listed in Appendix A to this SoCC and will be consulted.	Letters (23 rd September 2024) and/or emails (24 th September 2024) were issued to all of the stakeholders listed in Appendix A in order to consult them on either a prescribed or non-prescribed basis during the statutory consultation.
Table 1	(How we will publicise the statutory consultation) Social media adverts with details of the proposed application and the consultation will be distributed at a 10-mile radius to the site. The social media adverts will be displayed on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.	Social media adverts publicising the consultation were placed on Facebook and Instagram from 25 th September 2024, and on TikTok from 1 st October 2024.
Table 1	(How we will publicise the statutory consultation) Statutory Notices will be placed in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act 2008.	Statutory notices were placed in the Hunts Post on 18 th September (Section 47 and Section 48) and 24 th September 2024 (Section 48), in The Guardian on 24 th September 2024 (Section 48) and in the London Gazette (Section 48) on 24 th

SoCC ref.	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		September 2024. The notices match the description outlined in Table 1.
Table 1	A website – www.eastparkenergy.co.uk – with details of the proposals for the community to review and provide comments on. The website will include a feedback form, which will also be available in paper copy.	The contents of the consultation website matched the description outlined in Table 1.
Table 1	A community information line will be available for anyone who has questions about the proposals via 0808 258 5991 Monday – Friday 9am to 5:30pm. Detail of the community information line will be included on consultation material provided to the public.	The contact telephone number detailed in Table 1 was available prior to, during and following the statutory consultation, with several comments and requests received through these channels. Details of the contact telephone number were included in the newsletter, consultation brochure and feedback form.
Table 1	A consultation email address will also be available for people to ask questions and send their comments to: info@eastparkenergy.co.uk .	The email address detailed in Table 1 was available prior to, during and following the statutory consultation, with several comments and requests received through these channels. Details of the contact email were included in the newsletter, consultation brochure and feedback form.
Table 1	Social media adverts will publicise the consultation and include a link to find out more and provide feedback via the consultation website.	Social media adverts publicising the consultation were placed on Facebook and Instagram from 25 th September 2024, and on TikTok from 1 st October 2024.
6.1.2	If any consultees need information available on the Scheme website in a different format, such as accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille, they can call the community information line to request this. The request will be considered, and a response provided, within 10 working days.	The Applicant had procedures in place to facilitate requests for copies of consultation materials in alternative formats, although no such requests were received.
7.1.2	At the consultation, BSSL will present a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'). The PEIR will report on the EIA work undertaken up-to the time of the start of statutory consultation and will enable all consultees to get a clear understanding of the likely environmental effects of the Scheme.	The PEIR was published as part of the statutory consultation.

SoCC ref.	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
7.1.2	BSSL will be actively seeking consultee's comments on the PEIR, and there will be the opportunity for both the design of the Scheme and the ongoing EIA work to consider any comments received through the consultation.	The feedback form published as part of the statutory consultation sought views specifically on the PEIR (Q5). Additionally, Q10 allowed feedback form respondents to give feedback on any areas they feel not covered by a specific question on the feedback form. Respondents who gave their feedback by email or post were able to structure their response in whatever way they chose.
7.1.3	BSSL is engaging with key stakeholders and statutory environmental bodies following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, and a summary of this consultation and actions taken will be set out in the PEIR.	Chapter 1 of the PEIR set out how the Applicant has engaged with key stakeholders and statutory environmental bodies following receipt of the scoping opinion.
8.3.1	The statutory consultation will run for five weeks from Tuesday 24 September to Tuesday 29 October 2024.	The statutory consultation took place between the dates set out in 8.3.1.
8.3.2	Four public consultation events are proposed to take place during the consultation period. The dates, times and locations of these events are outlined in Table 2 [of the SoCC].	Four consultation events took place and were in line with 8.3.2 and Table 2 of the SoCC. Further information on these events is included in 2.3.4 of this Statement.
8.3.3	Additionally, BSSL is proposing to hold a day of one-to-one meetings with the project team during the consultation period. Appointments will be available on a first come first served basis and will enable members of the local community to have more detailed conversations with the project team. Table 3 includes details of these proposed meetings.	A day of one-to-one meetings took place and was in line with 8.3.3 and Table 3 of the SoCC.
9.1.1	<p>Respondents will be able to share their feedback on Scheme by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitting an online feedback form. • Filling in a physical feedback form. • Sending a written letter. • Sending an email. 	Respondents were able to submit feedback to the consultation via the feedback channels listed in 9.1.1.

SoCC ref.	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
9.1.3	Responses given orally, such as via telephone, will be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation.	Whilst the Applicant had made arrangements to accept feedback via telephone in exceptional circumstances, no such scenario occurred and therefore no responses were submitted in this manner.
9.2.1	Following the close of the statutory consultation, all feedback will be reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns.	The Applicant can confirm that it is in the process of reviewing and analysing all feedback received to the statutory consultation. As part of its application for development consent, it will submit a Consultation Report with further detail of how the Applicant has had regard to this feedback.
Appendix A	<p>In preparing the SoCC, BSSL asked local authorities to recommend seldom heard groups to engage with at the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Huntingdonshire District Council made a number of recommendations that are contained in Table 2 below. They also recommended that we seek the views of the Parish Councils. The responses from the Parish Councils are contained in Table 3.</p> <p>BSSL will consult with all these groups at Statutory Consultation.</p>	Letters (23 rd September 2024) and/or emails (24 th September 2024) were issued to all of the stakeholders listed in Tables 4 and 5 (incorrectly referred to in the text of Appendix A as Tables 2 and 3) in order to consult them on either a prescribed or non-prescribed basis during the statutory consultation.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

4.1 Updating stakeholders

- 4.1.1 Following the close of the statutory consultation, the Applicant is continuing to engage with statutory bodies and other consultees regarding its proposals.
- 4.1.2 In April 2025, this engagement included issuing a newsletter update to all residential and business addresses within the consultation zone the Applicant wrote to as part of the statutory consultation. The newsletter included a high-level summary of activity undertaken as part of the statutory consultation, along with an update on submission timescales, archaeology surveys and engagement with a local school and parish council.
- 4.1.3 Prior to submitting a DCO application, the Applicant also intends to issue a further newsletter update to all residential and business addresses within the consultation zone setting out how the design of the Scheme has evolved in response to statutory consultation feedback.

4.2 Consultation responses

- 4.2.1 The Applicant is currently analysing responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will produce a Consultation Report, as part of its application for development consent.
- 4.2.2 In accordance with Section 37(3)(c) on the PA 2008, the Consultation Report will evidence that consultation feedback has been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 4.2.3 Changes to the design of the Scheme that have been identified as a result of landowner engagement, environmental and technical surveys, and consultation feedback include:

- Removing small areas of solar development from the Scheme, including one location in Site A, various locations within East Park Site B and one location in Site C;
- Reintroducing a small area of solar development at a location north of The Kangaroo in Site B;
- Confirming the Applicant's intention to proceed with Option 2/Site D for the location of the BESS and internal substation;
- Increasing the buffer between proposed solar panels and the existing environment at various locations, to allow for more mitigation planting; and
- Realignment of some site access points, including north west of Little Staughton and on Great Staughton Road.

4.2.4 The Applicant has also identified a series of smaller changes to its plans, including consolidation and realignment of fencing, and minor changes to the alignment of underground cable corridors.

4.2.5 Associated with the site access realignment on Great Staughton Road (outlined above), the Applicant has identified a reduction to the size of the Order Limits for the Scheme. As this change would only impact a single landowner, whom the Applicant has engaged with on several occasions during the pre-application stage, the Applicant is engaging directly with this stakeholder on the change.

4.2.6 At the time of this Report, the Applicant has not finalised the design of the Scheme. A full list of design changes will be included as part of the DCO application.

4.3 DCO application

- 4.3.1 Alongside the submission of its application for development consent, the Applicant intends to publish a 'You said, we did' document outlining how the feedback received at the statutory consultation has informed the Scheme.
- 4.3.2 The 'You said, we did' document will be uploaded to the project website and emailed to key stakeholders, along with those who took part in the consultation. The aim of this document is to provide a more public-facing and accessible summary of the outcomes of the statutory consultation.

APPENDIX 1 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



EAST PARK ENERGY

East Park Energy

EN010141

**Statement of Community
Consultation**

September 2024

Version 03

EAST PARK ENERGY

Statement of Community Consultation

Version	Date	Status
01	February 2024	First draft
02	April 2024	Consultation draft
03	September 2024	Final

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	About Brockwell Storage and Solar (BSSL).....	4
3.0	East Park Energy	5
3.1	Introduction.....	5
3.2	The Proposals	5
3.3	Benefits of the Scheme	5
4.0	The Planning process	7
5.0	The statutory consultation programme.....	8
5.1	What will we Consult On?.....	8
5.2	Who will we Consult?	8
5.3	Consultation Zone	9
6.0	How will we consult?	11
7.0	Environmental information.....	13
8.0	Public Consultation.....	14
8.1	Non-Statutory Consultation	14
8.2	Publication of the SoCC	14
8.3	Statutory Consultation	15
9.0	Responses to the Consultation.....	17
9.1	Methods of responding	17
9.2	Consultation Report.....	17
9.3	Further Consultation	18
10.0	Consultation Timeline.....	19
11.0	Contact Us	20
	Appendix A.....	21

Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BSSL	Brockwell Storage and Solar Limited
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GW	Gigawatt
MW	Megawatt
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information report
RSPB	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoS	Secretary of State

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 BSSL Cambsbed 1 Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Brockwell Storage and Solar Limited ('BSSL'), is putting forward a proposed application for a new solar and energy storage facility called East Park Energy ('the Scheme').
- 1.1.2 This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC'), outlines the ways by which people living in the vicinity of the land required for the Scheme can engage with the proposed application during the statutory consultation.
- 1.1.3 The Scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and requires consent from the Secretary of State via a Development Consent Order ('DCO'). BSSL intend to submit an application for development consent for the Scheme ('the Application') in early 2025.
- 1.1.4 This document has been prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 and regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. In preparing the SoCC, BSSL has consulted local authorities, whose views were taken into account and used to inform the final SoCC.
- 1.1.5 The Scheme is an 'EIA development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations'). BSSL is therefore undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It will submit an Environmental Statement ('ES') reporting the results of the EIA alongside the DCO application. This SoCC also sets out how BSSL intend to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, as required by Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, in advance of the submission of the Application.
- 1.1.6 BSSL wants to listen to the views of the community to develop its proposals for the Scheme. This will allow BSSL to develop the Application responsibly and in a manner that is considerate towards local community interests.

2.0 ABOUT BROCKWELL STORAGE AND SOLAR (BSSL)

- 2.1.1 Proposals for East Park Energy are being developed by Brockwell Storage and Solar ('BSSL'), previously known as RNA Energy.
- 2.1.2 Founded in 2015, RNA Energy has been actively developing both solar and Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS') projects in the UK, and has gained consent for BESS and solar projects since then. Brockwell Holdings, the owner of Brockwell Energy, acquired RNA Energy on 13 March 2024. It has since rebranded RNA Energy as BSSL.
- 2.1.3 The deal marks a key milestone in Brockwell's strategy to strengthen its position as a significant player in the renewable energy sector – increasing its UK footprint and contributing to its goal of developing and building out 5 GW of installed renewable generation capacity by 2030.
- 2.1.4 Brockwell Energy has a portfolio of projects, initially based in Scotland, including Energy from Waste, onshore wind, solar and BESS. It is currently developing a number of projects, including North Kyle Wind Farm in East Ayrshire, and Earls Gate Energy Centre in Falkirk.
- 2.1.5 Although the company developing the project is BSSL, the special purpose vehicle that will submit the Application is BSSL Cambsbed 1 Ltd.

3.0 EAST PARK ENERGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The Scheme is on the boundary between Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, with the National Grid connection to the west of St Neots. The Scheme covers the administrative boundaries of Bedford Borough Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Huntingdonshire District Council.

3.2 The Proposals

3.2.1 The Scheme covers approximately 766 hectares. The proposals include:

- An anticipated output from the solar arrays of up to 400 megawatts¹ (MW) of electricity, which would generate approximately 430 GWh of electricity per annum, enough electricity to supply approximately 108,000 homes.
- A 100 MW battery storage facility to manage the export of power available to the National Grid during times of peak demand, as well as providing Grid balancing services.
- A connection to National Grid's substation at Eaton Socon.
- Works to create, enhance and maintain the natural environment, including the delivery of at least 10% biodiversity net gain.
- The introduction of the East Park Legacy Fund, offering financial opportunities for the nearby communities.

3.3 Benefits of the Scheme

3.3.1 We have identified the following benefits of the Scheme:

- To deliver Net Zero, the UK Government forecasts that up to 70 gigawatts (GW) of solar energy could be required nationally by 2035. The Scheme would double² the existing solar and wind renewable energy capacity in

¹ Measured in Alternating Current (AC)

² Derived from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics>

Bedford Borough and Huntingdonshire District, adding approximately 0.4 GW towards the national target.

- There is an existing target to decarbonise the UK's electricity system by 2035. Meeting this goal will require huge growth in the renewables sector. There is capacity to connect into the network at Eaton Socon substation ahead of this deadline, meaning that the Scheme will support the Government's decarbonisation targets.
- The East Park Legacy Fund will offer financial contributions to local projects, providing a benefit for those living locally to the Scheme.
- The proposals include a range of works to create, enhance and maintain the natural environment in the local area, including through the delivery of at least 10% biodiversity net gain.

4.0 THE PLANNING PROCESS

- 4.1.1 The Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. This is because its proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 MW. BSSL must therefore make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. Whilst the application is made to the Secretary of State (SoS), the examination of the application for development consent is carried out by the Planning Inspectorate for England. Following this examination, the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the SoS as to whether the application for development consent should be granted or refused; however, the ultimate decision lies with the SoS.
- 4.1.2 Consultation with the local community is essential to delivering effective development and is required by the Planning Act 2008. Once the Planning Inspectorate has received the application for development consent, it will consider whether to accept the application for examination. To be accepted, BSSL must satisfy the Planning Inspectorate that the pre-application consultation, both with statutory consultees (such as the local planning authorities and expert bodies, such as Natural England) and local communities, has been undertaken in accordance with legal requirements, which include compliance with this document.
- 4.1.3 To demonstrate this to the Planning Inspectorate, BSSL will submit a Consultation Report alongside the application for development consent, outlining how the statutory consultation has been carried out in accordance with the Planning Act 2008. This report will contain details of the statutory consultation methodology and the feedback submitted in response to the consultation. Explanation will also be provided as to how BSSL have had regard to feedback and how it has influenced the Scheme.

5.0 THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROGRAMME

5.1 What will we Consult On?

5.1.1 BSSL will be seeking feedback on all aspects of the proposed application for the Scheme. This will involve asking local community members to give their views about the proposals. For example, BSSL will be seeking feedback on:

- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which will identify the receptors and the likely significant effects of the Scheme.
- How BSSL can ensure the Scheme manages any disruption for local residents during construction, operation, and decommissioning works.
- What benefits the Scheme could bring on both a local and national level, such as contributing towards Net Zero and providing security of energy supply.
- How BSSL can best realise the long-term benefits of the Scheme.

5.1.2 The full extent of the Scheme will be consulted on as part of the process. Draft outline construction methodologies for the proposed application will also be consulted on. More information will become available regarding these aspects as our proposals develop.

5.2 Who will we Consult?

5.2.1 This statutory consultation is open to anyone who may be interested or in any way feels impacted by our proposals to develop the Scheme. Our communication channels (detailed later in this SoCC) can be used by interested parties, organisation or individuals to get in touch with the development team to find out more information and comment on our proposals.

5.2.2 Under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, BSSL has a duty to consult the local community. As such, BSSL has defined a consultation zone for the purpose of publicising the consultation directly to the local community. The consultation zone is described below in section 5.3 of the SoCC.

5.2.3 We will also consult the following groups and individuals:

- Parish councils representing parishes within the immediate vicinity of the Scheme.
- Local Authority Councillors representing wards within and bordering the consultation zone.
- Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the consultation zone.
- ‘Seldom heard groups’ within the consultation zone, who have been drawn to our attention by Local Authorities and Parish Councils. These groups, which are listed in Appendix A, represent people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials.
- Local interest groups, such as residents’ associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as local heritage or wildlife.

5.3 Consultation Zone

5.3.1 A consultation zone has been established following discussions with the local authorities. The zone is designed to capture the communities and elected representatives closest to the Scheme. It extends to the parish council boundaries of:

- Bolnhurst & Keysoe Parish Council
- Great Staughton Parish Council
- Hail Weston Parish Council
- Little Staughton Parish Council
- Pertenhall & Swineshead Parish Council
- Staploe Parish Council

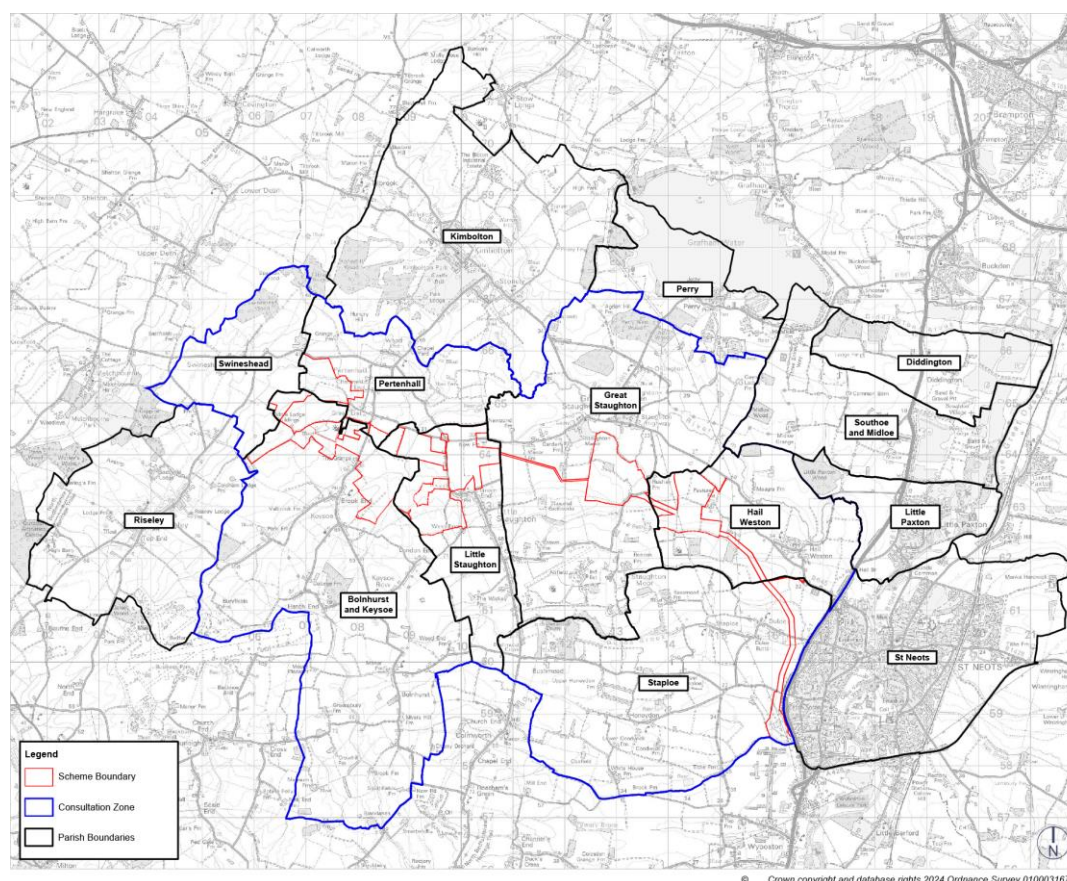
5.3.2 Properties within the consultation zone will receive a leaflet informing them of the statutory consultation and how to provide feedback through the post. This ensures that all of the immediate local community around the site is consulted in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008.

5.3.3 In addition, we will also consult the following neighbouring Parish and Town Councils on behalf of their residents:

- Kimbolton and Stonely Parish Council
- Perry Parish Council
- Riseley Parish Council
- St Neots Town Council
- Southoe and Midloe Parish Council
- Little Paxton Parish Council
- Buckden Parish Council

5.3.4 The consultation zone is shown on Figure 1 below, together with the Scheme boundary from the non-statutory consultation.

Figure 1 - A map of the Consultation Zone



6.0 HOW WILL WE CONSULT?

6.1.1 We have identified a consultation zone and outlined how we will publicise the statutory consultation to the community. The table below sets out how we will consult the community.

Table 1: Proposed Consultation Methods

How we will publicise the statutory consultation	How we will consult
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributing consultation leaflets with details of the consultation website, communication channels and exhibition events to all addresses within the consultation zone. The consultation website will be updated for people to find out more information and provide their feedback on the proposed application: www.eastparkenergy.co.uk Press releases will be issued to local news outlets, such as Cambridgeshire Live, Hunts Post and Bedford Today. A press notice including a description of the scheme and deadline for comments will be displayed in the London Gazette and a local newspaper. Direct mail letters to Councillors, MPs, seldom heard groups within the consultation zone and other outreach method as appropriate, such as target social media collateral and sharing information at key community locations. Community and seldom heard Groups identified by District and Parish Councils are listed in Appendix A to this SoCC and will be consulted. Social media adverts with details of the proposed application and the consultation will be distributed at a 10-mile radius to the site. The social media adverts will be displayed on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. This will provide people who are interested in the proposed application but live outside the consultation zone an opportunity to give their feedback on the proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation leaflets. Letters to seldom heard groups and other outreach methods as recommended to us by local authorities. A website – www.eastparkenergy.co.uk – with details of the proposals for the community to review and provide comments on. The website will include a feedback form, which will also be available in paper copy. A community information line will be available for anyone who has questions about the proposals via 0808 258 5991 Monday – Friday 9am to 5:30pm. Detail of the community information line will be included on consultation material provided to the public. A consultation email address will also be available for people to ask questions and send their comments to: info@eastparkenergy.co.uk. Social media adverts will publicise the consultation and include a link to find out more and provide feedback via the consultation website.

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statutory Notices will be placed in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act 2008. | |
|--|--|

6.1.2 If any consultees need information available on the Scheme website in a different format, such as accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille, they can call the community information line to request this. The request will be considered, and a response provided, within 10 working days.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

- 7.1.1 BSSL will undertake an EIA of the Scheme. This involves an identification of environmental receptors that have the potential to be impacted by the Scheme, which can include people, wildlife, habitats, and places. An assessment will be made of the likely significant effects of the Scheme on these receptors and, where appropriate, mitigation will be proposed to avoid, minimise, reduce or offset significant adverse effects.
- 7.1.2 A full Environmental Statement ('ES') setting out the environmental effects of the Scheme will be prepared and submitted with the application. At the consultation, BSSL will present a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'). The PEIR will report on the EIA work undertaken up-to the time of the start of statutory consultation and will enable all consultees to get a clear understanding of the likely environmental effects of the Scheme. BSSL will be actively seeking consultee's comments on the PEIR, and there will be the opportunity for both the design of the Scheme and the ongoing EIA work to consider any comments received through the consultation.
- 7.1.3 The EIA of the Scheme has already begun, and a Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2023. The Scoping Report set out the proposed scope of the EIA, along with an initial identification of potential receptors and effects. In response to the submission of the Scoping Report, the Planning Inspectorate adopted a Scoping Opinion in December 2023. BSSL is engaging with key stakeholders and statutory environmental bodies following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, and a summary of this consultation and actions taken will be set out in the PEIR. Both the Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion for the Scheme are available on the National Infrastructure Planning website at the [East Park Energy project page](#) (Planning Inspectorate ref: EN010141).

8.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

8.1 Non-Statutory Consultation

- 8.1.1 The non-statutory consultation period ran from Tuesday 17 October 2023 to Tuesday 21 November 2023, spanning five weeks. Its primary objective was to introduce the Scheme and give local communities and stakeholders the opportunity to provide initial feedback at an early stage in the process. This initial phase sought opinions and contributions toward the Scheme's development. Recognising the importance of local insights, we actively sought and will continue to value community input throughout the pre-application process and will record the outcome of the consultation in a Consultation Report which will be submitted as part of the Application.
- 8.1.2 Various initiatives were undertaken during the non-statutory consultation, including the launch of a consultation website, issuing press releases and a press notice, reaching out to political and statutory stakeholders, running social media advertisements, and hosting three public exhibition events.
- 8.1.3 A total of 372 submissions were received during the consultation. While a large number were sympathetic to the necessity of renewable energy, many expressed concerns about the Scheme's location, leading to their inability to lend support. Additionally, there were queries and recommendations regarding ways we could enhance biodiversity and safeguard Public Rights of Way within the Scheme.
- 8.1.4 For further details regarding the non-statutory consultation, the Non-Statutory Consultation Report is available on the consultation website at www.eastparkenergy.co.uk

8.2 Publication of the SoCC

- 8.2.1 This SoCC has been subject to prior consultation with Huntingdonshire District Council, Bedford Borough Council and Cambridgeshire County

Council. The SoCC has been published and publicised in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.

8.3 Statutory Consultation

8.3.1 The statutory consultation will run for five weeks from Tuesday 24 September to Tuesday 29 October 2024. This statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, will allow us to update the local community on the Scheme, including how the feedback we received during the non-statutory consultation has influenced the proposed application for East Park Energy.

8.3.2 Four public consultation events are proposed to take place during the consultation period. The dates, times and locations of these events are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Proposed public consultation events

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 1 October	2pm-7pm	Keysoe Village Hall, Elm Tree Grove, Keysoe, MK44 2JE
Wednesday 2 October	2pm-7pm	Little Staughton Village Hall, Colmworth Road, Little Staughton, MK44 2BX
Friday 11 October	2pm-7pm	Hail Weston Village Hall, 109 High Street, Hail Weston, PE19 5JS
Saturday 12 October	11am-3pm	Great Staughton Village Hall, Green Lane, Great Staughton, PE19 5DG

8.3.3 Additionally, BSSL is proposing to hold a day of one-to-one meetings with the project team during the consultation period. Appointments will be available on a first come first served basis and will enable members of the local community to have more detailed conversations with the project team. Table 3 includes details of these proposed meetings.

Table 3: Proposed one-to-one meetings

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 22 October	10am-2pm	Pertenhall Village Hall, Swineshead Road, Pertenhall, MK44 2AT

- 8.3.4 If, for any reason, it is unfortunately necessary to cancel a scheduled event, this information will be published on the Scheme website. If practicable, a notice will also be placed at the venue.

9.0 RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION

9.1 Methods of responding

9.1.1 Respondents will be able to share their feedback on Scheme by:

- Submitting an online feedback form.
- Filling in a physical feedback form.
- Sending a written letter.
- Sending an email.

9.1.2 Consultation responses received via any other method than those listed above, such as through social media, will not be formally recorded as part of the consultation.

9.1.3 Responses given orally, such as via telephone, will be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis where someone may not otherwise be able to respond to the consultation. Queries and questions can be taken from telephone correspondence, but all feedback needs to be in writing by the methods provided above, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

9.2 Consultation Report

9.2.1 Following the close of the statutory consultation, all feedback will be reviewed and analysed to understand key themes and concerns. A Consultation Report will be produced as part of our application for development consent. The report will set out how the feedback from the consultation has shaped and influenced the final proposals. Responses to the consultation and extracts of responses may be published as part of the report unless specifically stated in the response. Any responses that are published will have all personal details redacted.

9.3 Further Consultation

- 9.3.1 If, following the statutory consultation, BSSL considers it is necessary to undertake further targeted consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate to the scale of the change made, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.

10.0 CONSULTATION TIMELINE

October – November 2023: Non-Statutory Consultation

- 10.1.1 This phase of consultation introduced the community to the Scheme and provided the community and other consultees an opportunity to give feedback on the initial proposals.

September – October 2024: Statutory Consultation

- 10.1.2 BSSL will consult the community on the revised proposals as explained in this SoCC. The consultation will also explain how the feedback we received during the non-statutory consultation has influenced the Scheme. In addition, we will consult statutory consultees (as outlined in sections 42, 44, 46 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008) and others on the revised proposals.

Q1 2025: Submission of Application for Development Consent

- 10.1.3 BSSL will consider all the feedback received and will refine its proposals before submitting the application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate, which will include the Consultation Report. If the application is 'accepted' it will go through a pre-Examination period of typically 3 to 4 months, prior to a six-month formal Examination period.

Summer/Autumn 2025: Examination

- 10.1.4 The Examination period is a set process with statutory timescales. The application for development consent will be scrutinised by an independent inspector(s) appointed by the Planning Inspectorate (known as the 'Examining Authority'). There will also be an opportunity to make written representations and participate in public hearings as part of the Examination.

2026: Decision

- 10.1.5 The Examining Authority will make a recommendation on whether the application for development consent should be approved before the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero makes the final decision.

11.0 CONTACT US

11.1.1 You can get in touch by:

- Emailing us at: info@eastparkenergy.co.uk.
- Calling our community information line at: 0808 258 5991 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm).
- Writing to us at: Freepost EAST PARK ENERGY.

11.1.2 Data will be protected in accordance with our obligations under both the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016. This will apply to data processed electronically and on paper.

APPENDIX A

In preparing the SoCC, BSSL asked local authorities to recommend seldom heard groups to engage with at the statutory consultation.

Huntingdonshire District Council made a number of recommendations that are contained in Table 2 below. They also recommended that we seek the views of the Parish Councils. The responses from the Parish Councils are contained in Table 3.

BSSL will consult with all these groups at Statutory Consultation.

Some of these groups, such as RSPB and BHS, were also suggested as consultees during the non-statutory consultation.

Table 4: Recommendations from Huntingdonshire District Council

Group
Conygear Centre
St. Neots Voluntary Welfare Association
St. Neots Community Support
St. Neots Museum
St. Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit
Neotists
St. Neots Local History Society
The Sun Network
Breakfast Church
Messy Church
Loves Farm Ladies

Group
Teatime Praise
St. Neots Volunteer Centre
Walk and Talk 4 Men St. Neots
Royal Naval Association
St. Neots Round Table
St. Neots TimeBank
Fair to Nature
Love's Farm Community Association
St. Neots FLAG (Flood Action Group)
Priory Park Friends Group

Table 5: Recommendations from Parish Councils

Group
Great Staughton Primary School
St Andrews Church
St Neots Cycling Club
Great Staughton WI
Great Staughton Community Land Trust
Parish Charities
Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust

Group
Huntingdonshire Wildlife Trust
Hunts Ramblers
Oakley Hunt
North Bucks Beagles
CPRE
CPRE Bedfordshire
CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Ramblers
British Horse Society
British Horse Society - Bedfordshire
British Horse Society- Cambridgeshire
RSPB- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

