

# Tween Bridge Solar Farm

## 5.1 Consultation Report

**Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms  
and Procedure) Regulations 2009**

**APFP Regulation 5(1)**

**Document Reference: 5.1**

**August 2025**

**Revision 1**

# CONSULTATION REPORT

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# 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1.1. This Consultation Report ('the Report') relates to the proposed Tween Bridge Solar Farm ('the Scheme') being promoted by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd ('the Applicant'). As the Scheme will generate more than 50MW of power, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008')<sup>1</sup> and therefore requires a Development Consent Order ('DCO').
- 1.1.2. The Applicant is seeking development consent for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar and battery energy storage facility, and export connection to the national grid. The Scheme is located across the Local Authority areas of North Lincolnshire Council and the City of Doncaster Council ('the host authorities').
- 1.1.3. This Report has been prepared in accordance with section 37 of the PA 2008. This Report explains how the Applicant has complied with the consultation requirements set out in the PA 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations')<sup>2</sup>, Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations')<sup>3</sup> and The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024<sup>4</sup>. The Report sets out the consultation process, the feedback received and how the Applicant has had regard to responses received, including how feedback has influenced or been incorporated into the Scheme. This Report has been prepared in accordance with Planning Inspectorate Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report'<sup>5</sup>.
- 1.1.4. The Scheme has been informed by consultation and engagement between the Applicant and the local community, the host authorities, Persons with an Interest

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<sup>1</sup> The Planning Act 2008, available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

<sup>2</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2264/contents/made>

<sup>3</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/contents/made>

<sup>4</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/332/contents/made>

<sup>5</sup> Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-theconsultation-report>

in the Land ('PILs') and Prescribed Consultees. The Applicant has conducted extensive pre-application consultation in preparing the Application. This included early engagement with stakeholders to introduce the Scheme, a period of non-statutory consultation and a period of statutory consultation intended to meet the requirements set by the PA 2008.

- 1.1.5. A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how the Applicant proposed to consult with people living in the vicinity of the proposals was produced for the Spring 2025 statutory consultation. The Applicant consulted with the host local authorities, North Lincolnshire Council and the City of Doncaster Council, about the SoCC prior to its publication. The consultation was delivered in accordance with the SoCC.
- 1.1.6. In accordance with its duty to consult under section 42, the Applicant identified and consulted with the relevant prescribed bodies, local authorities and those with a land interest.
- 1.1.7. The Applicant publicised the Application in the prescribed manner in accordance with the requirements of section 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.
- 1.1.8. In total, 206 responses were received across the two stages of consultation. This includes 73 responses received during the non-statutory consultation and 133 responses received during the statutory consultation.
- 1.1.9. The Applicant undertook a careful and thorough review of the consultation responses received across the non-statutory, statutory and targeted consultations and has had regard to all responses in finalising its proposals.
- 1.1.10. Feedback from non-statutory consultation and ongoing design development led to a number of changes to the design presented at statutory consultation, including changes in the area proposed for solar panels and associated infrastructure. This enabled the addition of buffers to residential dwellings and businesses and environmental features within and surrounding the order limits. The Applicant also progressed the plans to increase the areas proposed for ecological mitigation, included new planting to screen views, and incorporated additional permissive paths and a bird viewing gallery. In addition, a number of access points were amended to ensure safe access into parts of the site.

- 1.1.11. Updated proposals were presented at the statutory consultation phase, alongside the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. The key changes made in response to feedback received at statutory consultation include:
- Amendments to order limits.
  - Removal of PV panels in certain areas to provide a larger buffer to reduce potential landscape and visual impacts on residential receptors and PRowWs.
  - Water tanks added into the design to sit adjacent to the BESS following consultation with statutory consultees and technical specialists to provide a source of water in the event of a fire breaking out at the BESS during the operation period.
  - Removal of Electric Vehicle charging points in response to matters raised in consultation confirming this was not desired by the local community.
- 1.1.12. Despite the relatively limited public interest, responses to both rounds of consultation have played a central role in influencing the design and assessment of the Scheme.
- 1.1.13. More information summarising the responses received and an explanation as to how the Applicant has had regard to those responses is explained in the Report.
- 1.2. Summary of the two-stage approach to pre-application consultation**
- 1.2.1. **Winter 2023:** a 56-day non-statutory consultation took place between Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and 23:59 on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The non-statutory consultation served to introduce the local community to the Scheme. The early environmental findings were presented within a Draft Preliminary Environmental Information Report (Draft PEIR). Throughout the consultation period, 73 responses were received.
- 1.2.2. **Spring 2025:** a 50-day statutory consultation took place beginning on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and formally closing at 23:59 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The statutory consultation set out the detailed elements of the solar and battery energy storage project, along with a PEIR which presented the preliminary findings of the environmental impact assessment of the Scheme. Throughout the consultation period, 133 responses were received.

- 1.2.3. On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 the Applicant withdrew its application for a Development Consent Order. No further consultation has been held between withdrawing the former application and the submission of this application. In accordance with guidance regarding consultation, set out in 'Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects', the Applicant concludes that, as a whole the changes are not very significant to the Scheme, and not to such a large degree which is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consult on.
- 1.2.4. The main proposals for the above ground solar PV and associated infrastructure remain the same as previously consulted on. Parcel F which has been removed was an as yet undefined potential cable route and works to facilitate connection to the future NGET substation and did not represent a significant proportion of proposals within the Scheme. The Scheme is therefore has not fundamentally changed, nor has any new land been added into the Order limits.
- 1.2.5. The Guidance is clear that "Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered". The Scheme remains fundamentally the same scheme, and only 25% of the land previously included in the Order limits (in connection with associated development) has been removed. In addition, the Applicant notes that the overall Scheme remains materially the same, there are no new materially worse environmental effects, and the likelihood of public interest in removing that land is likely to be low and capable of examination, noting that there is no prejudice to any individuals. On that basis, the Applicant considers that the decision not to reconsult on the Scheme, without Area F, is proportionate and wholly in accordance with the NSIP guidance.

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1. About RWE

- 2.1.1. RWE Renewables are the leading power generator and one of the largest renewables developers in the UK.

- 2.1.2. Working with local communities to unlock a project's full potential is at the heart of what RWE do. RWE's work with local people shapes the future of projects and ensures the benefits of solar energy developments are realised in a way that has a positive impact.
- 2.1.3. RWE aims to listen to, and build relationships with, people, organisations, and stakeholders, to understand their views and accommodate change where possible, helping to leave a positive legacy behind when work is complete.
- 2.1.4. RWE has been fostering community development for over 20 years through their community fund program. To date the renewable energy projects in operation have contributed over £44.7 million to communities across the UK.

## **2.2. Purpose of this Report**

- 2.2.1. This Consultation Report ('the Report') has been prepared on behalf of by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd (the 'Applicant') in support of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (the 'DCO Application') made to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero ('SoS'), pursuant to section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008').
- 2.2.2. The DCO Application is for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) which would provide consent for the Applicant to construct, operate (including maintain) and decommission the Tween Bridge Solar Farm, comprising a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure (the 'Scheme') which would allow for the generation and export of up to 800MW of electricity to the National Grid. The Order Limits (Document Reference 2.1) shows the Order Limits (the 'Order Limits') for the Scheme, which encompass approximately 2,414 hectares of land located within the administrative areas of both Doncaster Council (DC) and North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) (the 'Host Authorities').
- 2.2.3. This Report is submitted in accordance with section 37 of the PA 2008, which requires that any application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by a consultation report that provides details of:
- how the Applicant has carried out consultation in compliance with statutory requirements (namely sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008);

- a summary of any relevant responses to consultation or publicity;
- how any relevant responses have been taken into account (as per section 49 of the PA 2008); and
- how the Applicant has had regard to pre-application guidance (as per section 50 of the PA 2008)

2.2.4. This Report provides detail of the pre-application consultation activities carried out by the Applicant and demonstrates that the relevant statutory requirements have been complied with, including:

- Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations')<sup>6</sup>
- Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 ('the APFP Regulations')<sup>7</sup>
- Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 ('Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations')<sup>8</sup>

2.2.5. As evidenced throughout this Report, the Applicant considers that all statutory pre-application requirements have been met, and the Applicant has had due consideration to the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State ('SoS').

2.2.6. Copies of consultation documents, notices and materials produced in accordance with the PA 2008 or to support the consultation are included in a series of Appendices to this Report [**Document Reference 5.2**]. A list of the supporting appendices is presented at Section 11 of this Report.

### 2.3. The Scheme

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<sup>6</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/contents/made>

<sup>7</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2264/contents/made>

<sup>8</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/332/contents/made>

- 2.3.1. The main element of the Scheme is the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar farm with an intended design capacity of over 50MW, and battery energy storage system (BESS) with an export/import connection to the National Grid. Once fully operational, the Scheme will export approximately 800MW of electricity to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). Flexibility in panel layout design would be required to accommodate expected future technology developments as technology continues to evolve and become more efficient.

## 2.4. Consultation Summary

- 2.4.1. An overview of the phased pre-application consultation process undertaken by the applicant is set out in **Table 2-1** below.

**Table 2-1: Phased pre-application consultation process**

Consultation Phase	Key Dates	Consultation Summary
Non-Statutory engagement and consultation	Initial engagement November 2022  Non-Stat Consultation between October 2023 to November 2023	Non-statutory discussion with public and statutory consultees through extensive informal consultations. The preliminary engagement with prescribed consultees started in November 2022 and the first round of consultation (non-statutory), which introduced the preliminary design and order limits, ran for 8 weeks from 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 to 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023. As part of the non-statutory consultation, the consultation activities included: –  (i) Consultation letter was issued to all identified prescribed and non-prescribed consultees.  (ii) Publication of a draft PEIR and this was made available on the project website during the duration of the non-statutory consultation, thus allowing the consultation of environmental information from an early stage in the scheme's development.  (iii) Two public exhibitions were held within the local community, the first on Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the

		<p>Thornesians RUFC, Thorne and the second event was held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle. Both events ran from 2pm to 7pm.</p> <p>(iv) An online webinar was held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.</p>
Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion	Submitted 31st January 2023 Adopted 13 the March 2023	On 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Opinion request to the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the Scheme. PINS adopted the Scoping Opinion on 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2023.
Agreeing the SoCC	October 2024 to February 2025	<p>On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the Applicant issued a draft SoCC to City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council, as the relevant host authorities pursuant to section 43(1) of the PA2008. North Lincolnshire Council provided a comment on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 asking for confirmation that the notice would be published within the Scunthorpe Telegraph. City of Doncaster Council provided their response on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024, whereby they welcomed the consultation approach set out in the draft document.</p> <p>On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025, a final SoCC was issued to both local authorities, pursuant to section 47(3) of the PA2008. The City of Doncaster Council approved the SoCC on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and North Lincolnshire Council gave their approval on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.</p>
Notification of consultation to Secretary of State and PINS	20 March 2025 & 21 March 2025	The Applicant wrote to the Secretary of State on 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 to provide notification of the consultation and signpost where consultation documents could be accessed. On 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025, the Applicant also provided the Planning Inspectorate with separate notification letter informing of the start of statutory consultation, enclosed to the letter were a copy of the combined S46/S48 notice, the adopted SoCC, and correspondence from both City of Doncaster

		Council and North Lincolnshire Council providing their acceptance over the SoCC.
Statutory Consultation	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 to 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	<p>The Statutory pre-application consultation was carried out between 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Duty to consult accorded with the requirement of both section 42 and section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) All stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and non-prescribed were issued with statutory consultation engagement letter on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The letter set out details of the statutory consultation, including the applicant, location of development, the consultation period, details on how representations could be made, details where documents could be viewed both online (via the project website) and in-person and (at the deposit locations and the public exhibitions). The letter was accompanied by a plan showing the draft order limits. The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice.</li> <li>(ii) The PEIR, PEIR NTS, Drawings pack, Non-Statutory Consultation Report and the SoCC were made available at the deposit locations from the start of consultation on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. All materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, all materials were made available at the in-person consultation events.</li> <li>(iii) The applicant has fulfilled its duty under section 48 of the Act which is to publicise the notice (applicant prepared a combined S47/section 48</li> </ul>

		<p>notice) in the prescribed manner and section 4(2) of the APFP Regulations which requires (amongst other things) that the notice to be published for at least two successive weeks in a local paper.</p> <p>(iv) Four public exhibitions were held in the community during the statutory consultation on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025. A webinar was held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</p>
<b>Post-Statutory Engagement</b>	<b>May 2025 to July 2025</b>	<p>Revisions in response to Statutory Consultation feedback.</p> <p>All stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons were issued with an email notification announcing the culmination of the statutory consultation period on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</p> <p>Communication lines for the project continued to be monitored after the culmination of statutory consultation. Correspondence received via email, post and telephone continued to be analysed and responded to, where appropriate.</p> <p>On 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025, all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons were issued with an email notification updating on the end of the statutory consultation process, and our proposed application submission date. The email set out details of how feedback would be addressed via a Consultation Report, the target application date, and information about the Development Consent Order (DCO) decision-making process.</p> <p>This DCO application represents a refinement to a scheme that was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2025. That application was withdrawn by the Applicant informed by section 51 advice from the Planning Inspectorate, dated 15 August 2025. The Applicant has addressed the</p>

		<p>observations raised and this set out in Appendix 3.4.</p> <p>The main proposals for the above ground solar PV and associated infrastructure remain the same as previously consulted on. Though Parcel F which has been removed represented a significant part of the total area of the Order Limits, the proposals within Parcel F, being an as yet undefined potential cable route and works to facilitate connection to the future NGET substation, did not represent a significant proportion of proposals within the Scheme. Removing this area and the proposed works does not give rise to any new or materially different environmental effects that would require consultation compared to the Scheme which was presented at the Statutory Consultation. The changes that have been made have reduced the scale of the Scheme with an overall reduction in 1,400 hectares to the Order Limits</p>
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### 2.5. Structure of this Report

- 2.5.1. This Report is set out in chronological order in so far as it is possible, detailing the pre-application engagement and consultation activities that the Applicant has carried out in relation to the Scheme.
- 2.5.2. This Report is organised into Chapters; a short summary of what can be found in each is provided below:
- **Chapter 1 Introduction** – provides an introduction to the Report
  - **Chapter 2 Legislation and Guidance** – sets out the legislative context for DCO pre-submission consultation
  - **Chapter 3 Non-statutory consultation and early engagement process** – provides details of the non-statutory consultation and early engagement.
  - **Chapter 4 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultation** – provides an overview of the consultation and engagement activities undertaken with regard to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

- **Chapter 5 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)** – provides details of the development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in advance of the statutory consultation.
- **Chapter 6 Statutory consultation** – reports on the activities undertaken in respect of the statutory consultation in accordance with the SoCC and the requirements of sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.
- **Chapter 7 Summary of responses to statutory consultation** – provides a summary of feedback received in response to the statutory consultation and explains how the Applicant has had regard to this feedback in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008. This includes a summary of key changes made to the design of the Scheme following the consultation and justification for any suggested change that were not implemented.
- **Chapter 8 Approach to engagement between statutory consultation and application submission** – provides a summary of the engagement undertaken between statutory consultation and the submission of the development consent application. It also includes a section on how section 51 advice and Pre-Application Guidance has been considered, alongside details of how new interests in land have been identified and managed.
- **Chapter 9 Conclusion** – sets out the conclusions of this Report, and how the Applicant has undertaken a compliant, comprehensive and proportionate approach to pre-application consultation and engagement.
- **Appendices** – the supporting evidence is presented as a separate volume (Document Reference 4.2).

### 2.6. Data Protection

- 2.6.1. In accordance with Planning Inspectorate Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report', the Applicant is aware that the Report will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website. As such, the Applicant has avoided the inclusion of personal data relating to individuals.

- 2.6.2. The Applicant must ensure that it complies with the Data Protection Act 2018, which came into force on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 following the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation in 2016.
- 2.6.3. For this Report, it means that information such as individuals' names and addresses have been redacted or blacked out and replaced by a number for each representation.
- 2.6.4. Personal details in this Report have been handled responsibly and where necessary redacted to ensure that the Applicant complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 in the production and publication of this Report.
- 2.7. Covering Letter and Completed Section 55 Checklist**
- 2.7.1. A Covering Letter [Document Reference 1.2] and Section 55 Checklist [Document Reference 1.5] have been included within the DCO application for the Scheme. The checklist outlines compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA) 2017, APFP Regulations and the PA 2008.

## 3 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

- 3.1.1. As the Scheme is an NSIP, the Applicant is required to make an application for a DCO before it can lawfully construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Scheme. The PA 2008 provides that the SoS is responsible for determining the application for development consent. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the SoS, has responsibility for administering the examination of DCO applications and supporting the examining authority that will be appointed to make a recommendation to the SoS as to whether to grant development consent. If granted by the SoS, the DCO will provide the necessary authorisation to allow the Scheme to be constructed, operated, maintained and decommissioned.
- 3.1.2. The relevant SoS for the Scheme is the SoS for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- 3.1.3. The Scheme also falls within the definition of 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development' as defined within the EIA Regulations meaning that before consent is granted for the Scheme, an EIA must be undertaken. The Report sets out how the Applicant publicised and consulted on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations.

3.1.4. The pre-application consultation for the Scheme, and the preparation of this Report, has been carried out having had regard to:

- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('the Pre-application Guidance') (published Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024)<sup>9</sup>
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (August 2024)<sup>10</sup>
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024)<sup>11</sup>
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (September 2024)<sup>12</sup>
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus') (published May 2024)<sup>13</sup>

3.1.5. **Table 3-1** outlines the legislative requirements for statutory consultation as outlined in the PA 2008.

**Table 3-1: Legislative requirements for statutory consultation**

Statutory Requirement	Details
Section 42 of the PA 2008	Consult with prescribed parties (including environmental bodies, statutory undertakers etc.), local authorities hosting and bordering the proposed scheme and

<sup>9</sup> Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

<sup>10</sup> Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on preparation and submission of application documents. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-preparation-and-submission-of-application-documents>

<sup>11</sup> Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-consultation-report>

<sup>12</sup> Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation>

<sup>13</sup> Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>

	Category 1, 2 and 3 parties identified under section 44 of the PA 2008 (interests in the land affected by the proposed scheme, and those who may have a relevant claim for compensation).
Section 46 of the PA 2008	Notify the Secretary of State and supply with information supplied to section 42 consultees.
Section 47 of PA 2008	Consult with the local community in accordance with the Statement of Community Consultation (this might include events, leaflets, website, letter drops and deposit points)
Section 48 of PA 2008	Publish notices in newspapers as required in the PA 2008.
Section 49 of PA 2008	Take account of responses to the consultation and publicity about the proposed scheme.
Section 37 (3)(c) of PA 2008	Prepare a Consultation Report demonstrating compliance with Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the PA 2008 and include details of any relevant responses, and the account taken of any relevant responses.
Section 50 of PA 2008	Include in the Consultation Report evidence demonstrating how the Applicant has complied with guidance issued pursuant to s.50 2008 throughout the pre-application process.

- 3.1.6. Both the Pre-application Guidance and the Prospectus set out the requirements and expectations in the preparation of an application for development consent.
- 3.1.7. The Pre-application Guidance and Prospectus introduce a new requirement for an adequacy of consultation milestone ('AoCM'). This is designed to give the Applicant an opportunity to provide the Planning Inspectorate with a written

submission establishing the consultation undertaken to date, that the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation have been met, and a summary of consultation responses and how these responses have shaped the proposed application. The applicant issued a draft AoCM to the host authorities on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025, responses were requested back by the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

- 3.1.8. To inform the AoCM a written submission was prepared by the Applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in June 2025. This enabled the Planning Inspectorate to give consideration to the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date on the Scheme. The AoCM Statement provided an overview of the engagement and consultation activity to date and how it has met with the requirements of the PA 2008. A copy of the AoCM can be found in Appendix 2.1.
- 3.1.9. Under section 55(4)(b) of the PA 2008, at the acceptance stage the Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the any adequacy of consultation representation received from a local authority consultee.

## 4 Non-Statutory Consultation and Early Engagement

### 4.1. Non-Statutory Consultation Objectives and Engagement Strategy

4.1.1. The key objectives of the non-statutory public consultation were as follows:

- Introducing the project to residents, the local community and wider stakeholders in more detail following the 'soft launch'.
- Engaging with communities at an early stage to ensure local knowledge is taken into account in the early development of the project, including through a consultation leaflet, feedback form and public exhibitions.
- Engaging with statutory consultees at an early stage to ensure technical advice is taken into account in the early development of the project.
- Briefing politicians and elected representatives.
- Understanding early consultee views and allow stakeholders to shape the project during the design process.
- Providing an early indication of proposals for statutory consultation and what we are seeking feedback on.

- 4.1.2. A brief summary of the non-statutory public consultation engagement methods is shown in **Table 4-1** below:

**Table 4-1: Non-statutory public consultation engagement methods**

Engagement Type	Activity	Date	No of attendees	Audience / Stakeholders attending
<b>Consultation announcement</b>	Early engagement with Members of Parliament Offer a private briefing ahead of the consultation.	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	-	Letters sent to Ed Miliband MP, Nick Fletcher MP, Andrew Percy MP
<b>Consultation Advertising</b>	Updated website live	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2023	-	All audiences
	Press release sent out	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2023	-	Thorne Times Goole Times Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press
	Publicity (newsletters posted to residents)	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	-	All households within the PCZ (12,769 residences)
	Consultation notification letter distributed to consultees	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023	-	Section 42 consultees Section 43 consultees Non prescribed consultees
	Letter sent to relevant District Councillors, Town/Parish councils with an invitation to attend private briefings before the consultation events	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023	-	<b>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</b> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <b>North Lincolnshire Council</b> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <b>Doncaster Council</b>

				<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <p><b>Directly affected Parish Councils</b></p> <p>Thorne-Moorends Council, Crowle and Ealand Council, Hatfield Council, Belton Parish Council</p>
	First newspaper advert published	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023	-	Thorne Times Goole Times Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press
	Second newspaper advert published	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023	-	Thorne Times Goole Times Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press
<b>Consultation Activity</b>	Consultation event one: Thorne Rugby Club, Thorne	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023	72	Residents, political representatives and businesses
	Consultation event two: Crowle Community Hub	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023	46	Residents, political representatives and businesses
	Online webinar	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2023	11	Residents, political representatives and businesses
	Presentation to Thorne and Moorends Town Council	14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2023	10	Thorne and Moorends Town Councillors, plus members of the public in attendance
	Presentation to Crowle Town Council	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2023	8	Crowle Town Councillors, plus members of the public in attendance

## 4.2. Overview

- 4.2.1. The non-statutory public consultation focused on people, businesses, community organisations, and political representatives living around the Site and who may be affected by the Scheme, as specified by Section 47 of the PA 2008.
- 4.2.2. A Primary Consultation Zone and a wider consultation zone surrounding the Site were identified. The Primary Consultation Zone included over 13,658 addresses (and comprised residential, business and commercial) located around the settlements of the draft order limits, including villages of Thorne, Moorends, Crowle, Ealand, Sandtoft, Hatfield Woodhouse, and Stone Hill.
- 4.2.3. The wider consultation zone, this was defined by the geographic reach of the local newspapers. As stated elsewhere in this statement, the Statutory Notices publicising the statutory consultation were published in the Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025; and in the Doncaster Free Press on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025.
- 4.2.4. Chapter 3 provides an overview of the public launch of the Scheme, the non-statutory consultation undertaken, along with an overview of the main themes and summary of the feedback received and the engagement which took place.
- 4.2.5. This Chapter is best read alongside the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, found in Appendix 3.1 of the Consultation Report Appendices [Document Reference 5.2].
- 4.2.6. The non-statutory consultation served to introduce the local community to the Scheme and to provide an early opportunity to shape the evolving design.
- 4.2.7. The non-statutory consultation ran for 8 weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Inclusivity and accessibility were core objectives of the consultation. As such, a hybrid consultation approach was adopted, combining in-person events with digital engagement through the dedicated consultation website and a webinar. A telephone number was also provided for local people to ask questions, relay feedback or request printed materials.
- 4.2.8. The Applicant also offered briefings to introduce the Scheme to key stakeholders, including MPs, councillors and parish councils.

### **4.3. Engagement Prior to Launch of Non-Statutory Consultation**

#### **Engagement with the Host Authorities**

- 4.3.1. Ahead of the non-statutory consultation, an introductory meeting was held with the City of Doncaster Council on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and North Lincolnshire Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 to discuss the preliminary proposals, and approach to community and stakeholder engagement.

### **Engagement with MPs and Elected Members**

- 4.3.2. Key local stakeholders were contacted via letter and email to inform them of the proposals ahead of the non-statutory consultation, with an invitation to be briefed on the Scheme.
- 4.3.3. All host and neighbouring MPs were contacted on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Relevant District Councillors, and host Town/Parish Councils were then contacted via letter on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Briefings were offered to Councillors and Parish Councils deemed most relevant for the Scheme at the early stage. Appendix 3.2 includes a copy of the letter sent to MPs and Appendix 3.3 includes a copy of the letter issued to relevant councillors and parish councils. **Table 4-1** includes a list of stakeholders offered a briefing ahead of the non-statutory consultation.
- 4.3.4. By meeting these stakeholders at a preliminary stage, the Applicant was able to provide early information on the Scheme and consultation programme, while opening an ongoing communication channel with local representatives.
- 4.3.5. Meetings were conducted from November 2022, and then throughout the non-statutory consultation period to November 2023. A list of meetings held with local representatives can be found in **Table 4-1**.

### **Engagement with Technical Stakeholders**

- 4.3.6. As part of the technical design and environmental assessment work, the Applicant has engaged with a number of statutory parties since Winter 2022, including the City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council, Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. **Chapter 3** includes more information about engagement with these bodies.

### **Engagement with the Planning Inspectorate**

- 4.3.7. An introductory meeting with the Planning Inspectorate took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and subsequent meetings were held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023, and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Under advice issued pursuant to section 51 of the PA 2008, the

Planning Inspectorate made available a copy of the advice provided in meetings with the Applicant. This can be found on the Tween Bridge Solar Farm page on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010148/s51advice>

- 4.3.8. Details of how section 51 advice has been addressed through the pre-application process is outlined in Appendix 3.4 of this Report. This includes the Applicant's consideration of the Section 51 advice pertaining to the withdrawn July 2025 DCO application submission.

### **Engagement with Landowners**

- 4.3.9. As part of the initial works on the Scheme, the Applicant identified and engaged with landowners regarding land that could host the solar farm. A copy of the letter sent to identified landowners is available at Appendix 3.5.
- 4.3.10. The Applicant maintained close communication with landowners that had agreed to host solar panels on areas of their land. This included sharing indicative layouts and details of the upcoming consultation, ahead of the launch of the non-statutory consultation. Throughout the consultation process, the Applicant ensured landowners were informed of any ongoing environmental assessments and surveys.

### **Early Online Presence**

- 4.3.11. To ensure an online presence and consistency of messaging at an early stage, a website about the Scheme was launched January 2023.
- 4.3.12. This initial online presence clarified the Applicant's ambitions to bring forward a solar and BESS project in the area, outlining the Land Areas under consideration, the core design principles and providing detail of the community contact channels.
- 4.3.13. Ahead of the non-statutory consultation launch, key consultation details were added to the website, including the launch date and details of the in-person and online events.
- 4.3.14. Upon launch of the non-statutory consultation on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the website was updated, to host information on the Scheme, consultation materials and a digital feedback form.

### **Non-Statutory Consultation**

- 4.3.15. The non-statutory consultation took place between 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and introduced the emerging proposals for the Scheme to the wider local community.
- 4.3.16. To help gain responses reflective of the local population, the non-statutory consultation was promoted through a wide range of different mechanisms, including:
- A newsletter was delivered to 12,769 local addresses, capturing all addresses within 1 km of the non-stat draft order limits. A copy of the consultation newsletter is available in Appendix 3.6.
  - Key local stakeholders, including all host parish councils, host and neighbouring MPs and relevant City of Doncaster and North Lincolnshire councillors were informed of the non-statutory consultation via mail and email ahead of and during the non-statutory consultation. A copy of the letter sent at the start of the consultation is available in Appendix 3.3, a copy of the email issued at the start of consultation can be found in Appendix 3.7.
  - A poster distributed to all relevant local parish councils, accompanied by a letter requesting their display. A copy of the consultation poster is available in Appendix 3.8.
  - Press releases distributed to local media outlets, ahead of the non-statutory consultation launch and during. A copy of the press release issued at launch is available in 3.9. A list of media outlets that the press release was shared with can be found in Appendix 3.10.
- 4.3.17. Consultation materials to facilitate the engagement process included a consultation newsletter which can be found in Appendix 3.6, a consultation feedback form which can be found in Appendix 3.11, a consultation poster which can be found in Appendix 3.8 and consultation boards which can be found in Appendix 3.12.
- 4.3.18. In addition to the materials outlined above, a draft version of the PEIR was published on the project website and was available to view in hard copy at all non-statutory consultation events. Providing the draft PEIR at the non-statutory consultation stage ensured those interested in the scheme were aware of the

environmental matters at an early stage. The draft PEIR NTS document can be viewed at Appendix 3.13.

- 4.3.19. Two in-person events were hosted at local venues in close proximity to the site. These events were scheduled to ensure inclusivity, with both events running into the evening. At these events, the Applicant had consultation boards presenting the information alongside technical plans of the proposals. The Applicant was proactive in communicating with visitors throughout the exhibition events and ensured that at least three members of the project team were present at each event. All consultation material was available in hard copy for people to view. The event details were as follows:

**Table 4-1: Details of in-person events at non-statutory consultation**

Date	Time	Location	Number of Attendees
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	2pm – 7pm	Thornesians RUFC, Church Balk, Thorne DN8 5BU	72
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	2pm – 7pm	Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle DN17 4LA	46

- 4.3.20. Posters were displayed at each venue, guiding attendees to the exhibition rooms.

- 4.3.21. The exhibition materials included:

- Exhibition Boards – The Exhibition Boards covered a wide range of subjects including background information on the Applicant, the reasoning behind why the location was chosen, a predicted project timeline, terminology definitions, details on environmental enhancements resulting from the Scheme, employment opportunities and benefits to the community. These boards were evenly spaced around the exhibition hall space. (Appendix 3.12)
- Key Document Printouts – A full copy of the Draft PEIR was available at the public exhibitions, as well a standalone copy of the associate plans and photomontages. Various key documents were provided to allow the Applicant

to more effectively disseminate information and engage with attendees. (The Draft PEIR NTS is available at Appendix 3.13)

- Feedback Forms – Feedback Forms were made available to all attendees. All attendees were encouraged to fill in the forms with their comments and leave them at the event. (Appendix 3.11)
- Leaflet and brochure – information leaflets were available for attendees to take away with them from the event. (Appendix 3.6)
- Seating area –A tabled seating area was also provided to allow visitors to discuss the proposals and fill out the feedback forms.

4.3.22. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions at the events and to submit any comments or additional questions via the website, email or feedback forms. Feedback forms were kept within a sealed box at the event.

4.3.23. An online webinar was offered as an alternative for those who couldn't attend the in-person events. The webinar details were as follows:

**Table 4-2: Details of webinar at non-statutory consultation**

Date	Time	Number of Attendees
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023	6:30pm – 7pm	11

4.3.24. Although there were a variety of channels to comment on the proposals, the feedback form served as the core tool for gathering community insights on the evolving proposals.

4.3.25. The feedback form incorporated a combination of multiple-choice and free-text questions to provide participants with the flexibility to express their views comprehensively. As well as general comment boxes, the form also directly requested feedback on key elements of the proposals, including land area specific comments, the electric vehicle charging hub and the community benefit fund.

4.3.26. In addition to the online and paper feedback form, responses were welcomed through various alternative channels, including by email, the phonenumber, and traditional letter submissions.

### **4.4. Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback**

4.4.1. In total, 73 responses were received during the non-statutory consultation. During the consultation, the Applicant received:

- 40 feedback forms, submitted via the online form, as well as hard copies completed at the events or returned by post; and
- 33 responses from prescribed consultees.

4.4.2. Respondents that chose to provide feedback via the feedback form were not required to answer all questions, allowing respondents to provide feedback only on the topics that interested them.

4.4.3. Key themes relayed within the responses received, include:

- Requests to include their land within the Scheme.
- Impact on, and loss of, agricultural land. Particularly in relation to food production. Suggestions that brownfield land would be more appropriate.
- A number of concerns were related to the overall scale of the scheme.
- Impact on landscape and visual amenity
- Impact on local biodiversity and ecology
- A small number of respondents expressed concern regarding flood risk.
- Some respondents raised concerns related to the routing of construction traffic and impacts on local roads.
- It was suggested that the green space within the Scheme should be made publicly accessible.
- Some residents raised concerns about the negative implications the Scheme would have on property values.
- Several comments mentioned the proximity of the solar panels to residences.

### **4.5. Summary of Changes to Scheme Following Non-Statutory Consultation**

- 4.5.1. Following the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant reviewed all the responses received
- 4.5.2. All issues raised from the feedback at non-statutory consultation were considered and responded to as part of the Non-Statutory Consultation Report published to accompany the Statutory Consultation. The report is provided at Appendix 3.1.
- 4.5.3. **Table 4-2** outlines the key changes to the Scheme implemented as a result of the feedback received at non-statutory consultation.

**Table 4-2: Changes made in response to non-statutory consultation feedback**

Design change number	Design Change	Reason
Area A		
1	Area of land within the north-western region Area A was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The area became part of Field A4 at the PEIR design stage.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
2	Area of land within the western region of Area A was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The area became parts of Fields A11, A12 and A23.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
Area B		
	No design changes.	
Area C		
3	Area of land within the western region of Area C was removed from the draft Order Limits. The area was located adjacent to Double Bridges Farm.	Land was removed from the draft Order Limits owing to landscape and visual impacts on residential properties.

4	Area of land within the western region of Area C was removed from the draft Order Limits. The area was located adjacent to Clay Bank Farm.	Land was removed from the draft Order Limits owing to landscape impacts on residential properties.
5	Area of land within the northern region of Area C was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The area became Field C6.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
6	Area of land within the eastern region of Area C was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The area became Field C7, C8 and C9.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
7	Area of land within the southern region of Area C was inserted into the draft Order Limits.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
<b>Area D</b>		
8	Area of land within the western region of Area D was removed from the draft Order Limits. The area of land sits adjacent to the M180.	Land was removed from the draft Order Limits owing to landscape impacts on residential properties.
9	Area of land within the northern region of Area D was removed from the draft Order Limits. The area of land lies adjacent to an existing farmhouse.	Land was removed from the draft Order Limits owing to landscape impacts on residential properties.
10	Areas of land within the southern region of Area D was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The areas of land became Fields D13, D1, D14 and D17	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
<b>Area E</b>		
11	Areas of land within the eastern region of Area E was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The areas of land became Fields E5, E7, E4, E6, and E8.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.

Overarching Changes		
12	Increased in MW from 600MW to 800MW and increased battery capacity from	Owing to available grid capacity and land ownership, the Scheme was increased in capacity from 600MW to 800MW export capacity as well as from 200MW BESS storage capacity to 400MW storage capacity

4.6. Engagement Following Non-Statutory Consultation

- 4.6.1. Following the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant updated the project website to thank those that had responded to the consultation. This provided an update on the status of the Scheme and signposted to the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, which had also been published on the consultation website. A copy of the Non-Statutory Consultation Report can be found in Appendix 3.1.
- 4.6.2. The update also provided details of the community contact channels, which the Applicant continued to monitor following the non-statutory consultation, responding to all inbound questions.

5 Consultation under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations

5.1. Overview

- 5.1.1. **Chapter 4** outlines how the Applicant has delivered engagement in accordance with the EIA Regulations. Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations states that an application for an order granting development consent for EIA development must be accompanied by an **Environmental Statement (ES)** [Document Reference 6.1.0–6.4.17.1]. The Scheme falls under paragraph 3(a) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations and therefore constitutes EIA development.
- 5.1.2. This Chapter provides a general overview of the pre-application engagement carried out by the Applicant relating to the EIA process. Full details of consultation and engagement activities of relevance to the EIA are provided in the ES.

5.2. EIA Scoping

- 5.2.1. Regulation 8(1) of the EIA Regulations requires the Applicant to undertake one of the following steps before carrying out statutory consultation under section 42 of the PA 2008:
- *“ask the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates; or*
  - *notify the Secretary of State in writing that the person proposes to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development.”*
- 5.2.2. The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report, (ES Volume 6.3.1.2) to the Planning Inspectorate on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, supporting their request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations. Under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations, a cover letter was also submitted as a notification, to accompany the Scoping Report, which highlighted that the Applicant proposes to provide an Environmental Statement with an application for an order granting development consent. A copy of the covering letter is included in Appendix 4.1.
- 5.2.3. An EIA Scoping Opinion, (ES Volume 6.3.1.1), was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- 5.2.4. In accordance with Regulation 11(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, the Planning Inspectorate provided the Applicant with a list of consultation bodies notified under Regulation 11(1)(a), who were subsequently included in future consultation activities by the Applicant. A copy of the Regulation 11 list provided by the Planning Inspectorate is shown in Appendix 4.2.
- 5.2.5. The Regulation 11(1)(b) list was subsequently used to inform the list of prescribed consultees to be consulted under section 42(a) of the PA 2008 during statutory consultation. Further detail is provided in Chapter 5 of the Report.

### **5.3. Development of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)**

- 5.3.1. A draft version of the PEIR document was prepared for the non-statutory consultation between 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The draft PEIR outlined the assessments of the potential impacts of the Scheme carried out up to the point of non-stat consultation. This provided early environmental information on the scheme.

- 5.3.2. The adoption of the Scoping Opinion informed the next stage in the EIA process, namely the continued development of the PEIR.
- 5.3.3. The final PEIR was included as one of the consultation documents for the statutory consultation. The PEIR allowed the local community and those with an interest in the Scheme to understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme and in turn, informed their response to the statutory consultation.
- 5.3.4. In accordance with section 42 of the PA 2008, the Applicant carried out a statutory consultation between the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
- 5.3.5. In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 a copy of the notice published under section 48 of the PA 2008 for the statutory consultation was sent to EIA consultation bodies, including those bodies listed by the Planning Inspectorate in the Scoping Opinion under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations. A copy of the letter sent to consultees is included in Appendix 4.3.
- 5.3.6. A copy of the notice published under section 48 sent to the relevant consultation bodies is available in Appendix 4.4.

### **5.4. Demonstrating Regard to Responses Received**

- 5.4.1. Consultation and engagement during the EIA process is critical to the development of a comprehensive and proportionate ES. The views of statutory and non-statutory consultees are important to ensure that from the outset, the EIA focuses on specific issues where significant environmental effects are likely, and where further investigation is required.
- 5.4.2. At non-statutory consultation, there were a number of issues raised around the environment and EIA process. These are outlined in the Non-statutory Consultation Report which can be found in Appendix 3.1, alongside the Applicant's response to these issues at the time.
- 5.4.3. Issues raised at statutory consultation by section 42(1)(a) and section 42(1)(b) consultees, which includes EIA consultation bodies, and the Applicant's response are outlined in Appendix 4.5. Some section 42(1)(d) and section 47 consultees raised issues relating to the environment in their responses, these are identified under environmental themes within Appendix 4.5.

- 5.4.4. In line with the Pre-application Guidance, the Applicant has undertaken proactive and ongoing engagement with EIA consultation bodies and a variety of representative local groups to further gather views to help develop the design of the Scheme.
- 5.4.5. **Table 5-1** demonstrates how the ES complies with the requirements for engagement and consultation in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

**Table 5-1: Summary of compliance with Environmental Impact Assessment (Infrastructure Planning) Regulations 2017**

Regulation within the EIA Regulations 2017	Requirement or provision of regulation	How the Applicant has complied
Regulation 8	Notify the SoS that an ES will be submitted with the DCO Application.	On 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023, Under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations, a cover letter was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a notification, to accompany the EIA Scoping request Report (see next paragraph), which highlighted that the Applicant proposes to provide an Environmental Statement with an application for an order granting development consent. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix 4.1.
Regulation 10	Applicant may request a Scoping Opinion from the SoS on the information that should be included within the ES.	Under Regulation 10 of the EIA regs, the Applicant submission to the Planning Inspectorate was supported by a Scoping Report, [Document Reference 6.3.1.2], which sets out the Applicant's anticipate approach to EIA. .

Regulation 11	Planning Inspectorate to notify the consultation bodies that the Applicant intends to provide an ES for the Scheme.	The list of consultation bodies attached to the Planning Inspectorates' Scoping Opinion referenced above was used to inform the prescribed consultees consulted under section 42(1)(a) during the statutory consultation. A copy of the Reg 11 list can be found in Appendix 4.2.
Regulation 13	The Applicant must publish the notice and send a copy of the section 48 notice to Regulation 11 consultation bodies.	<p>All stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons were issued with statutory consultation engagement letter on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The letter set out details of the statutory consultation, including the applicant, location of development, the consultation period, details on how representations could be made, details where documents could be viewed both online (via the project website) and in-person and (at the deposit locations and the public exhibitions). The letter was accompanied by a plan showing the draft order limits.</p> <p>The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice.</p>

		A copy of the cover letter can be found in Appendix 4.3 and a copy of the notice issued on the 21 <sup>st</sup> March can be found in Appendix 4.4.
Regulation 14	An application for an order granting development consent for EIA must be accompanied by an ES.	An ES has been prepared and submitted as part of the DCO Application.  [Document Reference: 6.1.0–6.4.17.1]

## 6 Duty to Consult the Local Community (Section 47) – Statement of Community Consultation.

### 6.1. Introduction.

6.1.1. Chapter 5 includes details of how the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared, consulted on and published, following the process as prescribed in Section 47 of the PA 2008, prior to the commencement of the statutory consultation for the Scheme.

6.1.2. Section 47 of the PA 2008 states:

- *The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.*
- *Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.*
- *The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.*
- *In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).*

- *In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).*
- *Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must –*
  - *(za) 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;*
  - *(a) publish in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and*
  - *(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- *The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.*

### **6.2. Development of the Draft SoCC**

- 6.2.1. In November 2022, the Applicant engaged in early communications with the host local authorities, City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council, with regards to the proposed approach to consultation and engagement on the Scheme. At these meetings on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 respectively, the Applicant shared a high-level timeline for consultation and discussed the planned two-stage consultation approach.
- 6.2.2. Following the Non-Statutory consultation, the Applicant began the preparation of the SoCC. The draft SoCC provided information about the Scheme, the Applicant, and the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation. The purpose of the draft SoCC was to set out how the Applicant would consult and engage with the local communities likely to be affected by the Scheme.

### **6.3. Consultation on the Draft SoCC**

- 6.3.1. On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the Applicant issued a draft SoCC to City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council, as the relevant host authorities pursuant to section 43(1) of the PA 2008. The Applicant requested for any comments to be made by the end of November 2024. A copy of the email sent to the City of

Doncaster Council can be found in Appendix 5.1. A copy of the email sent to North Lincolnshire Council can be found in Appendix 5.2.

- 6.3.2. North Lincolnshire Council provided a comment on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 asking for confirmation that the notice would be published within the Scunthorpe Telegraph (Appendix 5.3). City of Doncaster Council provided their response on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024, whereby they welcomed the consultation approach set out in the draft document (Appendix 5.4).
- 6.3.3. **Table 6-1** outlines the comments received from the City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council on the draft SoCC and the changes made to the SoCC.

**Table 6-1: Comments on the draft SoCC**

LPA	Comment	Change Made
North Lincolnshire Council	Requested confirmation that the notice would be published within the Scunthorpe Telegraph.	The SoCC was updated to confirm the notice would be published within the Scunthorpe Telegraph.
City of Doncaster Council	No comments.	-

### 6.4. Consultation on the SoCC

- 6.4.1. The Applicant then prepared a final SoCC which incorporated the comments provided by North Lincolnshire Council and contained final edits to the draft Order Limits and the corresponding Primary Consultation Zone. The SoCC for formal issue to both local authorities, pursuant to section 47(3) of the PA2008, on 13 February 2025 and each host authority were asked to provide their response within 28 days. The City of Doncaster Council approved the SoCC on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (Appendix 5.5) and North Lincolnshire Council gave their approval on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (Appendix 5.6). A copy of the final SoCC is available in Appendix 5.7

### 6.5. Publicity under Section 47 of the PA 2008

- 6.5.1. The Applicant published a combined section 47/48 notice, which included information relevant to, and was publicised in accordance with, the requirements of both section 47(6) and section 48 of the PA 2008.

6.5.2. In compliance with the publicity requirements set out within the adopted SOCC and pursuant to section 47(6) of the PA 2008, the SoCC was made available for viewing for the duration of the statutory consultation, as detailed below:

- Statutory Notices publicising the locations where the SoCC could be viewed were placed in the following newspapers:
  - Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025
  - Doncaster Free Press on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025
  - Guardian newspaper on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025
  - London Gazette on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Adverts publicising the locations where the SoCC could be viewed were placed in the following papers
  - Scunthorpe Telegraph
  - Doncaster Free Press
  - Lincolnshire Live
  - Yorkshire Post on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2025
  - Thorne Times on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- A paper copy of the SoCC was also deposited and made available for inspection at the following locations during the period Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025:
  - Crowle Community Hub – The Market Hall, Market Place, Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA
  - Thorne Library – The Vermuyden Centre, Field Side, Thorne, Doncaster DN8 4BQ
  - Hatfield Community Library – High Street, Hatfield, Doncaster DN7 6RY

- Available in hard copy at each of the four public exhibition events, and
- An electronic version of the SoCC was available to view on the consultation website, from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. A screenshot showing the SoCC available to download on the website can be found in Appendix 5.8.

6.5.3. Appendix 5.9 includes a copy of the newspaper notices published which explained the Scheme, dates for consultation, how feedback could be provided, and details of locations where materials could be viewed, including on the consultation website and at local deposit points.

6.5.4. Chapter 6 of the Report details the statutory consultation. **Table 7-8** outlines how the consultation was undertaken in compliance with the published SoCC, as per the requirements of section 47(7) of the PA 2008.

### **6.6. Compliance with Section 48**

6.6.1. As with the publication dates above, the publication dates for the S48 Notice are set out below:

- Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Doncaster Free Press on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Guardian on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- London Gazette on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

6.6.2. The applicant has fulfilled its duty under section 48 of the Act which is to publicise the notice (applicant prepared a combined S47/section 48 notice) in the prescribed manner and section 4(2) of the APFP Regulations which requires (amongst other things) that the notice to be published for at least two successive weeks in a local paper.

## **7 Duty to Consult (Section 42) – Statutory Consultation**

### **7.1. Statutory Consultation objectives and engagement strategy**

7.1.1. The key objectives of the Statutory Consultation were:

- Introducing the updated project to residents, the local community and wider stakeholders in more detail following the non-statutory consultation phase in 2023.
- Engaging with communities to ensure local knowledge is taken into account as part of the formal consultation process, including through a consultation leaflet, feedback form and public exhibitions.
- Engaging with statutory consultees to ensure technical advice is considered in the ongoing development of the project.
- Briefing politicians and elected representatives.
- Understanding stakeholder views and allowing consultees the opportunity to influence the project's final design before submission of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application.
- Providing clarity on the proposals, how feedback would be considered, and what consultees were being asked to respond to during this statutory stage.

7.1.2. A brief summary of the Statutory Consultation engagement methods is shown in **Table 7-1** below:

**Table 7-1: Summary of Statutory Consultation Engagement Methods**

Engagement type	Activity	Date	No of attendees	Audience/stakeholders attending
<b>Pre-Consultation engagement</b>	Presentation to Crowle Town Council.	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	–	Members of Crowle Town Council
	Proposed presentation to Thorne and Moorends Town Council	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	–	Meeting delayed to April due to media presence on the day.
<b>Consultation advertising</b>	Updated website live	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	–	All audiences
	Press release sent out	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	–	Thorne Times Goole Times Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press

	Publicity (newsletters posted to residents)	20th March 2025	-	All households within the PCZ (13658 residences)
	Consultation notification letter distributed to consultees	20th March 2025	-	Section 42 consultees Section 43 consultees Non prescribed consultees
	MP's notified	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	-	Lee Pitcher MP, Ed Miliband MP.
	Letter sent to relevant District Councillors, Town/Parish councils with an invitation to attend private briefings before the consultation events	20th March 2025	-	<b>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</b> ██████████ ██████████  <b>North Lincolnshire Council</b> ██████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████  <b>Doncaster Council</b> ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████  <b>Directly affected Parish Councils</b> Thorne-Moorends Council, Crowle and Ealand

				Council, Hatfield Council, Belton Parish Council
	First S47/48 Notice Published	20th March 2025	-	Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press The Guardian London Gazette
	Second S47/48 notice published	27th March 2025	-	Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press The Guardian London Gazette
	Newspaper advert published	20th March 2025	-	Thorne Times Goole Times Scunthorpe Telegraph Doncaster Free Press
<b>Consultation Activity</b>	Consultation event one: Crowle Community Hub	28th March 2025	42	Residents, political representatives and businesses
	Consultation event two: Coulman Pavillion (Thorne)	5th April 2025	32	Residents, political representatives and businesses
	Presentation to Thorne and Moorends Town Council	8th April 2025	-	Thorne and Moorends Town Councillors
	Consultation event three: Moorends Miners Welfare and Development Centre	23rd April 2025	19	Residents, political representatives and businesses
	Consultation event four: Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall	24th April 2025	30	Residents, political representatives and businesses

## 7.2. Overview

- 7.2.1. Chapter 6 provides a summary of the activities undertaken by the Applicant to ensure compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008, EIA Regulations and the

commitments made within the published SoCC. Evidence of this compliance is supplied in the Appendices, where relevant and appropriate, and is referred to throughout the Chapter.

### **7.3. Summary of Activity**

7.3.1. The Applicant held a 7-week statutory consultation between 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

7.3.2. The PA 2008 requires the Applicant to:

- notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application on or before beginning statutory consultation (section 46);
- prepare a statement in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, which describes how the Applicant proposes to consult the local community (section 47(1) and (2));
- carry out consultation in accordance with the SoCC (section 47(7));
- make the SoCC available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, publishing the statement and a newspaper notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected (section 47(6));
- identify and consult statutory consultees, local authorities and all persons with land interests (sections 42, 43 and 44);
- set a deadline for consultation responses not less than 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation (section 45);
- publicise the proposed application in accordance with the APFP Regulations (section 48); and
- have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation (section 49).

7.3.3. The Applicant sought feedback on all aspects of the Scheme, including the principle of solar development and renewable energy, the proposed grid connection cable route and the landscape and environmental design. The Applicant also asked for comments on the proposed Community Benefit Fund that

the Applicant is looking to establish as part of its corporate commitment to community investment.

- 7.3.4. The Applicant welcomed all views and has had regard to all comments and feedback when developing the design.
- 7.3.5. Under section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant has a duty to consult the local community. The SoCC detailed the approach to consultation as outlined in Chapter 4. In addition to the local community, the Applicant consulted with prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a) and (b) of the PA 2008. People with interest in land (PILs), under sections 42(1)(d) and 44 were also consulted.
- 7.3.6. Table 7-2 summarises the activities which took place as part of the statutory consultation.

**Table 7-2: Summary of Statutory Consultation Activities**

Activity	Date
Consultation newsletter posted to 13,658 properties in the local community	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Publication of Notices in newspapers & displayed around site.	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Writing to affected landowners and prescribed consultees	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Press release announcing the consultation issued to local media	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Updating the consultation website with consultation details and all consultation documents	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Consultation documents available at deposit points	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Launch of the statutory consultation	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Publication of the SoCC, the PEIR, consultation brochure, feedback form and supporting materials	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025

Section 46 notice issued to the Planning Inspectorate	21 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Section 47/48 notice issued to prescribed consultees and stakeholders.	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
In-person public consultation event	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 4:00pm – 7:00pm
In-person public consultation event	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2025, 4:00pm – 7:00pm
In-person public consultation event	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2025, 12:00pm – 3:00pm
In-person public consultation event	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2025, 3:00pm – 6:00pm
Webinar	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

### 7.4. Consulting with Prescribed Consultees under Section 42

7.4.1. Section 42(1) of the PA 2008 specifies those parties who require consultation about the proposed application. This includes:

- Section 42 (1) (a) – such persons as may be prescribed (covered in Section 5.4)
  - (aa) – the Marine Management Organisation
- Section 42 (1) (b) – each local authority that is within section 43 (covered in Section 5.5)
- Section 42 (1) (c) – the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London (covered in Section 5.6)
- Section 42 (1) (d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44 PA 2008 (covered in Section 5.7)

- 7.4.2. The following sections outline how consultees have been identified. A full list of consultees identified in accordance with section 42 can be found in Appendix 6.1.
- 7.5. Consulting with Prescribed Consultees Under Section 42(1)(a) and Section 41(1)(aa)**
- 7.5.1. Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 requires applicants to consult with all applicable 'prescribed' bodies. Persons prescribed under section 42(1)(a) are listed in column 1 of the Schedule to the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024. These Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations came into force on Tuesday 30 April 2024, replacing the table in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, with an updated table of prescribed consultees. The Applicant consulted all those identified in the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations.
- 7.5.2. The updated table of prescribed consultees in the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024 defines 'relevant' as: *"(a) "relevant", in relation to a body (except a Northern Ireland Department), shall mean the body which has responsibility for the location where the proposals may or will be sited or has responsibility for an area which neighbours that location."*
- 7.5.3. On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, a consultation notification letter enclosed with the draft Order Limits was sent to the section 42(1)(a) consultees listed in Appendix 6.1. The letter explained the statutory consultation and provided the website details where the consultation materials could be viewed including the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, and feedback form. The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 which included a copy of the Statutory Section 47/48 Notice in line with the EIA regulations. A copy of the letter sent to the consultees can be found in Appendix 4.3. The section 47/48 notice can be found in Appendix 4.4 and the other consultation materials included can be found in Appendix 6.2, Appendix 6.3, Appendix 6.4, Appendix 6.5 and Appendix 6.6. Those the Applicant had email details for were also sent the letter via email on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025, including links to the relevant documentation on the website.
- 7.5.4. Section 42(1)(aa) requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). As this is an inland development the MMO was not consulted in respect of this Scheme.

7.5.5. A full list of the bodies consulted under section 42(1)(a) and the dates they were notified can be found in Appendix 6.7.

**7.6. Consulting with Prescribed Consultees Under Sections 42(1)(b) and 43**

7.6.1. Section 42(1)(b) requires that each local authority within section 43 must be consulted. These are:

- A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority’s area;
- A local authority (“A”) is within this section if: (a) the land is in the area of another local authority (“B”), (aa) B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of A’s area is also a part of the boundary of B’s area; and
- If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council (“C”), a local authority (“D”) is within this section if: (a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of D’s area is also part of the boundary of C’s area.

7.6.2. The project is a cross-boundary proposal, the City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council are the host authorities.

7.6.3. Section 42(1)(b) local authorities are listed in Table 7-3 and Figure 4 shows the section 42(1)(b) local authorities on a map.

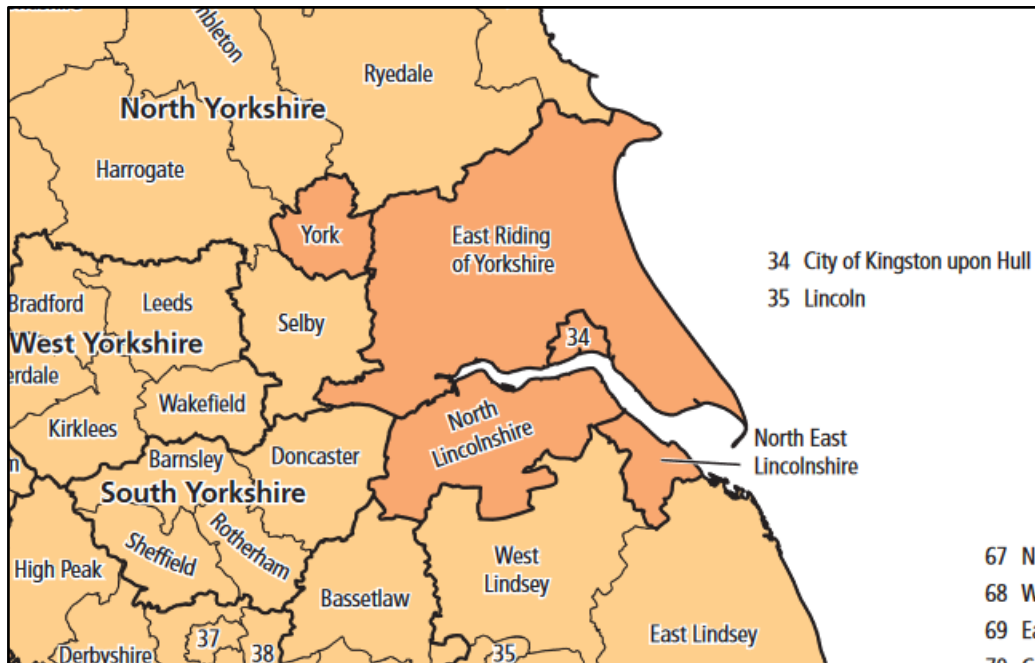
7.6.4. On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, a consultation notification letter was sent to the S42(1)(b) consultees. The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice. A copy of the letter can be found in Appendix 4.3. The section 47/48 notice can be found in Appendix 4.4 and the other consultation materials included can be found in Appendix 6.2, Appendix 6.3, Appendix 6.4, Appendix 6.5 and Appendix 6.6

**Table 7-3: Section 42(1)(b) local authorities**

Local Authority Section	Local Authority
"A" s43 Consultees (lower-tier local authority, national park, London borough,	West Lindsey District Council Selby District Council

etc. that shares a boundary with a "B" (host) authority)	<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p> <p>Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p>Wakefield Council</p> <p>Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</p>
"B" s43 Consultees (a lower-tier district council or a Unitary Council who is a host authority for the development and any associated development)	<p>North Lincolnshire Council</p> <p>City of Doncaster Council</p>
"C" s43 Consultees (an upper-tier county council who is a host authority)	<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>
"D" s43 Consultees (a local authority ("D") is within this section if: (a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area)	<p>North East Lincolnshire Council</p> <p>North Yorkshire County Council</p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council</p>

*Figure 7-1: Map of section 42(1)(b) local authorities (Excerpt of Map produced by Produced by ONS Geography GIS & Mapping Unit)*



### 7.7. Consulting with Prescribed Consultees Under Section 42(1)(c)

- 7.7.1. Section 42(1)(c) requires consultation with the Greater London Authority (GLA) if the land is in Greater London. The Scheme is not within Greater London and therefore the GLA was not consulted.

### 7.8. Consulting people with interests in land Under Sections 42(1)(d) and 44

- 7.8.1. Section 42(1)(d) and section 44 of the PA 2008 sets out how an applicant must consult with people with interest in land (PILs) in respect of the Scheme, i.e. those who own, occupy, have an interest in, or who may be able to make certain claims for compensation in respect of land affected by a Scheme.
- 7.8.2. Under section 44, PILs are split into three categories:
- Category 1: Where the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land;
  - Category 2: Where the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is interested in the land, or has power to sell and convey the land, or to release the land;

- Category 3: Where the applicant thinks that, if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim:
  - As a result of the implementing of the order;
  - As a result of the order having been implemented; or
  - As a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented.

7.8.3. Category 3 persons are those with potential claims under s.10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 or Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 should the proposed scheme be carried out. They mainly relate to those whose land may be injuriously affected (i.e. its value would be diminished) as a result of interference with a right or interest as a result of the proposed scheme, although the land in question is not acquired outright.

7.8.4. The Applicant carried out diligent inquiry using the following methods to identify and consult with those with an interest in the land affected by the Scheme.

### **7.9. Desktop Land Referencing**

7.9.1. For both the non-statutory and statutory consultation, including intermittently throughout the Project, FGP have undertaken a full SIMR Land Registry search and obtained all Official Copies of Title Registers and Plans, including all Copies Filed under each register. All details regarding Freehold, Leasehold, Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Restrictive Covenants and relevant rights have been assessed at both rounds of consultation and prior to submission of the Development Consent Order Application by a Chartered Surveyor and collated in a purpose-built database. This includes applying ARCGIS in uniquely identifying and checking and referencing each Title Register and update title information from hard copy plans to shapefiles.

7.9.2. From the database, plot parcels have been able to be individualised to reflect specific information to enable the Land Plans to be prepared and for each parcel of land to be unique to that specific Title Register and third party right.

7.9.3. All third-party rights have been plotted within a GIS spatial database from information supplied from copies filed on the Title Registers to identify individuals that may fall in Category 1, 2 and/or 3.

- 7.9.4. HM Land Registry notify FGP of changes to title information which is also captured in the referred to database. All the Category 1, 2, and 3 persons were issued with a letter on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

### **7.10. Land interest questionnaires (LIQs)**

- 7.10.1. Following the gathering and update of Desktop Land Referencing, FGP compiled and prepared an LIQ with all known data for each individual freehold and leasehold party and made an appointment to meet with each party to review the information and provide relevant input.
- 7.10.2. FGP's methodology extended to individual meetings and site visits to ensure that all up-to-date information is supplied by each party.
- 7.10.3. The LIQs were prepared and updated for the non-statutory and statutory consultation and for the Development Consent Order application.
- 7.10.4. An example of a LIQ can be found in Appendix 6.8.
- 7.10.5. Site referencing was undertaken through site visits to understand the occupation details for properties (ownership, leases, tenants or occupiers) in addition to confirming details which had been gathered through desktop methods.

### **7.11. Erection of On-Site Notices for Unknown Owners**

- 7.11.1. Where it was not possible to ascertain the freehold owner or lessee or third party holding rights or restrictive covenants over the relevant parcels in the Order Limits, site notices were erected on the ground during the non-statutory and statutory consultation. The notices were erected in close proximity to the relevant land interest displaying a plan detailing that land interest and requesting for those who may be able to supply more information to contact FGP.
- 7.11.2. Any information received from the erection of the site notices was added to the database and included in the next consultation.
- 7.11.3. An example of a site notice for unknown land ownership can be found in Appendix 6.9.
- 7.11.4. The Section 42(1)(d) persons identified are listed at Appendix 7.1.

### **7.12. Section 42, 47 and 48 Consultation and Development Consent Order Application**

- 7.12.1. For each consultation and the Development Consent Order Application, the Land Referencing team at FGP have supplied a schedule of names and addresses to the Applicant of all consultees to be issued with consultation material.
- 7.12.2. Through diligent inquiry, the Applicant considers that there are no persons who may be entitled to make a relevant claim as a Category 3 interest under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965, Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 or section 152(3) of the Planning Act in relation to the following matters: noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, light emissions, discharge of solid or liquid substances. The relevant factors considered by the Applicant that could have significance to proposals of this nature were noise and vibration. ES Technical Appendix Scoping Report [Document Reference 6.3.1.2] sets out the scope of the noise and vibration assessments made. These assessments concluded there is a low likelihood of significant adverse noise and vibration impacts resulting from the operational phase of the Scheme. These matters are considered in detail in ES Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration [Document Ref 6.2.13].
- 7.12.3. PILs under Categories 1 and 2 were identified and sent a letter on 20<sup>th</sup> March notifying them of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. The letter was issued alongside a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter and feedback form. A copy of the letter can be found in Appendix 6.10. The section 47/48 notice can be found in Appendix 4.4 and the other consultation materials included can be found in Appendix 6.2, Appendix 6.3, Appendix 6.4, Appendix 6.5 and Appendix 6.6 [Document Reference 5.2].
- 7.12.4. Site notices were also put up around the site of the Scheme. The approach taken was to erect a notice for each land title, this resulted in a total of 121 notices, the locations of which can be viewed in Appendix 6.11. These were erected on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and were checked weekly throughout the consultation period to help identify any additional land interests.
- 7.12.5. More information on the process for identifying land interests can be found in Appendix [1] to the Statement of Reasons (Diligent Inquiry) (Document Ref 4.1) and the list of land interests is included in the Book of Reference (document Ref 4.3).

### **7.13. Notifying the Secretary of State Under Section 46**

- 7.13.1. Section 46 of the PA 2008 requires an applicant to notify the SoS of the proposed application for development consent. This must be done on, or before, the commencement of the statutory consultation under section 42, and the SoS must be supplied with the same information as is proposed to be used for the section 42 consultation.
- 7.13.2. The Applicant wrote to the Secretary of State on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to provide notification of the consultation and signpost where consultation documents could be accessed. On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025, the Applicant also provided the Planning Inspectorate with separate notification letter informing of the start of statutory consultation, enclosed were copies of the following:
- Covering letter
  - Copy of the combined Section S46/47 and S48 notice
  - Adopted SoCC
  - Copy of North Lincolnshire Council acceptance of the SoCC' and
  - Copy of City of Doncaster Council's acceptance of the SoCC.
- 7.13.3. The Applicant received email confirmation of receipt from the Planning Inspectorate on 21st March 2025, which can be found in Appendix 6.12.

### **7.14. Consulting the local community under section 47**

- 7.14.1. As outlined in Chapter 3, the Applicant produced a SoCC setting out how it would consult the local community and made the statement available for inspection on the Applicant's website and at deposit points, and published in a local newspaper notice of where and when the SoCC could be inspected.
- 7.14.2. The SoCC identified commitments made by the Applicant in relation to carrying out the community consultation. Section 5.18 of the Report outlines how the consultation was conducted in accordance with commitments made in the SoCC.
- 7.14.3. Residents, businesses and organisations located within 2km of the order limits were sent a consultation newsletter via post, which notified them of the consultation and invited them to provide their feedback. The consultation newsletter was sent to addresses within the identified primary consultation zone

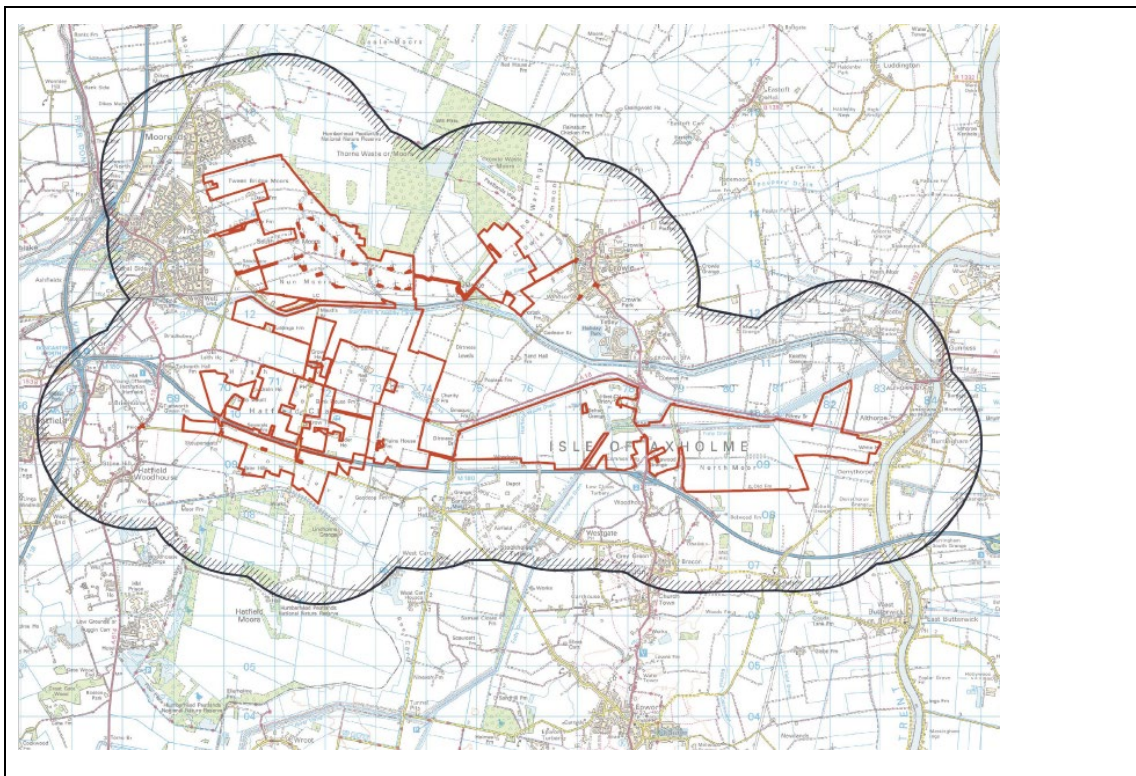
(PCZ) (which was agreed with the local authorities as part of the SoCC consultation). A map of the PCZ is provided in Figure 5.

7.14.4. The PCZ was identified by extending a minimum distance of approximately two kilometres from the proposed Land Areas, within which the solar PV panels, energy storage system, on-site substations and supporting infrastructure would be located. The PCZ also extends along the cable search area to the east of the site.

7.14.5. The PCZ was amended beyond these criteria, in certain areas, to consider:

- Existing physical features, such as main roads
- Capturing entire communities rather than excluding small numbers of properties
- Where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications

*Figure 7-2: Primary Consultation Zone for the Project*





7.14.6. The Applicant committed in the SoCC to consult the following groups and individuals in the PCZ:

- Parish councils
- Members of Parliament
- Elected representatives in local authorities within the PCZ
- relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups
- 'Seldom heard' groups, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials

7.14.7. The Applicant notified local elected representatives of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. A list of the elected representatives contacted can be found in Appendix 6.13. An email was issued on the day the consultation launched on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The email included details of the four public exhibitions and online webinar as well as a link to the project website which contained the full suite of consultation documents (the consultation leaflet, the PEIR, PEIR Non-Technical Summary, and associated plans and drawings). A copy of the email can be found in Appendix 6.14. These stakeholders were also issued further emails on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, to remind them of the time remaining until the consultation response deadline. Copies of the reminder emails can be found in Appendix 6.15.

7.14.8. The Applicant notified local community organisations of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. A list of the local community organisations contacted can be found in Appendix 6.13. An email was issued on the day the consultation launched on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The email included details of the four public exhibitions and online webinar as well as a link to the project

website which contained the full suite of consultation documents (the consultation leaflet, the PEIR, PEIR Non-Technical Summary, and associated plans and drawings). A copy of the email can be found in Appendix 6.14a. These stakeholders were also issued further emails on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, to remind them of the time remaining until the consultation response deadline. Copies of the reminder emails can be found in Appendix 6.15.

- 7.14.9. The Applicant identified seldom heard groups in the local community and notified them of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. A list of the elected representatives contacted can be found in Appendix 6.13. An email was issued on the day the consultation launched on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The email included details of the four public exhibitions and online webinar as well as a link to the project website which contained the full suite of consultation documents (the consultation leaflet, the PEIR, PEIR Non-Technical Summary, and associated plans and drawings). A copy of the email can be found in Appendix 6.14a. These stakeholders were also issued further emails on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, to remind them of the time remaining until the consultation response deadline. Copies of the reminder emails can be found in Appendix 6.15.
- 7.14.10. The Applicant contacted by email all interested parties that had responded to the non-statutory consultation (and opted to be kept informed about the Scheme), or had completed the 'Register for Updates' form on the consultation website, to inform them of the statutory consultation and opportunity to provide a response. The Applicant issued an email on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to inform the interested parties of the consultation launch. A copy of the email can be found in Appendix 6.14a.

### **7.15. Duty to publicise under Section 48**

- 7.15.1. Section 48 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to publicise its proposed application for development consent in the Prescribed Manner. This is defined in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations to be the publication of a notice in accordance with the prescribed criteria in that Regulation. The Applicant issued a combined section 47 and section 48 notice. A copy of this notice can be found in Appendix 4.4.
- 7.15.2. As per the requirements of Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, a notice pursuant to section 48 of the PA 2008 was published:

- for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Scheme would be situated;
- once in a national newspaper;
- once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and
- where the proposed application relates to offshore development—
  - once in Lloyd's List; and
  - once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.

7.15.3. The Scheme does not relate to offshore development; therefore Regulation 4(2)(d) does not apply.

7.15.4. The Scheme does not affect land in Scotland and therefore was not published in the Edinburgh Gazette.

7.15.5. Table 7-4 summarises the newspapers in which the section 47/48 notice was published.

**Table 7-4: Details of newspapers section 47/48 notice was published in**

Newspaper	Date(s)
<b>National Newspaper</b>	
The Guardian	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
The London Gazette	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Local Newspaper(s)</b>	
Doncaster Free Press	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Scunthorpe Telegraph	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Yorkshire Post	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025

Lincolnshire Echo	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Thorne Times	April 2025 Edition

7.15.6. A copy of the section 47/48 notice was made available on the consultation website, at: <https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/documents/> from the start of statutory consultation on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

7.15.7. Additionally, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the section 47/48 notice was issued to the consultees identified under Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations. This list of consultees under s42(a-c) that received this can be found in Appendix 6.1.

### **7.16. Consultation Documents**

7.16.1. A suite of documents was developed to support the statutory consultation. These documents aimed to provide comprehensive information to all those with an interest in the Scheme.

7.16.2. All the consultation documents were available at the consultation events. All documents were made available to view and download on the consultation website <https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/documents/> from the start of consultation. The Applicant has kept the documents on the consultation website. Consultation documents were also available at local deposit points, with more information provided in Section 5.12.

7.16.3. A summary of these documents and their content is provided below.

#### **Consultation Newsletter**

7.16.4. The newsletter was a four-page leaflet providing a brief overview of the Scheme and the statutory consultation process.

7.16.5. The newsletter included:

- A summary of the proposed solar farm, its objectives, location, and benefits.
- Illustrative masterplan.

- Information on the consultation process and how to participate.
- A schedule of upcoming in-person events and the webinar.
- Contact details and ways to provide feedback.

7.16.6. The newsletter aimed to inform local stakeholders and encourage community involvement in the consultation process.

7.16.7. A copy of the consultation newsletter can be found in Appendix 6.2.

### **Feedback form and Freepost envelope**

7.16.8. A feedback form was developed in order to capture community and stakeholder feedback on the Scheme. The feedback form was provided alongside a Freepost envelope to make it easy for interested parties to share their views and contribute to the consultation process. The feedback form featured 8 questions. The questions were a mixture of multiple choice and free text.

7.16.9. The questions asked on the feedback form were as follows:

- Do you have any comments on the scheme?
- Do you have any comments on the environmental information provided in the PEIR?
- Do you have any ideas or suggestions about how the community benefits package could best support your local community?
- Do you have any further comments on our plans for an electric vehicle charging hub?
- Based on the information presented as part of our consultation, how supportive are you of our proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm?
  - I support the proposals
  - I am neither supportive nor unsupportive
  - I did not support the proposals
- Please detail the reasons for your response to Question 5 below:

- Do you have any information relevant to Tween Bridge Solar Farm that we need to take into account, or any other general comments you wish to share?
- How would you describe your interest in our proposals?
  - Local resident
  - Local representative
  - Landowner
  - Work locally
  - Regularly visit the area
  - Statutory body
  - Local interest group
  - Local business or contractor

7.16.10. The online feedback form was available to complete on the consultation website, alongside a downloadable version that could be printed. Hard copies of the feedback form and Freepost envelopes were also available at the consultation events, deposit points, and available to request for free via the Applicant's community contact channels, including email and phone.

7.16.11. A copy of the feedback form is available in Appendix 6.3.

### **7.17. PEIR and Non-technical Summary (NTS)**

7.17.1. The PEIR was developed to provide preliminary environmental information regarding the Scheme. The PEIR was developed to a level of detail that included an analysis of potential benefits, effects, and impacts of the development. Additionally, the PEIR outlined proposed mitigation measures to address any identified adverse effects.

7.17.2. A hard copy of the PEIR was made available for viewing at the deposit points at Crowle Community Hub, Thorne Library and Hatfield Community Library, as well as at in-person consultation events. The PEIR was also available to view on the consultation website. A hard copy could be requested for a charge of £0.35 per

page to cover printing and postage costs. No requests for a hard copy of the document were received.

- 7.17.3. A non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR was developed to provide an accessible version of the detailed information contained within the PEIR. The NTS aimed to present the key environmental aspects of the Scheme in a clear and concise manner, making it easier for the general public to understand the scope of the Scheme, potential impacts, and benefits.
- 7.17.4. The NTS was available to view at the deposit points at Crowle Community Hub, Thorne Library and Hatfield Community Library, as well as at in-person consultation events. It was also available digitally, to download, or view on the consultation website. Hard copies were available to request for free via the Applicant's community contact channels, including email and phone. No requests were made for a hard copy of the NTS.

### **7.18. Consultation Boards**

- 7.18.1. In total, 14 consultation boards were created to display information about the proposals and provide an overview of the key components of the Scheme at the in-person events.
- 7.18.2. The consultation banners were designed to assist in the understanding of the Scheme at the in-person consultation events and supported discussions with the Applicant during public information events and other meetings.
- 7.18.3. A copy of the consultation boards can be found in Appendix 6.5.

### **7.19. Maps and Plans**

- 7.19.1. Technical maps and plans were provided on the consultation website, at deposit points and at the in-person consultation events. Key maps were also included within the consultation brochure. These included Illustrative Masterplan maps, which depicted the overall layout of the Scheme, Land Area plans and landscape and visual mitigation strategy plans.
- 7.19.2. Visualisations comparing existing views with projected views for Year 1 and Year 15 of the Scheme, illustrating the anticipated changes to the landscape over time were also made available on the website and printed versions were available to view at consultation events.

- 7.19.3. Additionally, a scheme evolution plan showing how the draft order limits had changed since the non-statutory consultation was available to view on the project website: <https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/proposals/>. A physical version was also available to view at the consultation events.

### 7.20. Poster

- 7.20.1. A poster was designed to advertise the statutory consultation, the in-person consultation events and webinars. The poster was produced in A3 and A4 sizing and distributed to all host Parish Councils, as well as identified local venues.
- 7.20.2. A copy of the poster is available to view at Appendix 6.6 and a list of the Parish Councils and locations the poster was sent to is provided in Appendix 6.16.

### 7.21. Deposit Points

- 7.21.1. Deposit points were identified, providing public access to view the consultation documents. These were: Crowle Community Hub, Thorne Library and Hatfield Community Library. The opening times are presented in **Table 7-5**.
- 7.21.2. Each of the deposit points included copies of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, NTS, consultation feedback forms and Freepost envelopes. All of which could be taken away. The deposit points also included Land Area plans and a copy of the PEIR, which could not be removed from the deposit locations.

**Table 7-5: Opening times of the deposit locations during consultation**

Location	Address	Opening Times
Crowle Community Hub	The Market Hall, Market Place, Crowle, Scunthorpe DN17 4LA	Monday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Tuesday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Wednesday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Thursday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm) Friday: 9am to 5pm (closed 12.30pm to 1pm)

		Saturday: 9am to 12pm Sunday Closed
Thorne Library	The Vermuyden Centre, Field Side, Thorne, Doncaster DN8 4BQ	Monday: 8.45am to 5pm (closed 1.00pm to 1.30pm) Tuesday: 8.45 to 5pm (closed 1.00pm to 1.30pm) Wednesday: 8.45 to 5pm (closed 1.00pm to 1.30pm) Thursday: 8.45 to 5pm (closed 1.00pm to 1.30pm) Friday: 8.45 to 5pm (closed 1.00pm to 1.30pm) Saturday: 8.45 to 1pm Sunday Closed
Hatfield Community Library	High Street, Hatfield, Doncaster DN7 6RY	Monday 10.00am – 4.00pm Tuesday 10.00am – 4.00pm Wednesday 10.00am – 1.00pm Thursday 10.00am – 4.00pm Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm Saturday 10.00am – 12.00pm Sunday Closed

7.21.3. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix 6.17.

### 7.22. Feedback Channels

7.22.1. There were several channels available for feedback to be provided on the Scheme. These channels included:

- Post: Participants could return a feedback form, or provide an open text response, by mail using the Freepost address: Freepost Tween Bridge Solar.
- Online: An online feedback form was available on the consultation website, allowing participants to submit their comments electronically.

- In-person: Participants could complete a hard copy of the feedback form provided at one of the in-person consultation events, or bring one they had completed at home, and hand it to a member of staff at the event or insert it into the dedicated feedback box provided at the events.
- Email: Interested parties could provide feedback by sending an email to [info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk](mailto:info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk)

7.22.2. The Applicant encouraged all respondents to feedback via the above channels. The Applicant would also accept formal feedback responses over the phone. No feedback was received over the phone during the statutory consultation.

**7.23. Consultation Events**

7.23.1. A hybrid approach was adopted to consultation events including a mix of in-person, and online events.

**In-person Consultation Events**

7.23.2. Four in-person consultation events were held for communities to find out information about the Scheme and speak to the Applicant. The consultation events were held at suitable, publicly accessible venues near to the Scheme.

7.23.3. Copies of all relevant consultation materials were made available to view at each consultation event. In total, 14 consultation boards were used to present the proposals for the Scheme, as well as a series of printed maps, plans and imagery available on tables.

7.23.4. Details of the in-person consultation events are available in **Table 7-6**.

**Table 7-6: Details of in-person consultation events**

Date	Time	Location	Number of Attendees
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Crowle Community Hub, Market Place, Crowle DN17 4LA	42

Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	4:00pm – 7:00pm	Coulman Pavillion, 5 Coulman St, Thorne DN8 5JS	32
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	12:00pm – 3:00pm	Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre, 24A West Road, Moorends DN8 4LH	19
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	3:00pm – 6:00pm	Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall, Main Street, Hatfield Woodhouse DN7 6NE	30

- 7.23.5. Two additional events were held during the statutory consultation from the non-statutory consultation. An event was held at the Moorends Miners Welfare & Community Development Centre as local residents of Moorends had expressed concern there wasn't an in-person event in their neighbourhood for the non-statutory consultation. Similarly, an additional event was held in Hatfield Woodhouse to ensure that neighbourhood south of the Site had a local in-person event. The additional events also meant there were additional days for stakeholders to come and attend in person.
- 7.23.6. Across the four events, there were a total of 123 attendees. Photos of the consultation events can be found in Appendix 6.18.

### **Online Consultation Event**

- 7.23.7. In addition to the in-person consultation events, a webinar was held during the statutory consultation for any member of the public to join. This provided an alternative option for those who were unable to attend the in-person events. The session was scheduled in the evening to accommodate various schedules. Individuals were able to register for the webinars via the consultation website.
- 7.23.8. During the webinar, the Applicant delivered a presentation that featured the same information that was available on the consultation banners at the in-person events. Following the presentation, the Applicant invited attendees to ask any questions they had about the Scheme, which the Applicant responded to.
- 7.23.9. A copy of the slides presented during the webinar can be found in Appendix 6.19.

- 7.23.10. A recording of the webinar was made available on the consultation website for those who were unable to attend the live session. This ensured that all interested parties had the opportunity to access the information and provide their feedback on the Scheme. A recording of the webinar was available to view on the consultation website: <https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/have-your-say/>.
- 7.23.11. 2 people attended the live session of the webinar. Details of the webinar can be found in **Table 7-7**.

**Table 7-7: Details of webinar event**

Date	Time	Number of Attendees
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	6:30pm – 7:00pm	2

### **7.24. Advertising and Publicity of the Consultation**

- 7.24.1. On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, the consultation newsletter was distributed to all 13,658 properties and businesses within the PCZ.
- 7.24.2. The list of statutory consultees can be found in Appendix 6.1, the list of relevant elected representatives, community organisations and seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix 6.13.
- 7.24.3. Briefings on the Scheme were held with several key political stakeholders, representing wards, constituencies and parishes before, during and after the consultation period. A list of stakeholder meetings held can be found in Table 17.
- 7.24.4. In accordance with the SoCC, a press release was sent at the start of consultation to publicise the launch of the consultation, and another was issued during the consultation to remind local people of the opportunity to make comments. The press releases were sent to identified local and regional media outlets such as Doncaster Free Press, Lincolnshire Echo, Yorkshire Post at the start of the consultation on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. A week later further releases were published in the Doncaster Free Press and Scunthorpe Telegraph on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025. A further advert was placed in the April 2025 edition of the Thorne Times. A copy of the consultation press release can be found in Appendix 6.20. The list of media outlets both press releases were issued to can be found in Appendix 6.21.

- 7.24.5. Statutory notices to publicise the SoCC and consultation, in accordance with section 48 and section 47 of the PA 2008, were published as a joint notice in The Guardian and The London Gazette on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (for one week), and in local circulating papers, Doncaster Free Press and Scunthorpe Telegraph on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (across two successive weeks).
- 7.24.6. Posters, including details of the consultation and how to access information about the Scheme, were given to identified local venues to help raise awareness of the consultation. These were handed over to relevant staff members on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. A copy of the poster can be found in Appendix 6.6 and a list of locations this was issued to can be found in Appendix 6.16.

### **7.25. Engagement with Seldom Heard Groups**

- 7.25.1. The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the consultation was accessible and inclusive for all stakeholders, including ‘under-represented’ or ‘seldom heard’ groups and individuals who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation methods.
- 7.25.2. These groups and individuals that may find it harder to be involved in the consultation, and/or need additional support to access materials include:
- Geographically isolated communities
  - Young People
  - Old People
  - Disabled people and those with learning disabilities
  - People who do not have English as a first language
- 7.25.3. The Applicant took deliberate and varied steps to engage with seldom heard groups throughout the consultation process, demonstrating a commitment to inclusivity.
- 7.25.4. For older people, the approach included directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all addresses within the PCZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents. Options were provided

to engage with the Applicant and the consultation through conventional communications channels, including by Freepost and the information phonenumber. Important information was provided in both digital and non-digital formats and alternative formats such as large print (upon request) were offered. The option for feedback to be provided via a Freepost address was provided. Consultation events were held at four accessible locations within the PCZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.

- 7.25.5. For disabled people and those with learning disabilities, similar accessibility measures were taken, providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and publicising the opportunity to request materials in alternative formats, such as large print and braille. Options were provided to engage with the Applicant and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by Freepost, email and the information phonenumber. Ahead of consultation events, the Applicant ensured that all event spaces had disabled access and facilities, and the layout of the consultation room provided space for those with wheelchairs to be mobile.
- 7.25.6. Geographically isolated communities within the PCZ received the consultation newsletter by mail. This included details of how to access hard copies of the consultation documents, details of the online consultation webinars, and how to contact the Applicant via the community contact channels, which included a phonenumber, email and Freepost address for additional support.
- 7.25.7. A webinar was held for interested parties to join and learn about the Scheme, from a location suitable for them. Details and office hours of the project phonenumber were publicised in the consultation newsletter and on the consultation website, encouraging those with further questions to speak with the Applicant, regardless of location.
- 7.25.8. The Applicant identified seldom heard groups in the local community and notified them of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. A list of the seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix 6.13. An email was issued on the day the consultation launched on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The email included details of the four public exhibitions and online webinar as well as a link to the project website which contained the full suite of consultation documents (the consultation leaflet, the PEIR, PEIR Non-Technical Summary, and associated plans and drawings). A copy of the email can be found in Appendix 6.14. These seldom

heard groups were also issued further emails on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, to remind them of the time remaining until the consultation response deadline. Copies of the reminder emails can be found in Appendix 6.15.

### 7.26. Stakeholder Meetings

- 7.26.1. Host Parish Councils, host and neighbouring MPs and relevant local councillors were contacted ahead of the statutory consultation launch to offer a briefing on the Scheme.
- 7.26.2. A list of the stakeholders meetings, in addition to the scheduled statutory consultation events, that the Applicant met with is summarised in available in **Table 7-8**. This included one meeting prior, one meeting during and another meeting following the formal consultation window.

**Table 7-8: Stakeholders who were briefed ahead of and during the statutory consultation**

Stakeholder	Date
Crowle Town Council.	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Proposed presentation to Thorne and Moorends Town Council	Scheduled for 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 but delayed to April due to media presence on the day.
Presentation to Thorne and Moorends Town Council	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Presentation to Belton Parish Council	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2025. As this has passed the formal window, this was an information sharing opportunity.

### 7.27. Adherence with the SoCC

- 7.27.1. **Table 7-8** outlines how the consultation was undertaken in accordance with the commitments outlined in the SoCC.

Table 7–8: Adherence with the SoCC

SoCC Paragraph	Commitment Made	Compliance
4.1	<i>We currently intend to undertake statutory consultation for seven weeks starting on Thursday 20th March 2025. The deadline for accepting consultation responses is 11.59pm on Thursday 8th May 2025.</i>	The Applicant ran the statutory consultation (in compliance with Section 47) between Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 and Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025.
4.2	<p><i>We will present our proposals including how they have been informed by our environmental assessments and engagement to date. We will be seeking feedback on all aspects of our plans for TBSF. These will be explained in the following materials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)</i></b> A printed copy of the PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points.</li> <li>• <b><i>PEIR Non-Technical Summary (“NTS”)</i></b> – providing a summary of the findings of the PEIR. of the PEIR will also be made available. A printed copy of the NTS will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points.</li> <li>• <b><i>Drawings</i></b> – a set of drawings showing the full extent of the scheme. Printed copy of the drawing pack will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points.</li> <li>• <b><i>Consultation Leaflet</i></b> – the leaflet provides an overview of the Scheme. A printed copy of the leaflet will be available to view and, subject to availability, to take away at the consultation events.</li> <li>• <b><i>Non-Statutory Consultation Report</i></b> – This document summarises the responses received during the non-statutory consultation undertaken prior to the start of statutory</li> </ul>	<p>All listed materials were made available from the start of the consultation. All materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, all materials were made available at the in-person consultation events.</p> <p>The PEIR, PEIR NTS, Drawings pack, Non-Statutory Consultation Report and the SoCC were also made available at the deposit locations from the start of consultation on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p>

	<p><i>consultation. A printed copy will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points.</i></p> <p><b>• Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)</b> – <i>A printed copy of this document will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points. We will also publish a notice in local newspapers to explain where this statement can be inspected pursuant to Section 47 of the Act.</i></p>	
4.3	<p>All of the statutory consultation documents are available to view and download from the TBSF project website during the statutory consultation period. Paper copies of all consultation materials can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per A4 page to cover printing and postage costs. Request for paper copies can be made by email to: <b><i>info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</i></b> or calling on Freephone <b><i>0800 021 7877</i></b>. Upon request, documents, subject to availability, may be provided in alternative accessible formats, such as USB sticks or text to speech app.</p>	<p>As stated above, all consultation materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p> <p>No requests were made to provide the consultation materials in alternative accessible formats.</p>
4.4 to 4.6	<p>We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC. The consultation process is open to anyone with an interest in TBSF. We have identified a primary consultation zone for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act. The primary consultation zone has been identified as those communities who are most likely to experience direct effects from the development. The primary consultation zone typically extends to two kilometres from the boundary of the order limits.</p> <p>The primary consultation zone covers the villages of Thorne, Moorends, Crowle, Ealand, Sandtoft, Hatfield Woodhouse, and Stone Hill. The zone has also been amended where proportionate and reasonable based on existing</p>	<p>The Primary Consultation Zone included over 13,658 addresses (and comprised residential, business and commercial) located around the settlements of the draft order limits, including villages of Thorne, Moorends, Crowle, Ealand, Sandtoft, Hatfield Woodhouse, and Stone Hill.</p> <p>A Consultation Leaflet was dispatched to the Royal Mail on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The Royal Mail subsequently distributed the leaflets by second class mail to all collected addresses within the Primary Consultation Zone.</p>

	<p>boundaries in order to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities.</p> <p>We recognise that there may be individuals and organisations that are interested in the project but located out of the scope of the primary consultation zone. We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation. We will publicise consultation opportunities to a wider consultation zone by advertising in the Doncaster Free Press and the Scunthorpe Telegraph in accordance with Section 48 of the Act, and keeping a register of interested individuals.</p>	<p>Turning to the wider consultation zone, this was defined by the geographic reach of the local newspapers. As stated elsewhere in this statement, the Statutory Notices publicising the statutory consultation were published in the Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025; and in the Doncaster Free Press on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p> <p>Advertisements publicising the consultation and exhibitions were also placed in the Doncaster Free Press and Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p>
4.7(i)	<p>We are proposing 4 public exhibition events at suitable, publicly accessible venues within the primary consultation zone. They will be advertised through the local media, consultation leaflets, project website, posters and consultation letters.</p> <p>Our consultation events are planned as follows:  <b>Coulman Pavillion; Crowle Community Hub; Moorends Miners Welfare &amp; Community Development Centre; and Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall</b></p>	<p>The Applicant held 4 in-person public exhibitions during the consultation period as set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>A total of 123 people attended the four events.</p> <p>At the events, attendees could view the PEIR, PEIR NTS, Drawings, Non-Statutory Consultation report, the SoCC, Consultation Leaflet, and feedback form.</p> <p>Consultation banners were also prepared for public exhibitions.</p> <p>The applicant ensured that project team members with a wide variety of technical expertise were in attendance at each event so as to enable detailed and technical discussion with attendees.</p>

4.7(ii)	One webinar event will be held for any members of the public to join.	<p>The applicant held one consultation webinar during the consultation period as set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>A total of 2 people attended the webinar.</p> <p>For the webinar, the Applicant prepared presentation of the scheme which mirrored the information displayed on the consultation banners of the in-person public exhibitions.</p>
4.7(iii)	<p>All consultation documents will be published on the dedicated project website:</p> <p><b><a href="https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/">https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/</a></b></p>	<p>As stated elsewhere in this document, all consultation materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p>
4.7(iv)	<p>Press release Press releases publicising the consultation and how the community and wider stakeholders can get involved will be issued at the start of the statutory consultation. The press release distribution list will include the following publications: Lincolnshire Live; Yorkshire Post; Scunthorpe Telegraph; Doncaster Free Press; and Thorne Times.</p>	<p>The Applicant issued a press release to all the regional newspapers listed within the SoCC on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p>
4.7(v)	<p>Newspaper advertisements publicising the consultation will be released at the start of the consultation. Distribution list for the adverts will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lincolnshire Live;</li> <li>• Yorkshire Post;</li> <li>• Scunthorpe Telegraph;</li> <li>• Doncaster Free Press;</li> <li>• Thorne Times.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant placed an advertisement publicising the consultation within all the local papers specified within the SoCC. Copies of the adverts will be presented within the Consultation Report that will accompany the DCO submission.</p>

4.7 (vi)	<p>We will send either emails (where we have been provided with appropriate email contact details) or hard copy letters about the consultation and how to get involved to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs;</li> <li>• Elected representatives at City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council;</li> <li>• Host parish councils;</li> <li>• Neighbouring local authorities;</li> <li>• Neighbouring parish councils;</li> <li>• All relevant statutory consultees.</li> </ul>	<p>All stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons were issued with statutory consultation engagement letter on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The letter set out details of the statutory consultation, including the applicant, location of development, the consultation period, details on how representations could be made, details where documents could be viewed both online (via the project website) and in-person and (at the deposit locations and the public exhibitions). The letter was accompanied by a plan showing the draft order limits.</p> <p>The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice.</p>
4.7 (vii)	<p>We will publish the statutory notice under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, to publicise the proposed DCO application. It will be published:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For two successive weeks in a local paper(s);</li> <li>• Once in a national newspaper;</li> <li>• Once in the London Gazette.</li> </ul> <p>The notice will be made available to view on the project website, a printed copy will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events and at the public information points.</p>	<p>The Statutory Notices were published in the local and national papers as specified in the SoCC, namely: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Scunthorpe Telegraph on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025</li> <li>(ii) Doncaster Free Press on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025</li> </ul>

		<p>(iii) Guardian on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025</p> <p>(iv) London Gazette on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025</p>
4.7(viii)	Posters including details of the consultation, how to access Project information, and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public locations (this could include parish notice boards, local shops and village halls) within the primary and wider consultation zone, subject to permission.	<p>Posters were displayed at the following locations:</p> <p>Crowle Community Hall, Hatfield Woodhouse Village Hall, Belton Park Pavilion, Thorne Library, Hatfield Community Library, Crowle Community Hub, Thorne Sainsbury's, Thorne Tesco Express, Thorne Lidl, Crowle Co-op Food, St John the Baptist, 7 Lakes Caravan Park, Keadby Post Office</p>
4.7(ix)	Local residents and businesses located within the primary consultation zone (please refer to paragraph 4.4) will be notified of the consultation through a consultation leaflet, inviting them to get involved in the consultation. The leaflet will provide details about the scheme, consultation, exhibition events, how to access the information and how to provide feedback.	<p>As stated elsewhere in this statement, the Primary Consultation Zone included over 13658 addresses (and comprised residential, business and commercial) located around the settlements of the draft order limits, including villages of Thorne, Moorends, Crowle, Ealand, Sandtoft, Hatfield Woodhouse, and Stone Hill.</p> <p>A Consultation Leaflet was dispatched to the Royal Mail on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The Royal Mail subsequently distributed the leaflets by second class mail to all collected address within the Primary Consultation Zone.</p> <p>The leaflet provided details about the scheme, consultation, exhibition events, how to access the information and how to provide feedback.</p>

4.8	All consultation materials will be made available online on our website free of charge and can be downloaded for inspection at the reader's discretion. Printed copies of all the materials (including the PEIR) will also be made available for inspection at the in-person consultation events and selected documents will be available document inspection points.	As stated elsewhere in this document, all consultation materials were made available on the project website from the start of the consultation on 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025. Hard copies of the consultation materials were made available at the 4 public exhibitions. The PEIR, PEIR NTS, drawings, non-Statutory consultation report and SoCC were also made available at the deposit locations during the consultation period.
4.9	The consultation documents listed at paragraph 4.2 will be made available for members of the public to inspect at the following venues:  Crowle Community Hub  Thorne Library  Hatfield Community Library	The PEIR, PEIR NTS, Drawings, Non-Statutory Consultation Report and SoCC were also made available at the deposit locations during the consultation period.
4.10	The project team will check on a regular basis that consultation documentation remains at the information points throughout the consultation period and will ensure the prompt replacement in the event documentation has been removed.	The consultation documentation was inspected by the project team on the following dates, 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2025, and 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2025.
4.11	For any activity(ies) identified within this SoCC that cannot be undertaken, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and communicated promptly on the project website and/or social media.	All activities within the SoCC were undertaken by the Applicant during the statutory consultation period..
4.12	Ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken ahead of the launch of the consultation, including local authorities, MPs, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Network Rail, The Canal Trust and Historic England (where possible) and with local interest groups, residents, and landowners who get in touch.	The project team continued to respond to correspondence received through our communication channels ahead of the launch of the consultation.

		Two Town and Parish Council(s) (Thorne and Moorends Town Council, Crowle Town Council) Were offered a briefing by members of the project team ahead of the statutory consultation launch. Members of the project team briefed Crowle Town Council on 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2025.
4.13	All relevant local and parish councillors, elected members and MPs will be contacted at the launch of the consultation and will be kept informed about the Scheme. They will also be encouraged to share information about the consultation with members of their constituency/local community.	<p>All relevant local and parish councillors, elected members and MPs were issued with statutory consultation engagement letter on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The letter set out details of the statutory consultation, including the applicant, location of development, the consultation period, details on how representations could be made, details where documents could be viewed both online (via the project website) and in-person and (at the deposit locations and the public exhibitions). The letter was accompanied by a plan showing the draft order limits.</p> <p>The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice.</p>
4.14	We want to ensure that all our engagement and consultation is inclusive, and we want to reach those who otherwise may not engage with us. Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation for any	Local Seldom heard groups were included within our stakeholder communications and were issued with statutory consultation engagement letter on 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025. The letter

	<p>reason. To ensure that seldom heard groups are encouraged to get involved in the consultation, the materials will be prepared to be accessible and clear: –</p>	<p>set out details of the statutory consultation, including the applicant, location of development, the consultation period, details on how representations could be made, details where documents could be viewed both online (via the project website) and in-person and (at the deposit locations and the public exhibitions). The letter was accompanied by a plan showing the draft order limits.</p> <p>The statutory consultation engagement letter was reissued to all stakeholders, relevant local planning authorities, prescribed consultees and interested persons on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and it included a copy of the Statutory Notice.</p>
4.14(i)	<p>Elderly people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly mailing the consultation leaflet to all stakeholders within the primary consultation zone and providing details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post.</li> <li>• Options to engage through conventional communications channels including the freepost and the freephone information line.</li> <li>• Upon request, providing information in alternative format such as text to speech app.</li> <li>• Providing paper copies of materials at information point locations</li> </ul> <p>along with contact details for the project team, who will be able to provide further assistance and send information to those who are unable to access the material online.</p>	<p>All arrangements outlined in the SoCC were advertised.</p> <p>No requests for alternative arrangements were received.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss TBSF with the project team.</li> <li>• Consultation events at several locations, with members of the TBSF project team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</li> </ul>	
4.14(ii)	<p>Disabled people and those with learning disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon request, providing information in alternative format such as text to speech app.</li> <li>• Option to enlarge text on the project's website.</li> <li>• Providing telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or those who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> <li>• Face-to-face events at four locations within the primary consultation zone, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</li> <li>• Opportunity to request webinars supported by British Sign Language signing.</li> </ul>	<p>All arrangements outlined in the SoCC were advertised.</p> <p>No requests for alternative arrangements were received.</p>
4.14(iii)	<p>People with limited mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly mailing the consultation leaflet to all stakeholders within the primary consultation zone and providing details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post.</li> <li>• Online engagement through the consultation website and providing opportunities for webinars to remove the need to travel.</li> <li>• Advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> </ul>	<p>All arrangements outlined in the SoCC were advertised.</p> <p>The project team hosted an online webinar on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</p>

4.14(iv)	<p>Geographically isolated people and communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly mailing the consultation leaflet to all stakeholders within the primary consultation zone and providing details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post.</li> <li>• Online engagement through the consultation website and opportunity for webinars to remove the need to travel.</li> <li>• Advertising the availability of telephone call backs for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the project further with the project team.</li> </ul>	<p>All arrangements were advertised.</p> <p>No requests for alternative arrangements were received.</p> <p>The project team hosted an online webinar on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</p>
4.14(v)	<p>Young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online engagement to encourage this demographic to complete feedback forms/consultation engagement.</li> <li>• Posters will be distributed at the local college/high schools to inform the demographic of the project and encourage them to provide feedback.</li> </ul>	<p>All arrangements were advertised</p> <p>Posters were distributed via post to local colleges/high schools on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p>
4.15	<p>The following enquiry channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the project team, ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents. These channels are provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online <a href="https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/">https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/</a> 24 hour.</li> <li>• Telephone <b>0800 021 7877</b> Our line is staffed from 9am– 5:30pm weekdays (excluding bank holidays) with an answerphone facility to take messages outside these hours.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant confirmed that the communication channels specified in the SoCC were held open during the entire duration of the statutory consultation.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email <b>info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</b> 24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays, excluding bank holidays, and responded).</li> <li>Post <b>FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE</b></li> </ul>	
5.1	<p>Starting on Thursday 20th March 2025, people will be able to submit their feedback relating to TBSF. A consultation feedback form is available to help participants provide comments on the project. All responses must be received by 11.59pm on Thursday 8th May 2025. Responses received after that date may not be considered.</p>	<p>The feedback form was made available on the project website from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. By 11.59pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the applicant received 87 representations.</p>
5.2	<p>Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing to us at: <b>FREEPOST TWEENBRIDGE.</b></li> <li>Email your comments to <b>info@tweenbridgesolar.co.uk</b></li> <li>Completing the feedback form on the project webpage at:  <b><a href="https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/have-your-say/">https://tweenbridgesolar.co.uk/have-your-say/</a></b></li> <li>Attending a consultation event where you can meet the TBSF Project team and complete a paper copy, or take a feedback form and freepost envelope away to complete and send to us.</li> <li>Picking up a hard copy feedback form and freepost envelope at one of our Document Inspection Points.</li> <li>Requesting a hard copy of the feedback form via telephone on <b>0800 021 7877</b> and sending it to us using the Freepost address below.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant confirmed that the communication channels specified in the SoCC were held open during the entire duration of the statutory consultation.</p>
5.3	<p>The enquiry channels above will be available throughout the consultation for members of the public and other stakeholders to ask questions, request further information or request printed</p>	<p>The Applicant confirmed that the communication channels specified in the SoCC were held</p>

	copies of consultation materials and documents.	open during the entire duration of the statutory consultation.
5.4	We will carefully consider all comments received during the pre-application consultation period.	The Applicant has reviewed the scheme design and the feedback received from the non-statutory and statutory consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessment and technical work, is informing the final parameters of the scheme. Details of how the feedback influenced the design are set out in this report.
5.5	Once we have analysed the feedback to understand key themes from stakeholders, we will produce a Consultation Report, which will set out how the feedback from the preapplication consultation has shaped and influenced the project. This will be submitted with the DCO Application.	The DCO application will be supported by a Consultation Report.
5.6	Any responses that may be published as part of the Consultation Report will have all personal details redacted. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation.	The Applicant will follow General Data Protection Regulations when compiling the Consultation Report.
5.7	If, following the statutory consultation, we consider it is necessary to undertake further targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.	At this moment in time, the Applicant does not anticipate that any required modifications to the order limits would necessitate further targeted consultation

## 8 Summary of Responses to Statutory Consultation

### 8.1. Overview

- 8.1.1. Section 49 of the PA 2008 sets out the duty upon applicants to take account of responses to the consultation and publicity.
- 8.1.2. Statutory consultation was held between Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 23:59 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
- 8.1.3. A total of 133 responses were received during the statutory consultation period. This comprised responses via the physical feedback forms , online response forms and forms received via email, as well as emails sent to the project inbox and letters.
- 8.1.4. The Applicant accepted all responses submitted up until the close of the statutory consultation at 11.59pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. After this date some further responses were received, which were accepted and have been taken into consideration.
- 8.1.5. **Chapter 7** is structured as follows:
- Analysing responses to statutory consultation: statistical overview of types of responses received, details of the methodology and how responses were handled and feedback analysed
  - Responses received from the statutory consultees: outlining the section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees who responded to the consultation
  - Responses to closed questions, presents and discusses the results of the closed questions on the feedback form
  - Issues raised in open questions and Applicants response: outlines the matters raised by consultees in response to the consultation and publicity, alongside the Applicant's response to matters raised to help demonstrate the regard had to every relevant response
  - Summary of changes made following feedback received from statutory consultation, outlining the changes made to the scheme further to feedback received.

### 8.2. Analysis of responses

#### Number and Format of Responses

- 8.2.1. A total of 133 responses were received during the statutory consultation period which was held between Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025. This includes responses received after the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 deadline.
- 8.2.2. Of these responses, 28 were submitted from respondents under section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, 5 under section 42(1)(b), 6 under section 42(1)(d) and 94 under section 47.
- 8.2.3. Respondents were able to provide feedback through multiple channels:
- Consultation Feedback Form: Available for online submission, or to complete hard copies either in-person at the events, or to return via post.
  - Written Responses: Accepted in the form of letters and emails.
  - Phone Responses: Feedback could be provided through the consultation phoneline.
- 8.2.4. Respondents that chose to provide feedback via the feedback form were not required to answer all questions, allowing respondents to provide feedback only on the topics that interested them.
- 8.2.5. The feedback form asked for comments on the Scheme, the environmental information provided in the PEIR, the community benefits package, electric vehicle charging hub and any other general comments on the scheme. There was also opportunity to provide contact details to establish their personal interest in the Scheme and consent to being kept informed.

#### Consultation Analysis Method

- 8.2.6. Following the close of the consultation, the Applicant reviewed all the responses received.
- 8.2.7. The closed (quantitative) questions are detailed in the section below, while comments received during the open (qualitative) questions or through free text responses by email or letter are detailed in Appendix 4.5.

- 8.2.8. For free text responses, including those received via email and submitted feedback forms, the Applicant has sought to identify their interest in the Scheme, as a local resident, local representative, landowner, local worker, visitor to the area, statutory body representative, local interest group or local business/contractor, using information provided such as organisation name or address.
- 8.2.9. The online platform Participatr was utilised for the non-statutory round of consultation feedback to help the team process, codify and consider feedback that was sent through to the team.
- 8.2.10. The percentages on the graphs have been rounded up or down to provide the percentage to a whole number and as such, the totals are not always equal to 100%.
- 8.2.11. To analyse the responses received to the open questions and free text responses, a coding framework was used to capture and summarise these responses and identify themes and issues. This approach is in accordance with Planning Inspectorate Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report'.
- 8.2.12. A written response could receive multiple codes to highlight different issues covered. New classifications were added on an ad-hoc basis as feedback was received, allowing for further breakdown of themes.
- 8.2.13. To ensure quality of analysis, checks were made on the identification of issues by a senior member of the team.
- 8.2.14. The analysis of free text responses included the identification of 'Change Requests' (specific requests to change elements of the proposed design). These issues were flagged to the project team and considered as part of the design development process.

### **Responses Received from Statutory Parties**

- 8.2.15. Responses were received from 28 section 42(1)(a) consultees and 6 section 42(1)(b) consultee. A full list of the section 42(1)(a) and 42(1)(b) consultees who were consulted can be found in Appendix 6.1.

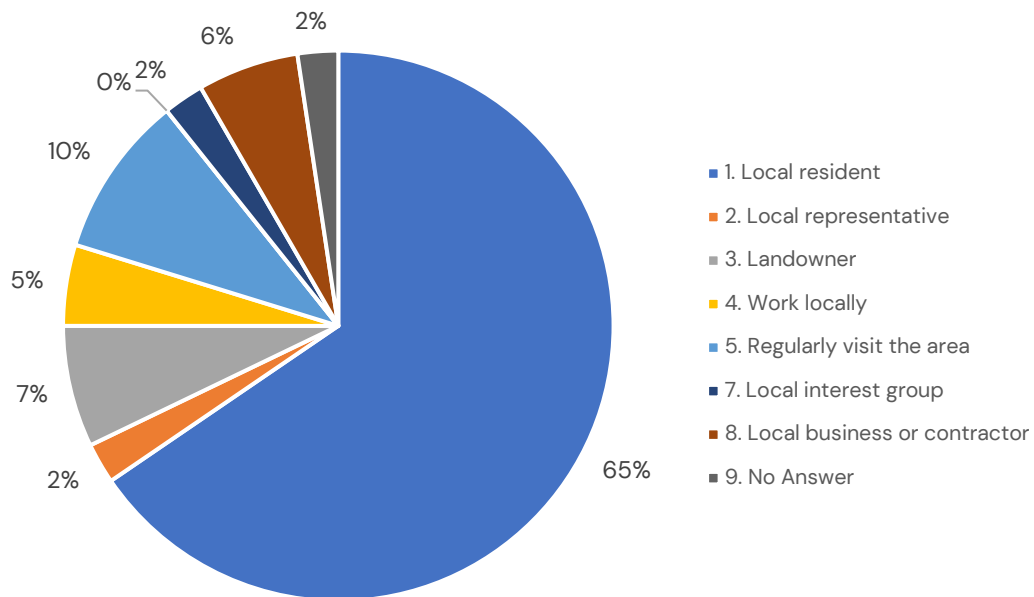
### **Responses to Closed Questions**

8.2.16. This section presents and discusses the feedback gathered through closed questions on the feedback form.

8.2.17. **Figure 8-1** shows how the respondents that completed the feedback form would describe their interest in the Scheme. This data only includes responses received through the feedback form.

*Figure 8-1 Question 8: How would you describe your interest in our proposals?*

Answer	Local Resident	Local Representative	Landowner	Work locally	Regularly visit the area	Local Interest group	Local business or contractor	No Answer
No. of responses	55	2	6	4	8	2	5	2
%	65%	2%	7%	5%	10%	2%	6%	2%



### Responses to Open Questions

8.2.18. As outlined earlier, the feedback form also contained open questions.

8.2.19. Table 8-1 provides a summary of the key themes raised in response to each question presented in the statutory consultation feedback questionnaire.

8.2.20. More detailed analysis of issues raised in the statutory consultation and the Applicant's responses to issues can be found in Appendix 4.5.

**Table 8-1: Key issues raised in response to each question**

Question	Themes Raised
1. Do you have any comments on the scheme?	<p>Recognition of the need for renewable energy</p> <p>Food security – concerns around the loss of agricultural land: respondents are worried that using productive farmland for solar panels will reduce the UK's capacity to grow food, especially in the context of rising food imports and prices.</p> <p>Land use and suitability – preference for alternative sites: many suggest solar panels should be placed on rooftops, car parks, brownfield land or industrial buildings instead of open countryside.</p> <p>Do not believe in Net Zero, the need for renewable energy.</p> <p>Visual and landscape impact – concerns about industrialisation: strong objections were raised to the visual intrusion of large solar farms, particularly in areas described as scenic, rural or historic, with the development seen as out of character with the surroundings. Many felt the area already has too many large developments.</p> <p>Local disruption and amenity loss – concerns about noise, traffic and rights of way: people anticipate disturbance during construction and operation, including noise, dust, traffic, and restricted access to public footpaths and open space.</p> <p>Property values and community wellbeing – negative impact on quality of life: residents are worried about falling house prices and the general loss of countryside amenity, which</p>

	<p>affects both lifestyle and long-term financial security.</p> <p>Scale and permanence of the development – concerns about long-term consequences: concerns were raised about the large size of the scheme, its long lifespan, and the uncertainty of what will happen to the land after the solar panels are decommissioned.</p>
2. Do you have any comments on the environmental information provided in the PEIR?	Impact on wildlife and natural environment – disruption to habitats: respondents highlighted risks to wildlife, including deer, migrating birds hedgehogs and birds, and questioned claims that the project would provide environmental enhancements. Several individuals asked for pathways to be made for migrating deer.
3. Do you have any ideas or suggestions about how the community benefits package could best support your local community?	Lack of direct local benefit – calls for fair compensation or clearer advantages: there is skepticism about whether the local community will benefit from the scheme, with some demanding compensation or a clearer explanation of how they would gain anything from the Scheme.
4. Do you have any further comments on our plans for an electric vehicle charging hub?	Electric vehicle charging hub – most respondents responded negatively to the proposals on themes such as, nobody here has an electric car, the location is too hard to get to, unsuitable road access.
<p>6. Please detail the reasons for your response to Question 5 below:</p> <p>(5. Based on the information presented as part of our consultation, how supportive are you of our proposals for Tween Bridge Solar Farm?)</p>	<p>Where respondents said they do not support the solar farm to Question 5 they did not reply to Question 6 or referred to their wider responses to the consultation and general themes for opposing the Scheme.</p> <p>A handful of responses stated that they were neither supportive or not supportive of the Scheme. They expanded further at Question 6 to explain they are trying to balance the benefits of agricultural land and renewable energy generation.</p>

	No respondents stated complete support in reply to Question 5.
7. Do you have any information relevant to Tween Bridge Solar Farm that we need to take into account, or any other general comments you wish to share?	Fairness and regional equity – disproportionate impact on the local area: several comments referenced the perceived over-concentration of infrastructure projects in Doncaster and northern areas, and suggested that wealthier southern counties were being spared similar developments.

### 8.3. Regard to Responses (in accordance with s49 of PA 2008).

- 8.3.1. In accordance with section 49(2) of the PA 2008, this section of the Report demonstrates how the Applicant has had regard to matters raised in the responses received as part of the statutory consultation.
- 8.3.2. The tables presented in Appendix 4.5, and referenced throughout this Report, provide:
- A record of the responses received by section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees and the Applicant's response to these matters, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008
  - A record of the responses received by section 42(1)(b) local authorities and the Applicant's response to these matters, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008
  - A record of the responses received by section 42(1)(d) PILs and the Applicant's response to these matters, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008.
  - A summary of the matters raised by section 47 general public respondents and the Applicant's response to these matters, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008
- 8.3.3. Some design changes were made to the Scheme following the statutory consultation. These took account of the feedback received during the statutory consultation, including ongoing engagement with stakeholders, landowners and the local community, as well as results from emerging environmental survey data and technical assessments.

- 8.3.4. Key community concerns were duly considered at the non-statutory consultation phase and addressed where possible prior to the statutory consultation. As a result of this, limited consultation responses highlighted design changes during the statutory consultation phase.
- 8.3.5. Overall, only 9 community and political respondents referenced specific design changes. Most feedback received related to the principle of ground mounted solar farms, Net Zero, and the location.
- 8.3.6. The Section below identifies the key design changes that were made, and explains the reasoning behind them, including where this was as a direct result of consultation feedback. It also identifies the design suggestions or requests that the Applicant received from the consultation feedback, but which did not result in a change to the design and provides a justification for not implementing these changes.

**8.4. Summary of Scheme Changes as a Result of Consultation.**

- 8.4.1. As part of the analysis of the feedback received to the statutory consultation, the Applicant reviewed and considered the suggested design changes.
- 8.4.2. Design changes suggested in response to the statutory consultation were carefully considered and assessed by specialists involved in the design of the Scheme.
- 8.4.3. Design changes to the Scheme have also been influenced outside of statutory consultation through ongoing engagement with stakeholders and landowners, emerging environmental survey data and technical assessment work. An account of the development of the Scheme and all design changes made is provided in ES Chapter 3.

**Design Changes Made and Why.**

- 8.4.4. A summary of the principal design changes made following the statutory consultation are provided below.

**Table 8-2: Summary of Principal Design Changes**

Design change number	Design Change	Reason
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Parcel A		
1	Area of land within the north-western region Area A was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The area became part of Field A4 at the PEIR design stage.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
2	Area of land within the western region of Area A was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The area became parts of Fields A11, A12 and A23.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
Parcel B		
	No design changes.	
Parcel C		
3	Area of land within the western region of Area C was removed from the draft Order Limits. The area was located adjacent to Double Bridges Farm.	Land was removed from the draft Order Limits owing to landscape and visual impacts on residential properties.
4	Area of land within the western region of Area C was removed from the draft Order Limits. The area was located adjacent to Clay Bank Farm.	Land was removed from the draft Order Limits owing to landscape and visual impacts on residential properties.
5	Area of land within the northern region of Area C was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The area became Field C6.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
6	Area of land within the eastern region of Area C was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The area became Field C7, C8 and C9.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
7	Area of land within the southern region of Area C was inserted into the draft Order Limits.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.

Parcel D		
8	Area of land within the western region of Area D was removed from the draft Order Limits. The area of land sits adjacent to the M180.	Land was removed from the draft Order Limits owing to landscape and visual impacts on residential properties.
9	Area of land within the northern region of Area D was removed from the draft Order Limits. The area of land lies adjacent to an existing farmhouse.	Land was removed from the draft Order Limits owing to landscape impacts on residential properties.
10	Areas of land within the southern region of Area D was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The areas of land became Fields D13, D1, D14 and D17	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW.
Parcel E		
11	Areas of land within the eastern region of Area E was inserted into the draft Order Limits. The areas of land became Fields E5, E7, E4, E6, and E8.	Land was added to the draft Order Limits to allow for the export capacity for the Scheme to increase to 800MW. Post statutory consultation, the mitigation fields that was previously identified as being within Parcel F now forms part of Parcel E.
Parcel F		
11	Removal of the area of search for the export cable to connect to the NGET 400kV Substation.	<p>At the Statutory Consultation, Applicant sought to extend the order limits to include an area of search for the export cable to connect to the NGET 400kV Substation. Through the Applicant's engagement with National Grid, several potential locations were identified as potentially suitable for the NGET 400kV Substation and this influenced the Applicant's approach to the statutory consultation whereby the draft Order Limits included land for the potential NGET Grid Connection Route.</p> <p>The PEIR that accompanied the statutory consultation identified that the cable</p>

		<p>connection route was not confirmed and that it was dependant on a number of factors outside the Applicant’s control.</p> <p>Due to the limited information available at this stage regarding the route the 400kV export connection cable will take beyond the Order Limits, an assessment of the part of the 400kV export connection cable beyond the Order Limits and the NGET 400kV substation itself is not possible as part of the application. The Applicant notes that there would be a legal requirement that subsequent consent applications for the 400kV export connection cable and the NGET 400kV substation would be subject to their own planning and regulatory processes. The main proposals for the above ground solar PV and associated infrastructure remain the same as previously consulted on. Parcel F which has been removed was an as yet undefined potential cable route and works to facilitate connection to the future NGET substation and did not represent a significant proportion of proposals within the Scheme. The Scheme is therefore has not fundamentally changed, nor has any new land been added into the Order limits.</p> <p>The Guidance is clear that “Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered”. The Scheme remains fundamentally the same scheme, and only 25% of the land previously included in the Order limits (in connection with associated development) has been removed. In addition, the Applicant notes that the</p>
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		overall Scheme remains materially the same, there are no new materially worse environmental effects, and the likelihood of public interest in removing that land is likely to be low and capable of examination, noting that there is no prejudice to any individuals. On that basis, the Applicant considers that the decision not to reconsult on the Scheme, without Area F, is proportionate and wholly in accordance with the NSIP guidance.
<b>Overarching Changes</b>		
13	Increased in MW from 600MW to 800MW and increased battery capacity from	Owing to available grid capacity and land, the Scheme was increased in capacity from 600MW to 800MW export capacity as well as from 200MW BESS storage capacity to 400MW storage capacity

### Design Changes Not Made and Why

- 8.4.5. There were also responses received during the statutory consultation, which suggested design changes that were considered, but ultimately not implemented by the Applicant.
- 8.4.6. A summary of the most commonly suggested design changes that were considered but not implemented, is provided below.

### Location

- 8.4.7. A number of responses received during the statutory consultation queried why the Scheme needed to be in the location presented. As identified in ES Chapter 3 [Document Reference 6.1.3], the location of the Scheme was selected through a detailed process to select a site that would be suitable for solar energy generation, within reasonable proximity to a National Grid connection, and was feasible to deliver, whilst avoiding and minimising the potential for harm to the environment and communities.

- 8.4.8. Additionally, the Applicant has prepared a Design Approach Document [Document Reference 7.2] in support of the DCO Application, which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Scheme, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape and with local communities in mind.

### **Use of Agricultural Land**

- 8.4.9. A number of responses received during the statutory consultation raised concern about the impact of the Scheme on agricultural land and food security.
- 8.4.10. ES Chapter 15 relates to Agricultural Circumstances, Appendix 15.1 of that Chapter contains an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Report which provides a summary of the ALC for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Scheme.
- 8.4.11. The Government's Food Security Report<sup>14</sup> published in December 2021 is clear that the biggest medium to long term risk to the UK's food production comes from climate change and other environmental pressures. The Independent National Food Strategy Review<sup>15</sup>, which looks at the entire food chain from field to fork, concluded that solar farms do not in any way pose a risk to the UK's food security.

### **Implementation of solar panels on rooftops and brownfield land**

- 8.4.12. A number of respondents questioned the need for the solar farm, suggesting a preference to solar panels on rooftops and brownfield land.
- 8.4.13. The UK has a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. As one of the cheapest and most rapidly deployable forms of renewable energy, solar will play an important role in achieving this commitment. The British Energy Security Strategy<sup>16</sup> published in April 2022 set an ambition of 70 GW of solar by 2035. The Government has made major commitments to the delivery of clean

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<sup>14</sup> United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021. Published by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs on December 16, 2021. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62874ba08fa8f55622a9c8c6/United\\_Kingdom\\_Food\\_Security\\_Report\\_2021\\_19may2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62874ba08fa8f55622a9c8c6/United_Kingdom_Food_Security_Report_2021_19may2022.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Dimbleby, H. (2021). Independent National Food Strategy Review. Available at: [https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/25585\\_1669\\_NFS\\_The\\_Plan\\_July21\\_S12\\_New-1.pdf](https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/25585_1669_NFS_The_Plan_July21_S12_New-1.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. (2022). British Energy Security Strategy. Published on April 7, 2022. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62611337d3bf7f55cc9fd89f/british-energy-security-strategy-print-ready.pdf>

energy in the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan<sup>17</sup>, published in December 2024 which outlines the DESNZ's ambition for 45–47 GW of solar power by 2030 as well as onshore and offshore wind.

- 8.4.14. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply represent an unaffordable solution, with high initial costs of installation.

### **Summary**

- 8.4.15. This Chapter has provided a summary of the responses received to the statutory consultation and has demonstrated that the Applicant has had regard to the responses received under section 49 of the PA 2008.

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<sup>17</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity (2024). Available online: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677bc80399c93b7286a396d6/clean-power-2030-action-plan-main-report.pdf>

## 9 Approach to Engagement Between Statutory Consultation and Application Submission.

### 9.1. Overview.

- 9.1.1. Chapter 8 outlines the engagement undertaken for the statutory consultation. The feedback received at the statutory and targeted consultations, combined with further assessments and engagement with other stakeholders, allowed the Applicant to further refine its proposals.
- 9.1.2. This Chapter also includes details on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) statement and how the Applicant's regard to the advice that the Planning Inspectorate and affected statutory bodies has issued during the pre-application stage as per the Pre-Application Guidance.
- 9.1.3. On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 the Applicant withdrew its application for a Development Consent Order. No further consultation has been held between withdrawing the former application and the submission of this application. In accordance with guidance regarding consultation, set out in 'Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects', the Applicant concludes that, as a whole the changes are not very significant to the Scheme, and not to such a large degree which is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consult on.
- 9.1.4. The main proposals for the above ground solar PV and associated infrastructure remain the same as previously consulted on. Parcel F which has been removed was an as yet undefined potential cable route and works to facilitate connection to the future NGET substation and did not represent a significant proportion of proposals within the Scheme. The Scheme is therefore has not fundamentally changed, nor has any new land been added into the Order limits.
- 9.1.5. The Guidance is clear that "Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered". The Scheme remains fundamentally the same scheme, and only 25% of the land previously included in the Order limits (in connection with associated development) has been removed. In addition, the Applicant notes that the overall Scheme remains

materially the same, there are no new materially worse environmental effects, and the likelihood of public interest in removing that land is likely to be low and capable of examination, noting that there is no prejudice to any individuals. On that basis, the Applicant considers that the decision not to reconsult on the Scheme, without Area F, is proportionate and wholly in accordance with the NSIP guidance.

### **9.2. Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

- 9.2.1. As outlined previously in this Report, the Applicant produced an AoCM Statement in accordance with the Pre-Application Guidance and Prospectus.
- 9.2.2. A written submission was prepared by the Applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 to enable the Planning Inspectorate to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date on the Scheme.
- 9.2.3. The AoCM Statement provided an overview of the engagement and consultation activity to date and how it has met with the requirements of the PA 2008. A copy of the AoCM statement can be found in Appendix 2.1.

### **9.3. Section 51 Advice**

- 9.3.1. Paragraph O26 of the Pre-application Guidance states that the Report should:  
  
*"set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance".*
- 9.3.2. The Applicant has engaged the Planning Inspectorate through the pre-application process including attending a number of meetings. The Planning Inspectorate took notes of these meetings, which were published on its website.
- 9.3.3. Due to the time constraints associated with the re-organisation of the Grid connection queue, it was not possible for the Applicant to receive Section 51 advice on the AoCM Statement.
- 9.3.4. On 15 August 2025, the Planning Inspectorate issued Section 51 advice to the Applicant. The Applicant's response to this advice is set out in Appendix 3.4 of this report.

### **9.4. Pre-Application Advice**

9.4.1. Throughout this Report the Applicant has shown how it has met the requirements of the PA 2008 and associated legislation and regulations. In April 2024, updated Pre-application Guidance was released by the Planning Inspectorate.

9.4.2. Appendix 3.4 details how the Applicant has had regard to the Planning Inspectorate's Pre-Application Guidance.

### **9.5. Engagement with Elected Representatives**

9.5.1. The Applicant has continued to provide updates to elected representatives. Following the end of the statutory consultation, the Applicant contacted local elected representatives, alongside those that had taken part in the statutory consultation and those who had signed up for project updates. The email was sent on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and thanked recipients for their involvement in the consultation, provided high-level detail of the consultation response and notified them of expected next steps for the application. A copy of the email sent can be found in Appendix 8.4.

9.5.2. Following submission of the application, the Applicant will notify local elected representatives that the application has been submitted and is awaiting acceptance by the Planning Inspectorate. This correspondence will also outline next steps for the application and the Applicant's commitments to ensuring the community is engaged throughout the process.

### **9.6. Engagement with the Host Authorities**

9.6.1. Engagement with the City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council has continued following statutory consultation and targeted consultation.

9.6.2. The Applicant has been in regular contact with technical specialist teams from the City of Doncaster Council and North Lincolnshire Council as and when necessary, for example to agree minor amendments to the Scheme or to discuss how comments from statutory consultation or previous stages of the Scheme have been addressed.

9.6.3. On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025, the applicant received a response from the City of Doncaster Council expressing concerns about the lack of engagement having taken place with the Council to shape the project. The Applicant feels this response doesn't accurately reflect the level of engagement undertaken with the Council prior to the

statutory consultation, from non-statutory consultation through to the other forms of engagement between non-statutory and statutory consultation.

9.6.4. A full list of engagement with the City of Doncaster Council is provided below for reference:

- Project update meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024, requested by the applicant in October 2025.
- Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 with regards to the PPA
- Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to discuss project programme and accelerated timescales
- Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July to discuss response to Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

9.6.5. Notwithstanding the above, the City of Doncaster Council did confirm the Applicant had met with its duties under [sections 42, 47](#) and [48](#) of the Planning Act (see Appendix 8.1)

9.6.6. On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025, the Applicant received a response from North Lincolnshire Council confirming that the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report demonstrates that the Applicant has carried out statutory consultation in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Consultation. The response goes on to confirm that consultation undertaken therefore meets the requirements of s47(7) of the Planning Act 2008 and the Applicant has met their statutory obligation in this regard (see Appendix 8.2)

### **9.7. Engagement with Technical Stakeholders**

9.7.1. The comments received during the statutory consultation period have informed the ES and DCO application. The Applicant is intending to extend the pre-examination period by 6 months to further engage with technical stakeholders.

9.7.2. Alongside technical environment bodies, the Applicant has engaged with a number of utilities and statutory parties regarding their responses to statutory consultation. Details of this engagement can be found in the Statutory Undertakers Position Statement.

- 9.7.3. The Potential Main Issues for Examination [Document Reference 5.9] outlines any outstanding potential main issues with parties, including statutory bodies.

### **9.8. Engagement with Communities**

- 9.8.1. Paragraph O26 of the Pre-application Guidance states:

*“It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.”*

- 9.8.2. Following the end of the statutory consultation, the Applicant contacted members of the community that had responded to the statutory consultation and provided contact details, as well as those who had registered for updates on the consultation website. The email was sent on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and thanked recipients for their involvement in the consultation, provided high-level detail of the consultation response and notified them of expected next steps for the application. A copy of the email can be found in Appendix 8.3. On acceptance of the application, the Applicant will contact all parties (members of the community that had responded to the statutory consultation and provided contact details, as well as those who had registered for updates on the consultation website and key stakeholders such as MPs and local councillors), to let them know where documents can be reviewed. This is considered appropriate to the scheme given the low number of matters raised regarding the design of the Scheme.

### **9.9. Engagement with landowners**

#### **Landowners within the Land Areas**

- 9.9.1. The Applicant has liaised with local landowners and adjacent neighbours throughout the development of the Scheme, before, during and after the statutory consultation. The formal periods of consultation with landowners are summarised in Section 5 and Section 7 of the Report.

- 9.9.2. The Applicant's preference is to negotiate and voluntarily agree all necessary land and rights with landowners to avoid the use of compulsory acquisition powers. Owners of land within the Land Areas have been approached and engaged in dialogue to ascertain if they would be willing to reach agreement with the Applicant for the use of their land by way of negotiated easements for the construction, operation and maintenance of the cable routes and Option Agreements have been entered into for all panel areas to lease the land for the duration of the Scheme
- 9.9.3. Outside of the statutory consultation, frequent meetings and liaison with landowners has been ongoing throughout the development of the Scheme, including face to face meetings, written communication and phone calls.
- 9.9.4. This early engagement with landowners focused on the nature of their interests in the land, the principle of the Scheme, and negotiating the voluntary agreements for the land to become part of the Scheme.
- 9.9.5. All correspondence has been agreed with landowners and where appropriate, their respective land agent, and the discussions have informed not only the site selection, but specific design decisions.
- 9.9.6. Communication and engagement with landowners have included, but not limited to: securing access agreements for necessary surveys and site investigation works for the purposes of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Environmental Statement (ES).
- 9.9.7. In respect of all panel areas for the Scheme, the Applicant has secured these areas through Option Agreements.
- 9.9.8. In respect of all cable route areas, all private landowners have been issued Heads of Terms. The Applicant is continuing to engage in order to secure return of signed Heads of Terms and will provide updates at regular intervals during examination.
- 9.9.9. There are minor areas of land required for potential passing places on private land adjacent to public highways in respect of which Heads of Terms have been issued.
- 9.9.10. The Schedule of Engagement in Appendix 2 of the Statement of Reasons (Document Ref 4.1), submitted with the DCO Application, provides further detail on how the Applicant has engaged with affected landowners (owners and occupiers).

### **Ongoing Diligent Enquiry**

- 9.9.11. Where it was not been possible to ascertain the freehold owner or lessee or third party holding rights or restrictive covenants over the relevant parcels in the Order Limits, site notices were erected on the ground during the non-statutory and statutory consultation. The notices were erected in close proximity to the relevant land interest displaying a plan detailing that land interest and requesting for those who may be able to supply more information to contact FGP.
- 9.9.12. Any information received from the erection of the site notices has been added to the database and included in the next consultation.
- 9.9.13. No new interests have been identified since the consultation.
- 9.9.14. A land registry refresh will be undertaken on project acceptance and prior to section 56 notices going out and again before the close of examination, to identify any new interests.
- 9.9.15. The **Book of Reference (Document Ref 4.3)** identifies all persons with an interest in land impacted by the Scheme.

# 10 Conclusion

- 10.1.1. This Report has been submitted in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008, which requires that any application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by a Consultation Report.
- 10.1.2. In compliance with section 37(7) of the PA 2008, this Report provides details of:
- how the Applicant has carried out consultation in compliance with statutory requirements (namely section 42, section 47 and section 48 of the PA 2008), in relation to statutory consultation;
  - a summary of the relevant responses received by the Applicant in response to the statutory consultation, and publicity of the proposed Application;
  - how the Applicant had regard to the relevant responses, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008.
- 10.1.3. Additionally, this Report details how the Applicant carried out early and continuous meaningful engagement with stakeholders, and how the feedback received throughout the pre-application process has been taken into account when developing the design of the Scheme.
- 10.1.4. This Report has also set out how the Applicant has carried out pre-application consultation and engagement in accordance with the EIA Regulations
- 10.1.5. The Applicant held a non-statutory consultation from the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 until the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The purpose of the non-statutory consultation was to seek the views of the local authorities, local community, landowners, local businesses and interest groups, and technical stakeholders on the proposals for the Scheme. The approach to consultation, feedback and changes made following the non-statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 2.
- 10.1.6. In this Report, the Applicant has demonstrated that a proactive and inclusive approach to consultation has been undertaken during the pre-application stage of the Scheme. The approach taken enabled stakeholders the opportunity to influence and inform the design of the Scheme, as evidenced throughout this Report and supporting Appendices. The evidence supports the assertion that the Scheme, which is subject to this application for development consent, has been

designed in a way which has taken into account feedback from prescribed consultees, those with land interests, local interest groups and members of the local communities, such that changes have been made to the design as a direct result of their feedback.

- 10.1.7. The Applicant received 133 responses to the statutory consultation. Respondents raised a wide range of matters which were categorised according to a series of themes which capture those matters. These principal themes are described in Chapter 6. The Applicant has complied with section 49 of the PA 2008 (Ref. 1) by demonstrating in Chapter 6 and Appendix 4.5 that it has had regard to all of the statutory consultation responses received and the comments raised within them.
- 10.1.8. A summary of the changes made to the Scheme as a result of the statutory consultation is set out in Chapter 7 and detailed in ES Chapter 3.
- 10.1.9. This report has demonstrated through the number and nature of comments summarised in this report, consultation has proven effective in securing valuable feedback which has informed the Scheme submitted for development consent.
- 10.1.10. This Report has been prepared in accordance with guidance and advice published by the Planning Inspectorate. The Applicant recognises and fully appreciates the time taken by those who have engaged in the consultation process and provided their views on the Scheme.
- 10.1.11. It is therefore concluded that the Applicant has complied with all statutory requirements of the PA 2008 in relation to carrying out consultation prior to submitting the DCO Application.

## 11 List of Appendices

Appendix 2.1 – Adequacy of consultation milestone ('AoCM') report

Appendix 3.1 – Non-Statutory Consultation Report

Appendix 3.2 – Non-Statutory Stakeholder Letter

Appendix 3.3 – Non-Statutory Interested Parties Letter

Appendix 3.4 – How Section 51 advice has been addressed through the pre-application process

Appendix 3.5 – Non-Statutory Landowner Letter

Appendix 3.6 – Non-Statutory Consultation Newsletter

Appendix 3.7 – Non-Statutory start of consultation email

Appendix 3.8 – Non-Statutory Consultation Poster

Appendix 3.9 – Non-Statutory Consultation Press Release

Appendix 3.10 – List of Non-Statutory Consultation Press Release Media Outlets

Appendix 3.11 – Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Form

Appendix 3.12 – Non-Statutory Consultation Boards

Appendix 3.13 – Draft PEIR Non-Technical Summary

Appendix 4.1 – EIA Scoping Report covering letter

Appendix 4.2 – Regulation 11 list provided by the Planning Inspectorate

Appendix 4.3 – Statutory Consultation Letter and Email to Consultees

Appendix 4.4 – Section 47 and 48 Combined Notice

Appendix 4.5 – Section 42 Consultee Comments and Applicant Responses

Appendix 5.1 – Draft SoCC Email to CDC

Appendix 5.2 – Draft SoCC Email to NLC

Appendix 5.3 – NLC Comments on the SoCC

Appendix 5.4 – CDC Comments on the SoCC

Appendix 5.5 – CDC Approval of the SoCC`

Appendix 5.6 – NLC Approval of the SoCC

Appendix 5.7 – Final copy of the SoCC

Appendix 5.8 – Screenshot of the SoCC available to download on the website

Appendix 5.9 – Evidence of Newspaper Adverts and Notices

Appendix 6.1 – Full list of consultees identified in accordance with section 42

Appendix 6.2 – Newsletter

Appendix 6.3 – Feedback Form

Appendix 6.4 – PEIR NTS

Appendix 6.5 – Consultation Boards

Appendix 6.6 – Poster

Appendix 6.7 – A full list of the bodies consulted under section 42(1)(a) and the dates they were notified

Appendix 6.8 – Example Land Interest Questionnaire

Appendix 6.9 – Example of a site notice for unknown land ownership

Appendix 6.10 – Statutory Consultation Email to Landowners

Appendix 6.11 – Site Notice Locations

Appendix 6.12 – Notification to PINs of Statutory Consultation and Confirmation of Receipt Email

Appendix 6.13 – List of Elected Representatives, Community Organisations & Seldom Heard Groups Contacted

Appendix 6.14 – Statutory Consultation Email to Elected Representatives/

Appendix 6.14a – Statutory Consultation Email to Local Community Organisations/Seldom Heard Groups

Appendix 6.15 – Statutory Consultation Reminder Emails (9th April, 24th April, 6th May)

Appendix 6.16 – Statutory Consultation Poster Locations

Appendix 6.17 – Photos of Document Deposit Locations

Appendix 6.18 – Photos of Each Consultation Event

Appendix 6.19 – Webinar Slides

Appendix 6.20 – Statutory Consultation Press Release

Appendix 6.21 – List of Statutory Consultation Press Release Media Outlets

Appendix 7.1 – List of all Persons Identified Under S42(1)(d).

Appendix 8.1 – City of Doncaster Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Response

Appendix 8.2 – North Lincolnshire Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Response

Appendix 8.3 – Consultation Close Email

Appendix 8.4 – Project Programme Document