
FENWICK SOLAR FARM

**Fenwick Solar Farm
EN010152**

Consultation Report

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Prepared for:

Fenwick Solar Project Limited

Prepared by:

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Executive Summary

- ES1 This Consultation Report relates to the proposed Fenwick Solar Farm (the Scheme). The Scheme meets the criteria to be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) and therefore requires a Development Consent Order (DCO).
- ES2 This Consultation Report has been prepared in fulfilment of Section 37(3)(c) of the of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1). This requires the DCO application to be accompanied by a consultation report giving details of the matters specified in Section 37(7).
- ES3 It explains how the Fenwick Solar Project Limited (the Applicant) has complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (as well as the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations) (Ref. 2) and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations 2017) (Ref. 3).
- ES4 Its primary function is to provide evidence to the Planning Inspectorate about the Applicant's compliance with the requirements of the pre-application procedure and to demonstrate to people who responded to the consultation how regard has been had to their responses.
- ES5 The Applicant has conducted extensive pre-application consultation in preparing its DCO application across a period of around 20 months. 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 Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1). The engagement and consultations were conducted prior to the submission of a DCO application.
- ES6 Chapter 1 of this report sets out the purpose of the document, summarises the context for the consultation and provides an overview of the different stages of consultation which the Applicant carried out. It should be read alongside **Appendix A: Compliance checklist (supplementing Section 55 checklist), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- ES7 Chapter 2 summarises non-statutory consultation carried out by the Applicant in relation to the Scheme. This includes:
- a. early engagement (set out in section 2.2);
 - b. a period of non-statutory consultation, from 27 June and 24 July 2023 (set out in sections 2.3 and 2.9); and
 - c. engagement carried out by the Applicant following the non-statutory consultation and prior to statutory consultation (set out in section 2.11).
- ES8 It should be read alongside **Appendix B1: Non-statutory consultation report, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- ES9 Chapter 3 sets out the consultation under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations 2017) (Ref. 3)) (see section 3.1), including the context, request for scoping

opinion, Section 48 compliance (duty to publicise) and consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report (Ref. 4). This section is supported by **Appendix C: The Infrastructure Planning (EIA Regulations) 2017: Regulation 8(1) letter to Planning Inspectorate & acknowledgement, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.

- ES10 Section 3.3 within Chapter 3 sets out the process through which the Applicant developed its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) (**Appendix H: Published SoCC and evidence of online availability, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**). This includes how the Applicant developed the SoCC including through early engagement with the local authorities under Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (paragraph 3.3.4), how the Applicant consulted on the draft SoCC (paragraphs 3.3.6-3.3.8), details of local authority responses to the draft SoCC (paragraphs 3.3.10), the regard had by the Applicant to the responses (paragraph 3.3.10), the contents of the draft SoCC (paragraph 3.3.3) and details of the publication of the SoCC (paragraphs 3.3.16-3.3.20). **Table 3-4** in paragraph 3.3.23 outlines how the Applicant has complied with the SoCC (**Appendix H: Published SoCC and evidence of online availability, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).
- ES11 This report demonstrates that the Applicant has undertaken a consultation process which complies with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) (Ref. 5), as well as relevant advice from the Planning Inspectorate.
- ES12 Chapter 3 also reports on consultation carried out by the Applicant in fulfilment of statutory pre-application consultation requirements over the period between 18 April and 31 May 2024. This includes an overview of the statutory consultation (section 3.2), consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (section 3.4), the notification of Planning Inspectorate (PINs) under section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (section 3.6), consultation with the local community in accordance with the SoCC as prescribed by section 47(7) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (section 3.7), and publicity under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (section 3.8). It should be read alongside **Appendix I: Lists of consultees identified and consulted; Appendix J: Section 42 letters with date; Appendix K: Section 46 letter sent to Planning Inspectorate; Appendix L: Section 47 consultation material; Appendix M: Consultation notices; Appendix N: Promotion of consultation; and Appendix P: Land Referencing methodology and questionnaires/site notices, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- ES13 Chapter Four summarises responses to the statutory consultation and sets out the regard had to them by the Applicant. This includes responses from consultees under sections 42(1)(a), b) 1(d) and section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)(section 4.4). None of the consultees who responded identified themselves as specifically responding to the section 48 notice. Chapter 4 concludes with a summary of issues raised (section 4.6) and changes made to the Scheme as a result of the statutory consultation (section 4.7) This chapter should be read alongside **Appendix O: Tables evidencing regard had to statutory consultation responses (in**

accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2].

- ES14 Chapter 5 details engagement conducted by the Applicant following the statutory consultation and prior to the submission of the DCO application. This includes engagement with stakeholders following statutory consultation.
- ES15 Chapter 6 outlines the targeted consultation that the Applicant has undertaken following the statutory consultation.
- ES16 Chapter 7 concludes by confirming the Applicant's compliance with requirements and guidance for consultation (section 7.1) and a summary of the report (section 7.2).
- ES17 This Consultation Report demonstrates that the Applicant has met the statutory requirements of the pre-application process. As set out in section 7.2, the Applicant has undertaken a programme of non-statutory and statutory consultation.
- ES18 At each stage, the Applicant has considered and complied with relevant advice and guidance as outlined in **Appendix A: Compliance checklist (supplementing Section 55 checklist), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- ES19 As well as preparing this report, the Applicant has set out how it has complied with guidance and advice on consultation in the **Section 55 checklist [EN010152/APP/1.4]** that is also part of the DCO application documents.
- ES20 A table of Glossary and Abbreviations is available as part of the application in Chapter 0 of the **Environmental Statement: Table of Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of This Document

- 1.1.1 This Consultation Report relates to Fenwick Solar Farm (the Scheme). In seeking the legal powers to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Scheme, Fenwick Solar Project Limited (the Applicant), a BOOM Developments Limited company is making a DCO application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (Secretary of State).
- 1.1.2 This Consultation Report sets out the Applicant's approach to stakeholder engagement and public consultation on the Scheme and explains how the Applicant has complied with the relevant guidance outlined in paragraphs 1.1.3 - 1.1.4.
- 1.1.3 The Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) requires the Applicant to undertake consultation on the Scheme before submitting its DCO application. Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) requires the Applicant to submit a Consultation Report as part of its application. This must detail what has been done in compliance with the pre-application consultation requirements set out at sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) as well as any relevant responses and the account taken of these.
- 1.1.4 Section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) requires the Applicant to have regard to any statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State in respect of the pre-application process. As such, the Applicant has also complied with:
- a. the MHCLG Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (Ref. 5) published in March 2015 which sets out the requirements and procedures for the pre-application process and consultation for major infrastructure projects;
 - b. the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Fourteen (2021) (Ref. 6) which states that the purpose of the Consultation Report is to explain how the Applicant has complied with the pre-application consultation requirements set down in the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1). Specifically, the Guidance notes that the Applicant should demonstrate compliance with:
 - i. The requirement to consult with prescribed consultees (Section 42);
 - ii. the requirement to consult with the community (Section 47);
 - iii. the requirement to publicise the proposed application (Section 48);
 - iv. the requirement to have regard to consultation responses (Section 49); and
 - v. the requirement to outline the non-statutory consultation that takes place outside the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1).
 - c. the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) (Ref. 2);
 - d. the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) (Ref. 3);
 - e. the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Three: EIA notification and consultation (Ref.16)

- f. the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements (Ref. 7);
 - g. the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Guidance on procedural requirements for major infrastructure projects (Ref. 17); and
 - h. the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024) (Ref. 18).
- 1.1.5 It is noted the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 (Ref. 9) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024) Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (2024) (Ref. 10) were published in April 2024, providing further direction and guidance on the pre-application process. As confirmed with PINS in pre-application discussions, the transitional provisions for these state that the Scheme was not required to apply these changes, given the timing of its statutory consultation and proposed application date. However, the Applicant has subsequently reviewed this updated guidance and considers its statutory consultation approach to be in accordance with it, and that no material changes to the approach to consultation would be required.
- 1.1.6 This Consultation Report provides:
- a. An overview of the activities undertaken during the:
 - b. Non-statutory consultation between 27 June and 24 July 2023 (Chapter 2); and
 - c. Statutory consultation between 18 April and 31 May 2024 (Chapter 3) and later additional targeted consultation (Chapter 6);
 - d. Specific details of the activities undertaken to comply with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), relevant secondary legislation and policies, guidance and advice published by Government and the Planning Inspectorate;
 - e. Details of how the Applicant has met its statutory obligations with regards to consultation on its environmental information;
 - f. A summary of the development of the SoCC, consultation on the SoCC with the relevant local authority and how the Applicant complied with its SoCC at the statutory consultation;
 - g. Details of the regard given to all responses to the statutory consultation, including how the development of the Scheme has been influenced by consultee feedback, how responses have been addressed, any changes made to address responses and an explanation as to why responses suggesting changes to the Scheme have not been taken forward where this is the case (these can be located in Appendix O: Tables evidencing regard had to statutory consultation responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] for statutory consultation); and
 - h. A summary of all supporting stakeholder engagement undertaken throughout the pre-application stage of the Scheme, including technical

engagement and engagement taking place outside of formal consultation periods.

- 1.1.7 Copies of consultation documents, notices and materials produced for the statutory consultation and to support the non-statutory consultation are included in a series of appendices to this report.
- 1.1.8 A table of Glossary and Abbreviations is available as part of the application in Chapter 0 of the **Environmental Statement: Table of Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of BOOM Developments Limited who specialise in non-subsidised solar and battery storage projects. BOOM Developments Limited was founded in 2020, and the name BOOM is an acronym for Build Own Operate Maintain. This reflects the organisation's intentions to be involved in sustainable energy projects from day one right the way through to operation.
- 1.2.2 The BOOM Managing Director and team have been responsible in previous roles for constructing more than 700 MW of solar developments in the UK between 2015 and 2017 and developing more than 850 MW of solar projects, including the UK's first NSIP solar PV project Cleve Hill which was granted a development consent order in 2020. In 2021, the UK based BOOM, partnered with the Pelion Green Future group of companies based across Australia, America and the European mainland.
- 1.2.3 BOOM has also been progressing the East Yorkshire Solar Farm, an NSIP solar farm that is at a more advanced stage of the DCO process (examination of its application opened on 21 May). Learnings engagement and consultation from East Yorkshire Solar Farm have been applied to the Scheme as applicable during the pre-application period.
- 1.2.4 BOOM is committed to making a positive and significant impact on climate change and the achievement of the UK Government's aim for a fully decarbonised, reliable and low-cost power system and net zero emissions by 2050.

1.3 The Scheme

- 1.3.1 The Applicant is proposing a new solar farm with energy storage facilities at Fenwick (the Scheme).
- 1.3.2 The Scheme would comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance and repair), and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating facility, with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) together with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), export and import connection to the national grid via National Grid's existing Thorpe Marsh Substation.
- 1.3.3 The Scheme is located on land to the east of Fenwick, in the north of City of Doncaster borough near the town of Askern and the smaller villages of Moss, Topham and Sykehouse. PV modules will generate the electricity and a BESS will be installed allowing the storage, export and import of electricity to/from the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).

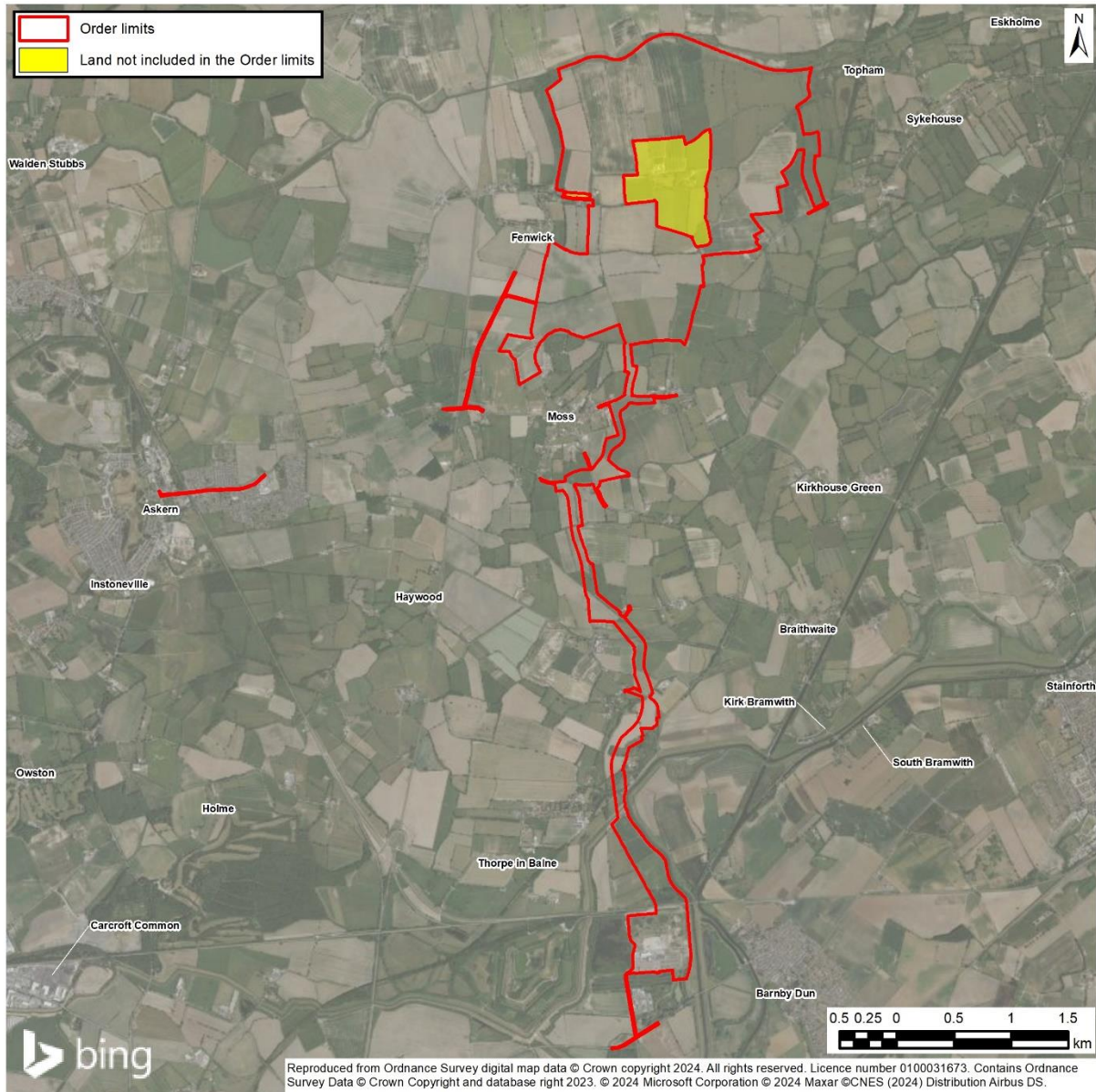


Figure 1-1: Order limits of the Scheme

1.3.4 **Figure 1-1** shows the Order limits of the Scheme.

1.4 Consultation Context

1.4.1 The Scheme is located on land within the administrative area of City of Doncaster Council (see **Figure 1-2**).

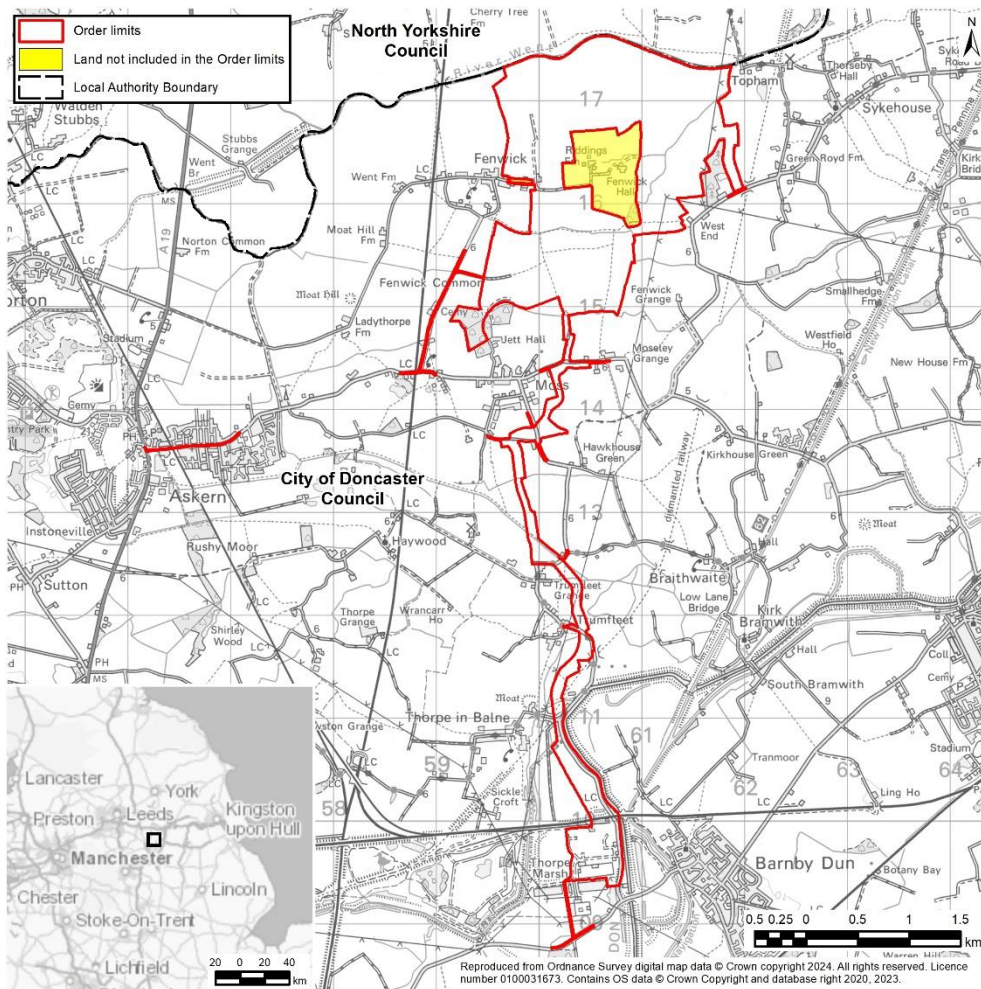


Figure 1-2: Scheme's location in relation to the local authorities

1.4.2 Elements of the Scheme fall within the following parishes: Askern Parish Council, Barnby Dun Parish Council, Moss and Fenwick Parish Council and Norton Parish Council.

1.4.3 The land proposed to form the total Scheme covers a land area of 509 hectares (ha) (407 for Solar PV Site, 95 for Grid Connection Corridor, 6 at the existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation, and 1 at a junction in Askern).

1.5 Summary of Consultation Activities

1.5.1 The Applicant carried out two rounds of consultation, one non statutory, the other statutory consultation. See **Table 1-1** for a summary of the consultation activities carried out.

Table 1-1: Summary of consultation activities.

Activities	Dates	Where is this presented?
Non-statutory consultation		
Initial early engagement with local authorities and elected members, site near neighbours and regional media.	31 March 2023 – 27 June 2023	Chapter 2, section 2.2
Non-statutory consultation (four weeks)	27 June 2023 to 24 July 2023	Chapter 2, section 2.3
Statement of Community Consultation		
Informal consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with City of Doncaster Council	15 January 2024 to 22 January 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.3.6
Statutory consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with City of Doncaster Council pursuant to Section 47(2) and (3) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)	19 February 2024 to 20 March 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.3.12
Notice of availability of SoCC in the vicinity of the proposals as prescribed by Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)	4 April 2024 (Doncaster Free Press and Goole Times)	Chapter 3, section 3.3.16
SoCC made available in vicinity of the proposal and online as prescribed by Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)	4 April 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.3.16
Statutory consultation		
Proposed application publicised as prescribed by Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (for Prescribed Consultees only)	11 April (London Gazette, The Guardian, Goole Times, Doncaster Free Press), 16 April 2024 (Goole Times and Doncaster Free Press)	Chapter 3, section 3.8
Notification to the Planning Inspectorate of proposed	11 April 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.6

Activities	Dates	Where is this presented?
application as prescribed by Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)		
Letters issued to consultees under Section 42 (1)(a), (b) and (d) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) and regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3) notifying of consultation	15 April 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.5.1
Consultation email issued to identified Section 47 stakeholders	17 April 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.7
Consultation materials available at document inspection points	18 April 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.10.1
Statutory consultation in accordance with the SoCC as prescribed under Section 47(7) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (six weeks)	18 April to 31 May 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.7
Consultation as prescribed under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)	18 April to 31 May 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.5
Public consultation events	26 April, 27 April, 29 April 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.10.4
Online Q&A	8 May 2024	Chapter 3, section 3.10.4
Targeted consultation		
Targeted consultation on two areas of land	Across two periods: relevant landowners were written to on 30 July 2024 and provided until 30 August 2024 to respond; and relevant landowners were written to on 6 September 2024 and provided until 8 October 2024	Chapter 6

1.6 Covering Letter and Completed Section 55 Checklist

- 1.6.1 A covering letter and Section 55 checklist have been supplied as part of this application and can be found in **Covering Letter [EN010152/APP/1.1]** and **Section 55 Checklist [EN010152/APP/1.4]**. The checklist outlines compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2017 (Ref. 3), APFP Regulations (2009) (Ref. 2), the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) and the MHCLG pre-application guidance (Ref. 5).

2. Non-statutory consultation

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 **Chapter 2** outlines all engagement undertaken in advance of the statutory consultation. It provides an overview of early engagement on the Scheme, the non-statutory consultation held between 27 June and 24 July 2023, along with an overview of the main themes and summary of the feedback received (section 2.9) and the engagement which took place following non-statutory consultation.
- 2.1.2 This chapter is best read alongside the Non-statutory consultation report, found at **Appendix B1: Non-statutory consultation report, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.

2.2 Early Engagement

- 2.2.1 Engagement to support the development of the Scheme commenced in March 2023.
- 2.2.2 A series of introductory meetings were held from March 2023 with key stakeholders relating to the Scheme, with further engagement undertaken alongside the development of the design, including with:
- a. The Planning Inspectorate;
 - b. South Yorkshire Archaeology Service;
 - c. City of Doncaster Council;
 - d. Member of Parliament (MP) for Doncaster North;
 - e. Environment Agency;
 - f. United Kingdom Health Security Agency and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities;
 - g. Natural England;
 - h. Historic England; and
 - i. Relevant Parish Councils.
- 2.2.3 In the early engagement phase the Scheme description was as follows:

BOOM Development Limited (BOOM) has appointed AECOM to support its preparation of a DCO Application for the Fenwick Solar Project (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme'). The Scheme comprises the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels, associated electrical equipment, cabling and on-site energy storage facilities across a proposed site in the administrative area of City of Doncaster Council, together with grid connection infrastructure. The Scheme would allow for the generation, storage and export of an anticipated 237.5 megawatts (MW) electrical generation capacity.

The Scheme comprises the Solar Farm Site and the Grid Connection Corridor. The Solar Farm Site comprises the proposed solar PV arrays, battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure and is located approximately 13 kilometres (km) north of Doncaster, as shown in Figure 1 below. The Grid Connection Corridor comprises land within

which electricity transmission cables will be installed to transfer power between the Solar Farm Site and the connection of the Scheme to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).

2.2.4 The Scheme plans used in these meetings are shown in **Figure 2-1**.

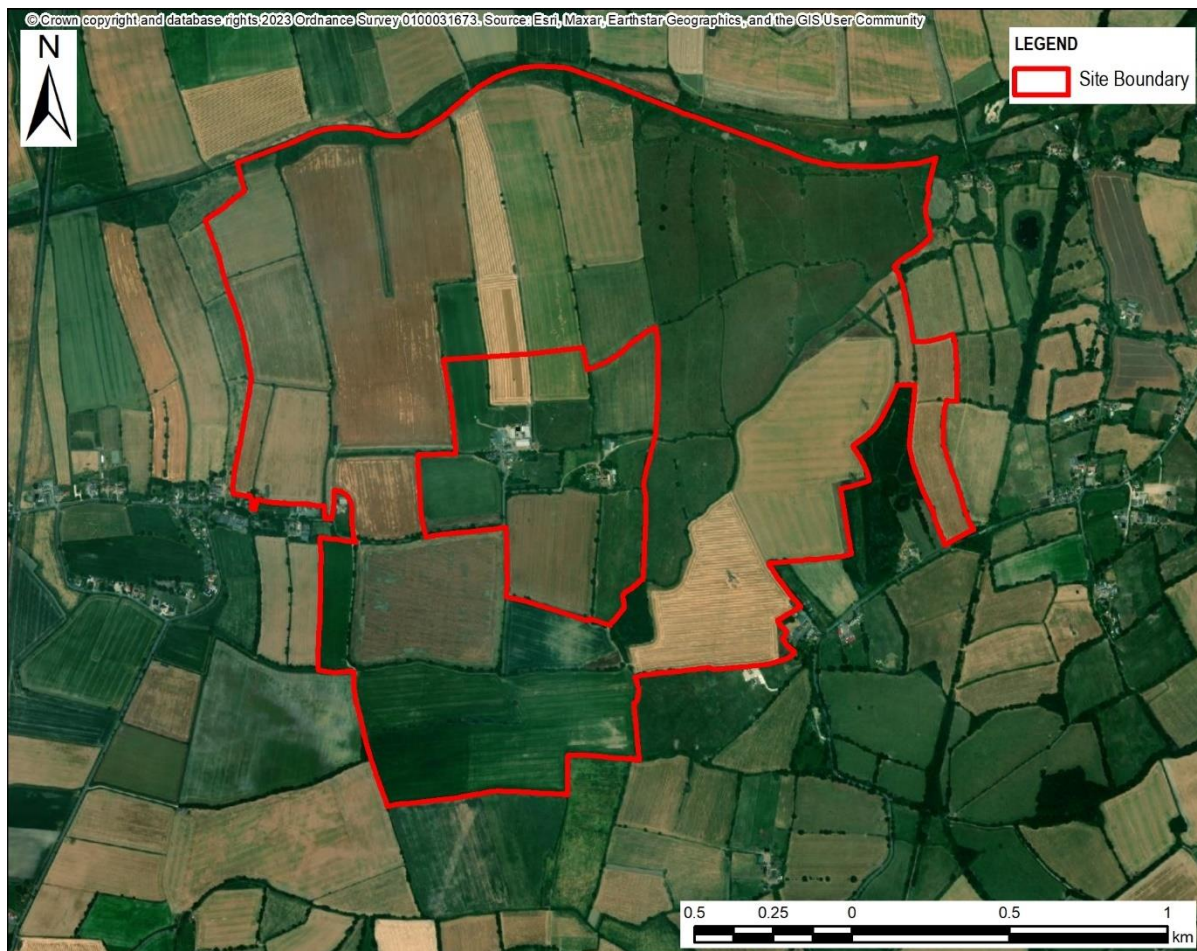


Figure 2-1: Site boundary as presented to stakeholders prior to non-statutory consultation

2.2.5 A press release was issued to local media on 1 June 2023 and trade media on 21 June 2023. The press release was issued to the following local media: Doncaster Free Press, Doncaster Echo, Thorne Times, The Star, The Yorkshire Post and Yorkshire Live – Doncaster. The press release was issued to the following trade media: ReNews, Solarmagazine.com, Solardaily.com, rechargenews.com, Solar Power Portal, renew.biz, Renewables Now and InfraBe.

2.2.6 **Table 2-1** contains a summary of the press coverage gained from the first press release.

Table 2-1: Summary of press coverage June 2023

Date	Publication	Article
21 June 2023	renews.biz	UK player outlines plans for 237.5MW PV project
21 June 2023	Infra-Be	BOOM Power has announced a proposal for a new solar farm in Fenwick
22 June 2023	Solar Power Portal	BOOM Power set to develop 237.5MW solar NSIP near Doncaster

2.3 Approach to Consultation

2.3.1 A non-statutory consultation was held for four weeks, between 27 June 2023 and 24 July 2023.

2.3.2 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 materials provided included the layout of the solar panels and the Grid Connection Corridor and the approach to EIA.

2.3.3 The Applicant set out a clear intention that the feedback received would help refine the Scheme proposals.

2.3.4 Two in-person drop in events were supported by two online webinars to ensure that the plans were accessible to everyone who may have an interest in the Scheme.

2.3.5 The information presented by the Applicant at the consultation was communicated through a range of methods, including:

- a. Consultation boards;
- b. Brochure;
- c. Press release;
- d. Social media campaign; and
- e. Feedback form.

2.4 Identifying the consultation zone

2.4.1 A radius of 2.5 km around a central point of the Solar PV Site boundary (as it stood at the time of the non-statutory consultation) was identified as the Non-statutory Consultation Zone. This was extended to include the Grid Connection Corridor search area that had been identified between the Solar PV Site and the existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh substation (unlike for the site, a buffer beyond the search area was not applied as the search area was already representing a wider area than the corridor would require). Business and residential addresses within the Non-statutory Consultation

Zone, were hand-delivered a non-statutory consultation brochure between 15 and 16 June 2023. The site boundary used and the Non-Statutory Consultation Zone can be viewed below at **Figure 2-2**.

- 2.4.2 The Non-statutory Consultation Zone contained approximately 1,160 home and business addresses.
- 2.4.3 This Zone was established by the Applicant by balancing the need to promote the non-statutory consultation widely, against the likely limited interest levels of residents located beyond 2.5 km from the Scheme. It also considered the potential impacts from the Scheme.
- 2.4.4 **Figure 2-2** outlines the Non-statutory Consultation Zone boundary within which residents received the non-statutory consultation brochure and the Scheme site boundary at the time of the non-statutory consultation.

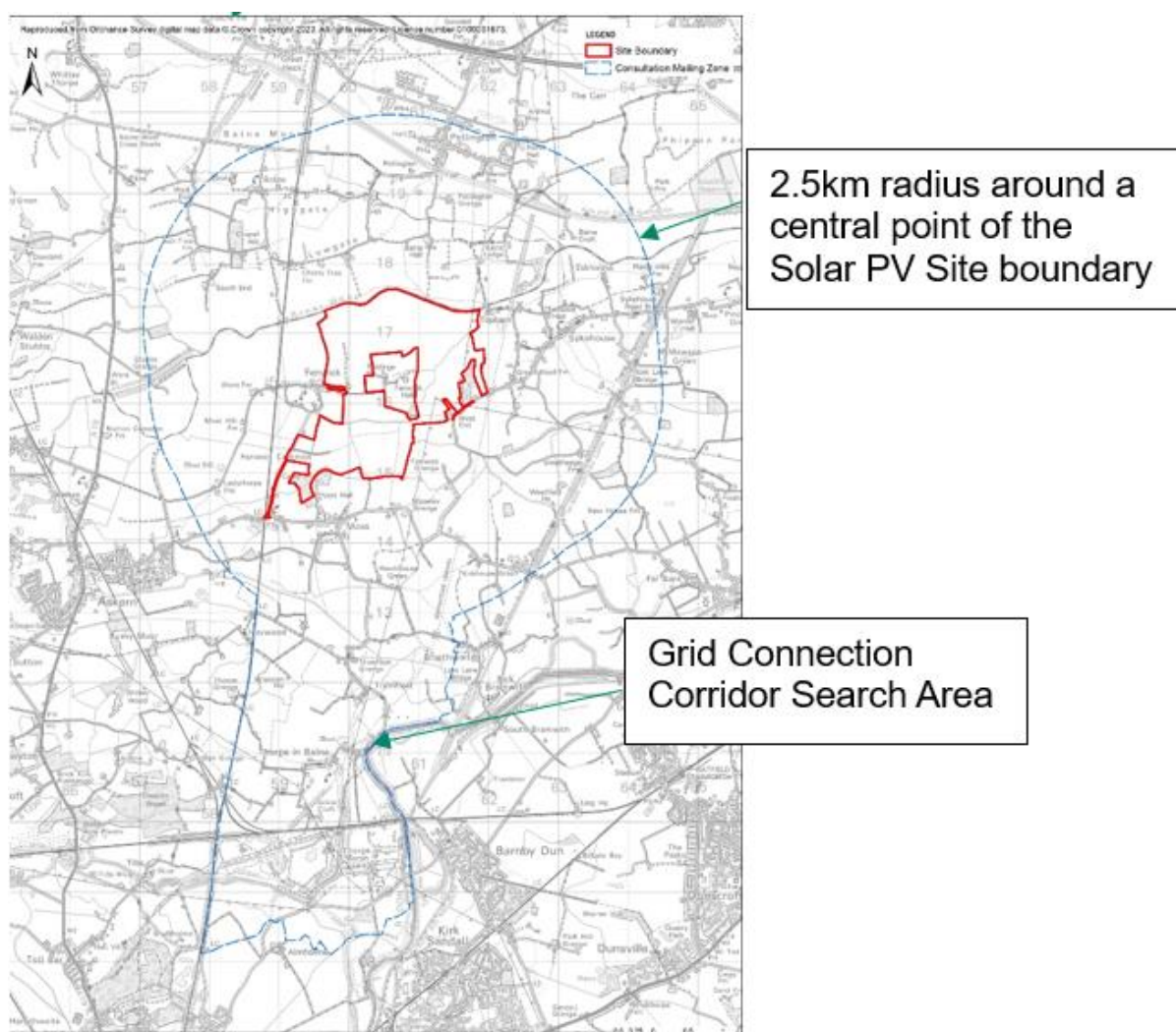


Figure 2-2: Non-statutory Consultation Zone

2.5 Notification and Publicity

- 2.5.1 A number of communications were issued through June and July 2023 to promote the scheme and advertise the non-statutory consultation. These are summarised below in **Table 2-2**. More information can be found in the Non-statutory consultation report (**Appendix B1: Non-statutory consultation report, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).

Table 2-2: Summary of communications issued to support the non-statutory consultation

Contact method	Stakeholder contacted	Date issued	Content
Press release	Doncaster Free Press, Doncaster Echo, Thorne Times, The Star, Yorkshire Post (plus various trade media)	21 June 2023	Introduction to scheme and promotion of non-statutory consultation.
Non-statutory consultation brochure	Issued to residents and businesses in the Non-statutory Consultation Zone (see Figure 2-2)	21 June 2023	Detailed introduction to scheme and promotion of non-statutory consultation.
Engagement with locally elected MP	Ed Miliband MP	22 June 2023	Briefing on scheme and non-statutory consultation via Teams meeting
Social media promotion	Via Twitter (now X), LinkedIn	Ongoing throughout non-statutory consultation	Ongoing promotion of the scheme and participation in non-statutory consultation.

2.6 Non-statutory Consultation Materials and Events

- 2.6.1 To support the non-statutory consultation a consultation brochure with tear out response form; and consultation display boards for use at events were created.
- 2.6.2 To support the non-statutory consultation, two in-person events and two online events were held. The details of these events can be found in **Table 2-3** below. More information on the format of these events can be found at **Appendix B1: Non-statutory consultation report, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.

Table 2-3: Non-statutory consultation events

Date	Time	Location	Attendees
30 June 2023	2pm to 8pm	Moss and Fenwick Village Hall	42
5 July 2023	2pm to 8pm	The Old George Inn, Sykehouse	31
10 July 2023	6pm to 7pm	Online event	4
13 July 2023	7pm to 8pm	Online event	3

2.6.3 Two meetings were held with key stakeholders during the non-statutory consultation as outlined in **Table 2-4** below.

Table 2-4: Stakeholder meetings to support non-statutory consultation

Stakeholder organisation	Dates	Engagement methods	Scheme elements discussed
City of Doncaster Council	29 June 2023	Meeting	Meeting to introduce the Scheme and forthcoming engagement.
City of Doncaster Ward Councillors	25 July 2023	Meeting	Meeting to introduce the Scheme and forthcoming engagement.

2.7 Feedback Mechanisms

2.7.1 Consultees were invited to share their feedback via several channels:

- a. Feedback form (online and hard copy);
- b. Freepost (FENWICK SOLAR FARM); and
- c. Scheme email (Fenwick.Enquiries@BOOM-Power.co.uk)

2.7.2 Members of the public could also contact the Applicant with any queries using the methods above or via telephone on 01964 782 219 (open Monday–Friday 9–5pm, voicemail could be left at any time).

2.7.3 All enquiries received during the consultation period were responded to.

2.8 Consultation Outcomes

2.8.1 A total of 25 responses were received in response to the non-statutory consultation. The responses were submitted in the following formats:

- a. Nine online response forms were completed;
- b. 15 hardcopy response forms were received;
- c. One freeform email response was received;

2.8.2 More information on who took part can be found at **Appendix B1: Non-statutory consultation report, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.

2.9 Issues Raised

- 2.9.1 A summary of the issues raised in the feedback are listed below. More detail on these issues, including the Applicant’s feedback/response, can be found in **section 2.10** below.
- a. Proximity to residential properties;
 - b. Cumulative traffic impacts;
 - c. Change of local landscape/character;
 - d. Footpaths and bridleways;
 - e. Food production and agriculture;
 - f. Landscape and visual; and
 - g. Wildlife.

2.10 Changes Made Following the Non-statutory Consultation

- 2.10.1 All comments provided in the non-statutory consultation responses were taken into consideration in the process of updating the Scheme design further.
- 2.10.2 A summary of changes suggested by the respondents and the Applicant’s responses to these queries is presented in **Table 2-5** below.
- 2.10.3 **Table 2-5** below considers responses received across all response methods.

Table 2-5: Feedback comments at non-statutory consultation and the Applicant response

Feedback comments	How the Applicant considered feedback/response
Concern about proximity between Scheme boundary and residential properties.	<p>Additional land to the south-west and south-east of the EIA Scoping Layout (the red line boundary used at Non-statutory Consultation, as shown in Figure 2-2) was incorporated into the Solar PV Site following non-statutory consultation and discussions with landowners in the vicinity of the Solar PV Site.</p> <p>This additional land provides flexibility for designing the solar PV arrangement and for providing potential mitigation areas that may be needed due to feedback from the ongoing environmental surveys.</p> <p>Appropriate buffers from properties will be incorporated and new native tree and vegetation planting will be used to screen potential views of the Scheme. Detail of the proposed mitigation measures related to potential impacts to residential properties are included within the relevant chapter of the PEIR and the Environmental Statement (prepared as part of the DCO application) assessments.</p>

Feedback comments

How the Applicant considered feedback/response

<p>Concern over increased traffic in the rural area causing multiple issues, congestion, noise, pollution, unsuitable roads.</p>	<p>Construction traffic will not pass through the village of Fenwick. The Applicant may still need to use the southern half of Fenwick Common Lane during the construction phase of the project.</p> <p>Details of the potential traffic effects and proposed mitigation associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Site were included within Chapter 13 of the PEIR and in the same chapter of the ES, informed by detailed technical studies and further ongoing engagement.</p>
<p>The Scheme will change the local landscape and rural character of Fenwick.</p>	<p>Changes to the local landscape character and visual amenity of Fenwick, and all settlements and properties, have been assessed through a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and reported as part of the PEIR and ES.</p> <p>Views east and towards the Scheme are largely screened from the village of Fenwick due to existing vegetation and built form. Open and uninterrupted views across Fenwick's rural landscape to the north, south and west of the village will be retained, including for properties along Shaw Lane, Fenwick Lane and Fenwick Common Lane.</p>
<p>Provide assurance that footpaths and bridleways will be maintained or improved.</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to minimising any disruption to footpaths as far as practicable. The Applicant has taken steps to ensure access to existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) will be maintained. To enable this, the Applicant will require only one permanent PRoW diversion (Sykehouse 29). More information on the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures related to potential impacts on footpaths or bridleways was included Chapter 13 of the PEIR and in the same chapter of the ES, informed by detailed technical studies and further ongoing engagement.</p>
<p>Loss of agricultural land and impacts on food production/security.</p>	<p>Details of the potential impacts to agricultural land along with proposed mitigation measures were included in Chapter 12 of the PEIR and in the same chapter of the ES, informed by detailed technical studies and further ongoing engagement. This chapter (and associated appendix) also includes details of the Agricultural Land Classification Survey Report.</p>
<p>Request for more information on the position of the solar panels and how they will impact local views.</p>	<p>The Applicant has decided to use fixed south-facing solar panels in the updated proposal for the Scheme. These panels are generally lower in height than Tracker Systems and have a smaller Ground</p>

Feedback comments

How the Applicant considered feedback/response

	<p>Cover Ratio than East/West designs. Further information on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment was provided in the PEIR (Ref. 4) consulted on during the subsequent statutory consultation. For the latest assessment in respect of panel positioning and visibility, please refer to Chapter 10 - Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES Volume 1 [EN010152/APP/6.1]</p>
<p>Impact on the local wildlife, including deer, foxes, rabbits, owls, birds etc.</p>	<p>Assessing the potential impact of the Scheme on habitats and wildlife continued following the non-statutory consultation, informed by field surveys and evaluated in line with planning policy and best practice guidance. Impacts on the wildlife listed in the comment have been assessed and avoided wherever possible. Design of the Scheme has been planned to avoid impacts wherever possible, and where this is not possible mitigation will be provided to maintain the conservation status of protected and notable fauna. This will include the use of stand-offs from key habitats and retaining ecological connectivity across the Site. A solar scheme of this size also provides opportunities to achieve enhancements for wildlife, including notable species that are found locally.</p> <p>More information was published in Chapter 8 of the PEIR, and in the same chapter of the ES.</p>
<p>Suggestion for a secluded wildlife reserve with water.</p>	<p>Details of mitigation for wildlife have developed as the scheme has progressed and are detailed in Chapter 8 of the PEIR, and in the same chapter of the ES. A solar scheme of this size provides opportunities to achieve a range of improvements for the habitats and fauna found locally, including those associated with wetland habitats.</p>
<p>There are roosting bats in the area which need consideration.</p>	<p>The baseline of ecological data and ongoing survey work will include consideration of bats in accordance with best practice. In line with the requirements of national legislation and planning policy the Scheme design will maintain the favourable conservation status of bats. Where necessary this will include the replacement of any habitat that may be impacted, such as bat roosts, as identified by the ongoing ecological studies.</p>

2.11 Engagement between Non-statutory and Statutory Consultation

- 2.11.1 Prior to statutory consultation, the Applicant engaged with various stakeholders to support the development of the Scheme.
- 2.11.2 Details of specific meetings and engagement activity which took place with a range of stakeholders in the lead up to the statutory consultation period are included in **Table 2-6**.

Table 2-6: Ongoing engagement with prescribed bodies between non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation

Stakeholder organisation	Dates	Scheme elements discussed
UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)	14 August 2023	All parties in agreement that a separate human health assessment is not required.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	14 August 2023	The Applicant issued email with interim geophysical survey report.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	23 August 2023	The Applicant issued email with further interim greyscales from the geophysical survey.
City of Doncaster Council	29 August 2023	The meeting focussed on discussing the PRow close to the Site, including for the Council to provide local context on the PRow. The authors of the LVIA asked about the status of the footpath that runs along the northern bank of the River Went, located to the north of the site, as it was impassable during LVIA surveys and therefore no viewpoints were captured on this part of the footpath network. The alignment of the footpath was confirmed to be correct, as shown on OS maps, but no update was provided regarding current access to the route.
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	5 September 2023	Email correspondence with East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Council confirmed that there are few receptors of relevance to the scheme in East Riding of Yorkshire. The Council provided their published guidance on LVIA and landscape character for direction.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	6 September 2023	The Applicant issued email with further interim greyscales from the geophysical survey and request for meeting to discuss results.

Stakeholder organisation	Dates	Scheme elements discussed
City of Doncaster Council	11 September 2023	The Applicant met the Conservation Officer for City of Doncaster Council on the Solar PV Site to jointly consider issues related to the setting of listed buildings in relative proximity to the Scheme and illustrate proposed design mitigations being put in place following initial site visits. At the meeting, the Conservation Officer confirmed that he considered that the only listed buildings with the potential to sustain any setting impacts from the construction or presence of the Scheme, as presented at the meeting, were those at Fenwick Hall Farm [1314800] and Lily Hall (at Riddings Farm) [1151609].
North Yorkshire Council	15 September 2023	Meeting to introduce LVIA scope and approach to North Yorkshire. Email correspondence followed this meeting in which North Yorkshire agreed viewpoints and suggested additional views, which were included in LVIA.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	20 September 2023	Meeting in which the Applicant presented findings of geophysical survey undertaken to date and presented potential embedded (design) mitigation strategies for key areas of archaeological activity.
City of Doncaster Council	9 October 2023	Email - agreement on the approach to the soils survey and assessment
City of Doncaster Council	9 October 2023	Email - agreement that PRow surveys were not required.
Environment Agency	10 October 2023	Meeting to discuss Flood risk modelling available data and methodology.
City of Doncaster Council	20 October 2023	Email correspondence in which the Council agreed that proposed viewpoints were comprehensive and suggested additional viewpoints. Additional views were included in LVIA.
City of Doncaster Council	9 November 2023	Phone call to discuss proposed noise survey and assessment methodology (as per memo to Council dated 17 October 2023). The Council confirmed acceptance in an email dated 9 November 2023.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	21 November 2023	Email issued with final geophysical survey report and request for meeting to discuss results.

Stakeholder organisation	Dates	Scheme elements discussed
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	12 December 2023	Meeting in which The Applicant presented final geophysical results and discussed approach to trench design.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	8 February 2024	The Applicant issued email with draft trench design and proposed strategy.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	14 February 2024	Meeting in which The Applicant presented the draft trench design.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	5 March 2024	The Applicant issued email with updated trench design following South Yorkshire Archaeology Service comments.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	27 March 2024	The Applicant issued email with final trench design to South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for agreement.
Historic England	31 March 2024	The Applicant met the Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England on the Solar PV Site to jointly consider issues related to the setting of the scheduled monument Fenwick Hall moated site in relation to the Scheme. Subsequent written advice was received from the Inspector following the meeting (Historic England Ref. PA01198438), and the mitigation proposed by the Inspector in this advice has been implemented, and then further enhanced, within the Scheme design.
City of Doncaster Council	9 April 2024	The Applicant provided a scheme summary to City of Doncaster Council ahead of the launch of the statutory consultation.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	2 May 2024	Meeting in which The Applicant presented the final trench design to South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. The Service requested some minor amendments which were agreed to and shared with the appointed archaeological contractor. AECOM presented embedded (design) mitigation measures including ecological mitigation areas which protects certain areas of archaeological remains from construction activities.

Stakeholder organisation	Dates	Scheme elements discussed
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	2 May 2024	The Applicant issued archaeological contractor's Written Scope of Investigation to South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. Telephone call received confirming acceptance of WSI.
Environment Agency	17 May 2024	Meeting to discuss Flood risk modelling methodology and survey limitations.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	23 May 2024	On-site meeting to monitor trial trenching being undertaken across solar PV site.

3. Statutory Consultation

3.1 EIA Regulation Consultation

Context

- 3.1.1 EIA is the process of identifying, evaluating, and mitigating the likely significant environmental effects of a scheme or project.
- 3.1.2 The Scheme qualifies for mandatory EIA as it falls within the relevant thresholds of Regulation 4(1) and Schedule 2 paragraph 3(a) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3). An EIA development requires an ES to be submitted alongside the DCO application.
- 3.1.3 A summary of how the Applicant has fulfilled its statutory obligations in relation to carrying out consultation, publication and notification on the DCO application as required under the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3), is set out in this section.

Request for Scoping Opinion

- 3.1.4 The Applicant developed the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**) based on the Applicant's experience working on a number of other solar farm projects.
- 3.1.5 The Applicant submitted the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**) to the Planning Inspectorate on 1 June 2023 (**Appendix C: The Infrastructure Planning (EIA Regulations) 2017: Regulation 8(1) letter to Planning Inspectorate & acknowledgement, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) setting out the initial details of the Scheme and the proposed scope of the surveys and assessments to be undertaken during the EIA process.
- 3.1.6 A formal request for a Scoping Opinion was made to Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate, as part of the written notification sent in June 2023. This was made under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3) and requested a written opinion on the information required for inclusion within the **ES Volume 1 [EN010152/6.1]**.
- 3.1.7 The Applicant also notified the Secretary of State under Regulation 8(1)(b) that they propose to provide an ES in respect of the Scheme, and by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a) the Scheme is 'EIA development'.
- 3.1.8 The Scoping Report (**Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**) containing the information required under Regulation 10(3) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3) was submitted as part of the request. The Scoping Report (**Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**) accordingly provided, together with other information the Applicant thought relevant to the scoping exercise:
 - a. A plan sufficient to identify the land;
 - b. A description of the Scheme, including its location and technical capacity
 - c. An explanation of the likely significant effects of the Scheme on the environment; and

- d. other information where necessary.
- 3.1.9 The Scoping Report (**Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Report of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**) also described the initial studies on the baseline environment and reported the surveys undertaken so far.
- 3.1.10 In accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3), the Planning Inspectorate consulted the consultation bodies defined in Regulation 3(1) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3) prior to adopting its Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**). These bodies, as presented in **Tables 1, 2 and 3** of the Regulation 11(1)(a) list included in (**Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**), were notified under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3) of the duty imposed on them to make information available to the Applicant relevant to the preparation of **ES Volume 1 [EN010152/6.3]** for the Scheme.
- 3.1.11 The contents of the Scoping Report (**Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Report of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**) helped to inform the Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**), which was received on 11 July 2023.
- 3.1.12 **Appendix 1** of the Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**) provides a list of all bodies and organisations formally consulted as part of the preparation of the Scoping Opinion, and **Appendix 2** of the Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**) provides copies of the responses of the consultees that responded within the statutory 28-day period.
- 3.1.13 The EIA has been carried out in accordance with the content of the Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion of the ES [EN010152/6.3]**), the outcomes of which are reported within the **ES Volume 1 [EN010152/6.1]**.
- 3.1.14 The **ES Volume 1 [EN010152/6.1]** also identifies where issues raised by statutory consultees in the consultation responses contained within the Scoping Opinion have been considered and addressed as part of the EIA process. This information is held in **Appendix 1-3: Scoping Opinion Response of the ES Volume 3 [EN010152/6.3]**.

Section 48 (Publicity) under the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)

- 3.1.15 Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3) states that where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under Section 48(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant by the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c).
- 3.1.16 In accordance with Regulation 13, the Applicant sent a Section 48 notice to the consultation bodies (**Appendix I1: List of prescribed consultees identified and consulted, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) on 11 April and 18 April 2024 (a template of the letters sent with the notice are included in **Appendix J1: Section 42 (1)(a) and (b) letter, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).

3.1.17 Compliance with Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) is discussed further in section 3.8.

Consultation on the PEIR (Ref. 4)

- 3.1.18 Under Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3), the applicant is required to set out in its SoCC (Appendix H1: Published SoCC, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]) how it intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information relating to the proposed development. Regulation 12 defines preliminary environmental information as being the information referred to in Regulation 14(2) which “has been compiled by the applicant; and is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the development (and of any associated development)”. This information was compiled by the Applicant into a PEIR (Ref. 4) and a Non-technical summary (Appendix L4: PEIR Non-technical summary, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]).
- 3.1.19 Regulations 12 and 14, and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3) set out the information which is to be included in the PEIR (Ref. 4). Regulation 12(2) provides that “preliminary environmental information” means information referred to in Regulation 14(2) (as reproduced in Table 3-1 below). In accordance with Regulation 12(2)(b), the PEIR (Ref. 4) presented information which “is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)”. Table 3-1 identifies where the information defined by Regulation 14(2) could be found (Ref. 3).
- 3.1.20 The PEIR (Ref. 4) was published on 18 April 2024 as part of the statutory consultation process and presented the preliminary findings of the assessment of potential significant environmental effects of the Scheme at that time.
- 3.1.21 The feedback received from consultees during the statutory consultation period has been used to inform the EIA and the Scheme design. Where relevant, technical chapters within the **ES Volume 1 [EN010152/APP/6.1]** detail how stakeholder engagement from the consultation process has been used to inform the development of the Scheme design on which the EIA has been undertaken.

Table 3-1: Location of information in the PEIR (Ref. 4) which demonstrates compliance with EIA Regulation 14(2) (Ref. 3)

Specified information	Location within the PEIR (Ref. 4)
A description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;	Chapter 2: The Scheme, Volume 1
A description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;	Chapters 6 to 16, Volume 1
A description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;	Chapters 6 to 16, Volume 1
A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;	Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution, Volume 1
A non-technical summary of the information referred to above; and	Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary, Volume 4 [EN010152/APP/6.4]
Any additional information specified in Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations (Ref. 3) relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.	Chapters 1 to 16, Volume 1

3.1.22 A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR (**Appendix L4: PEIR Non-technical summary, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) was also prepared, which was written in non-technical language to aid people’s understanding. A summary of the preliminary environmental information was also included in the statutory consultation booklet (**Appendix L1: Statutory consultation booklet, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).

3.1.23 The statutory consultation ran from 18 April 2024 to 23:59 on 31 May 2024, providing an opportunity for statutory consultees, the local community and the wider public to review and provide comments on the Scheme and the information provided in the PEIR (Ref. 4). Further details on how statutory consultees were consulted can be found in **section 3.5**.

- 3.1.24 On 15 April 2024, the Applicant sent all statutory consultees (Section 42(1)(a), Section 42(1)(b) and those identified as Section 42(1)(d) consultees) a copy of the Section 48 notice (**Appendix M1: Copy of Section 48 notice as included in Section 42(1) consultees consultation letters, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**), enclosed within a letter notifying them of the consultation (see section 3.5), pursuant to Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3). In addition, email copies of the same letter, and Section 48 notice were sent via email on 17 April 2024 where emails were held for the consultees. Lists of the consultees identified under Section 42(1)(a), Section 42(1)(b) and Section 42(1)(d) can be found in **Appendix I: Lists of consultees identified and consulted, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- 3.1.25 Chapter 4 and **Appendix O: Tables evidencing regard had to statutory consultation responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** summarise the matters raised by respondents to the statutory consultation, including those related to the PEIR (Ref. 4).
- 3.1.26 Further details of the engagement undertaken with the consultation bodies defined in Regulation 3(1) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3) with regard to the development of each chapter of the EIA assessment are summarised in Chapters 6-16 of the **ES Volume 1 [EN010152/APP/6.1]**. This detail can be found within the consultation subsection of the Assessment Methodology section of each chapter.

3.2 Overview of Statutory Consultation

- 3.2.1 The purpose of the statutory consultation was to provide information to the local community, affected stakeholders and anyone with an interest in the Scheme and seek views on the updated proposals.
- 3.2.2 The consultation gave each of these groups an opportunity to comment on the proposals and provided an opportunity for consultees to share their feedback on the changes made to the Scheme since non-statutory consultation. These included:
- additional land incorporated into the proposed Solar PV Site in order to provide additional flexibility and to accommodate additional areas for environmental mitigation;
 - refinement of the Grid Connection Corridor to a much narrower route;
 - confirmation that the scheme will use fixed south facing solar PV panels; and
 - refinement of the proposals for BESS so that they would be located in a single area within the Solar PV Site and at least 500 m from any residential property.

The Scheme

- 3.2.3 The Scheme as presented in the statutory consultation booklet (**Appendix L1: Statutory consultation booklet, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) is described as:

Fenwick Solar Project Limited (a BOOM Power company) is proposing a new solar farm with energy storage facilities at Fenwick (the

Scheme). This brochure provides an overview of the Scheme and the equipment that will be required, details about our preliminary environmental information and information on how to take part in our ongoing statutory consultation.

The Scheme will generate low carbon electricity from solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on land to the east of Fenwick, in the north of the City of Doncaster borough near the town of Askern and the smaller villages of Moss, Topham and Sykehouse. PV modules will generate the electricity and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be installed allowing the storage, export and import of electricity to/from the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). Work is ongoing to determine how the Scheme will connect to the existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation, whether via underground cables or by connecting directly to an overhead line that passes across the east of the Solar PV Site.

Timeline of the Statutory Consultation

- 3.2.4 The statutory consultation for the Scheme ran for a period of six weeks in Spring 2024, from 18 April to 11:59pm on 31 May 2024. This provided a period in excess of the statutory minimum of 28 days to provide consultees with sufficient time to understand and respond to the proposals.

3.3 The Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Statutory Requirements and Guidance for Development of the SoCC

- 3.3.1 The Applicant's approach to the statutory consultation with the local community started with the preparation of a draft SoCC. The content of the SoCC was developed in accordance with the requirements set out by:
- a. Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) which outlines the Applicants duty to 'prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land';
 - b. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations (Ref. 3);
 - c. MHCLG guidance on the pre-application process (Ref. 5) which applicants are required to have regard to by Section 50(3) of the Planning Act 2008, as last updated in March 2015;
 - d. the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report, Version 3 (February 2021) (Ref. 6); and
 - e. Parts of other guidance set out in paragraph 1.1.4 as relevant.
- 3.3.2 As required by Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), the SoCC has been prepared in consultation with the relevant local authority – City of Doncaster Council – whose administrative area the Scheme lies within, as defined by Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1).

Contents of the SoCC

- 3.3.3 The SoCC outlines the Applicant's proposed approach to consulting the local community, including residents, businesses and other stakeholders within the local area.

Development of the SoCC

- 3.3.4 In accordance with Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), the Applicant consulted City of Doncaster Council – as the relevant local authority – on the proposed methods set out in the SoCC for consulting people living in the vicinity of the Scheme. To support the Council in providing comments on the SoCC, two periods of consultation were undertaken – initial informal engagement on the draft SoCC and the formal consultation required under s47 on the final SoCC.
- 3.3.5 Analysis of the feedback received as part of the development of the non-statutory consultation was used to inform the development of the SoCC and to improve the approach to the statutory consultation.

Informal Consultation on the Draft SoCC

- 3.3.6 Prior to the formal consultation with the local authority subsequent to section 47(2), the Applicant engaged informally with local authorities during the development of the SoCC. Holding an informal consultation while the SoCC was still in development allowed the Applicant to incorporate feedback and guidance from the local authorities before formal consultation.
- 3.3.7 The informal engagement on the draft SoCC ran from 15 January to 11 February 2024 (28 days). As host authority for the Scheme, City of Doncaster Council were consulted on the SoCC.
- 3.3.8 See **Figure** which demonstrates the location of the Scheme in relation to the local authorities and therefore demonstrates that City of Doncaster Council is the relevant authorities as defined by Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1).
- 3.3.9 Although the Scheme falls entirely within City of Doncaster's administrative boundary (and is therefore the only relevant local authority for the purposes of s47), as the proposed consultation zone also fell within the boundaries of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and East Riding of Yorkshire Council (EYRC) the Applicant wrote to both local authorities (on 21 January 2024 and 22 January 2024 respectively) (see **Appendix G1: Letter to North Yorkshire Council regarding Hard to Reach groups list for the purposes of the SoCC** and **Appendix G2: Letter to East Riding of Yorkshire Council regarding Hard to Reach groups list for the purposes of the SoCC, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) to provide them with the opportunity to review the proposed hard to reach and community groups which fell within their jurisdiction. No responses to the request were received. See section 3.7.8 for further detail on Hard-to-Reach groups.
- 3.3.10 The early comments received through the informal consultation were considered by the Applicant in the continued development of the SoCC. Feedback was received from City of Doncaster Council, which is outlined in **Table 3-2** as well as a summary of how the Scheme responded to the feedback received. Responses to this feedback were providing to the Council on submission of the updated SoCC for formal consultation.

3.3.11 The updates which were made to the SoCC based on feedback from City of Doncaster Council are shown below as added in bold underlined text or removed via strike-through in **Table 3-2**.

Table 3-2: Feedback received from City of Doncaster Council during informal consultation on the SoCC

Local Authority comment	Scheme response and changes to the SoCC
<p>North of the borough - Other than Askern, these areas are not towns... small rural villages.</p>	<p>Text was updated to read: <i>The proposed solar farm will generate low carbon electricity from photovoltaic (PV) panels on land to the east of Fenwick <u>in the north of the borough of the City of Doncaster Council</u>, near the towns of Moss, Topham, Sykehouse and Askern.</i></p>
<p>Other local newspapers are available - Possibly advise and/or another local newspaper – Doncaster Free Press and/or Doncaster Star</p>	<p>In considering this feedback from City of Doncaster Council, and reviewing other local press coverage available, the Applicant elected to place the Section 48 notices in the Doncaster Free Press and the Goole Times. This ensured that the notices covered the full area and had a wider readership than the original paper proposed by the Applicant (Yorkshire Post), or the Doncaster Star, as proposed by City of Doncaster Council. The Applicant confirmed this change in writing to City of Doncaster Council when responding to provide notification of the SoCC being published.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises the value of engaging with additional local newspapers and therefore committed to providing press releases to the listed papers at the launch of the consultation. Media channels which received a press release at the launch of consultation were: Doncaster Free Press; Doncaster Echo; Thorne Times; The Star; The Yorkshire Post; Yorkshire Live; ReNews; InfraBe; Solarmagazine.com; Solardaily.com; rechargenews.com; Solar Power Portal; Renewables Now; and Energy Storage Report.</p>
<p>sometimes helpful to state how many weeks before – give x weeks’ notice?</p>	<p>This activity was undertaken (see Table 3-4) and the text was updated to state: <i>The Applicant will issue a press release to local and trade media outlets <u>at least one week ahead</u> of the beginning of statutory consultation.</i></p>
<p>Some areas are not covered by Town/Parish Council. Ensure all are contacted – Askern Town Council Moss and District Parish Edenthorpe Parish Council Thorpe In Balne Parish Council</p>	<p>This activity was undertaken (see Table 3-4) and the text was updated to state: <i>Parish <u>and Town</u> council clerks and other public locations, <u>in particular in those close to the site</u>, will be provided with a narrative explaining how their communities can get involved in the</i></p>

Local Authority comment	Scheme response and changes to the SoCC
Sykehouse Parish Council Parish councils contact details - Modern Council (moderngov.co.uk)	<i>consultation and where to find out information about the Scheme</i>
Consider on site notices to be posted on site/in venues ? given size of area covered by development and general rural nature of area.	The Applicant confirmed with City of Doncaster Council that it was sending consultation brochures directly to residents living near to the proposed solar farm site, landowners would receive letters under s42 and site notices will be placed on any unregistered land.

Formal Consultation on the Draft SoCC

- 3.3.12 The SoCC was then updated based on these comments and then sent to the local authorities by email on 19 February 2024 ahead of a formal consultation period on the updated draft SoCC, from 19 February 2024 to 20 March 2024. City of Doncaster Council was given 29 days to submit feedback, one more day than the required 28-day formal consultation period specified in accordance with Section 47(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1). In preparing the final version of the SoCC, the Applicant had regard to feedback submitted during the formal consultation.
- 3.3.13 The email issued to local authorities formally requesting feedback can be found in **Appendix E: Letter to local authorities for draft SoCC formal consultation, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.

Regard Had to Local Authority Responses to the Draft SoCC

- 3.3.14 No further formal feedback was received from City of Doncaster during the period of formal feedback on the SoCC.
- 3.3.15 Amendments made during the informal period of consultation on the SoCC were therefore transferred to the final version of the document.

Publication of the SoCC – Section 47 (Newspaper Notice)

- 3.3.16 In accordance with the requirements of Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), the Applicant published a Section 47 notice in the Doncaster Free Press and Goole Times as the local newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the Scheme stating where and when the SoCC could be inspected.
- 3.3.17 A copy of the Section 47 notice as it appeared in the newspapers is provided in **Appendix M8: Copy of Section 47 notice - The Doncaster Free Press 04.04.2024, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** and **Appendix M9: Copy of Section 47 notice - The Goole Times 04.04.2024, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** and details of when and where the notice appeared can be found **Table 3-3**.

3.3.18 A review of the circulation figures of local newspapers was undertaken which concluded that the newspapers had the following distribution:

Table 3-3: Placement of Section 47 notice in newspapers

Name	Region	Frequency	Circulation	Date
Doncaster Free Press	Regional	Weekly	3,272	4 April 2024
Goole Times	Regional	Daily	7,283	4 April 2024

3.3.19 The SoCC was made available on the Applicant’s website free of charge via the Scheme web pages from 4 April 2024. **Appendix H2: SoCC availability online, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** shows the location of the published SoCC when navigated from the scheme website, the full website address that the SoCC was published at and the phone number for queries during the consultation published in the SoCC.

3.3.20 The SoCC was also available at a series of deposit locations (which were located at places reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the Scheme) listed in **Table 3-11** from 4 April 2024 through to 31 May 2024 and at all public consultation events, as listed in **Table 3-12**.

SoCC Compliance

3.3.21 Section 47(7) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) requires the applicant to carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC.

3.3.22 The Applicant complied with all requirements set out in the SoCC as per **Table 3-4**.

3.3.23 **Table 3-4** identifies each of the commitments made in the SoCC and identifies where these have been met in the delivery of the consultation.

Table 3-4: SoCC compliance

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
1.1.5	The Scheme is currently in the 'pre-application' stage of the DCO application process. This will involve a statutory consultation - the purpose of which is to seek the views of all stakeholders including the community, landowners, local businesses and interest groups, and statutory consultees on the Scheme proposals.	A statutory consultation was held between 18 April and 31 May 2024. The consultation included three in-person events and one online event.
1.1.6a	This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared in accordance with: a. Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008, which outlines the Applicant's obligation to 'prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult about the proposed application with people living in the vicinity of the land'	The SoCC was prepared by the Applicant, and ahead of publication, was consulted on with relevant officers from City of Doncaster Council. Ahead of the statutory consultation taking place, the SoCC was made publicly available at document inspection venues in the vicinity of the project.
1.1.6b	b. Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations), which requires the SoCC to set out whether the development is an EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant is publicising and consulting on the preliminary environmental information.	Paragraph 2.1.9 of the SoCC confirmed that the development is an EIA development. Paragraph 2.1.16 of the SoCC states how the Applicant would publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information, with more information provided in Chapters 3 and 4.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
1.1.7	<p>As required by Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008, the SoCC has been prepared in consultation with City of Doncaster Council (CDC), whose administrative area the Scheme lies within, as defined by Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008. CDC's advice and recommendations have been taken into consideration when finalising the proposed consultation activities.</p> <p>In preparing this SoCC the Applicant has had regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance on the preapplication process required by Section 50(3) of the Planning Act 2008, as last updated in March 2015</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with relevant officers from City of Doncaster Council, both informally and formally, ahead of statutory consultation taking place.</p> <p>Changes made to the SoCC as a result of feedback received from council officers are outlined in Table 3-2 of this report.</p> <p>The approach to statutory consultation, as set out in the SoCC, was developed in consideration of the relevant guidance.</p>
1.1.8	<p>This document outlines the Applicant's proposed approach to consulting the local community, including residents, businesses and other stakeholders within the local area. It is currently anticipated that a statutory consultation will be held between 18 April and 31 May 2024, and the final dates of the statutory consultation will be confirmed in the statutory consultation materials, including the newspaper notice published pursuant to section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.</p>	<p>Statutory consultation took place between 18 April and 31 May 2024, and this was outlined in the Section 48 newspaper notice published in the London Gazette, The Guardian, Doncaster Free Press and Goole Times, ahead of consultation taking place.</p>
2.1.3	<p>Section 42, 43 and 44 of the Planning Act 2008 (and the relevant regulations) require consultation with a number of statutory bodies and statutory undertakers, local authorities and those with an interest in land. These individuals and organisations will be consulted as required by the Planning Act 2008, as laid out in this SoCC.</p>	<p>Statutory bodies and statutory undertakers were contacted ahead of consultation and were engaged with throughout the period of consultation. Lists of the bodies identified under the relevant sections can be found in Appendix I: Lists of consultees identified and consulted, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2].</p> <p>Contact with these stakeholders is evidenced in Chapter 3 of this report.</p>

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
2.1.4	In accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant is required to consult people living in the vicinity of the land before the application is submitted and to prepare a statement in consultation with the host local authority setting out how it will do this. The Applicant must undertake adequate consultation before submitting its DCO application.	Local community stakeholders living in the vicinity of the land were engaged with throughout the period of statutory consultation, as evidenced in Section 3.7 of this report. Ahead of this engagement, the Applicant consulted on its SoCC over two periods – from 15 January to 11 February; and from 19 February to 20 March.
2.1.5	The Applicant will have regard to all responses received to the consultation which will be considered in the design evolution of the Scheme, in line with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008.	Section 4.6 of this report details the regard given to responses received during statutory consultation.
2.1.6	Details of any responses received during consultation and the account taken of those responses will be included in a Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the DCO application.	Chapter 4 of this report details responses received during statutory consultation, including a summary of the issues raised by consultees, as well as the changes made to the Scheme as a result of feedback.
2.1.9	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of identifying, evaluating, and mitigating the likely significant environmental effects of a scheme or project. Owing to its size, nature and location, the Scheme is likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore is considered to constitute EIA development requiring an Environmental Statement (ES) to be submitted as part the DCO application.	Paragraph 2.1.9 of the SoCC confirmed that the development is an EIA development.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
2.1.15	<p>The Applicant is planning and/or undertaking the surveys, assessments, and consultation processes outlined in the EIA Scoping Report, and taking account of the Scoping Opinion. The Applicant is also preparing a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), in line with Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations, to inform the statutory consultation process. The purpose of the PEIR is to provide information to enable stakeholders to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Scheme. As described in Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 7, the PEIR is a compilation of the environmental information available at the point in time the PEIR was produced and does not constitute a complete assessment (which will be reported within the ES).</p>	<p>A PEIR was prepared and made publicly available as part of the statutory consultation period.</p>
2.1.16	<p>The PEIR will be made publicly available online and information on how to view it will be included in the Consultation Brochure. A copy of all the consultation materials (including the PEIR) will be made available on a USB and available at document inspection points for removal (free of charge) or inspection on library computers (see paragraph 3.6.3) A copy of the non-technical summary will be available at document inspection points.</p>	<p>The PEIR was made available online and remains available online on the Applicant's website. Information on how to view it was also included in the Consultation Brochure. Consultation materials, including the non-technical summary of the PEIR, were available to the public at document inspection venues, throughout the statutory consultation period. This included the availability of USBs, which were able to be taken away free of charge.</p>
2.2.3	<p>The SoCC was then updated based on these comments ahead of a formal 28-day consultation period on the updated draft SoCC, from 19 February 2024 to 20 March 2024. In preparing the final version of the SoCC, the Applicant has had regard to feedback submitted during the consultations.</p>	<p>Table 3-2 in this report outlines the changes made by the Applicant to the SoCC, following feedback received from City of Doncaster Council.</p>

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.1.1	It is currently anticipated that the statutory consultation for the Scheme will run for a period of six weeks from 18 April and 31 May 2024 . The final dates of the statutory consultation will be confirmed in the statutory consultation materials, including the newspaper notice published pursuant to section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.	Statutory consultation ran between 18 April and 31 May 2024. This information was included in consultation materials including the brochure, website and feedback form. Section 48 notices were placed in London Gazette, The Guardian, Doncaster Free Press and The Goole Times. For further detail, please see paragraph 3.8.6 and Appendix M2: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Guardian 11.04.2024; Appendix M3: Copy of Section 48 notice - The London Gazette 11.04.2024; Appendix M4: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Doncaster Free Press 11.04.2024; Appendix M6: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Goole Times 11.04.2024; Appendix M7: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Goole Times 18.04.2024, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2].
3.1.2	The purpose of the statutory consultation is to provide information to the local community, consultees prescribed under the Planning Act 2008, other affected stakeholders and anyone with an interest in the Scheme. The consultation will give these stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposals so these comments can be considered before the Scheme design is finalised for the DCO application. The DCO application is anticipated to be submitted in the latter half of 2024.	Stakeholders were provided the opportunity to share their feedback through the scheme email address, telephone number, freepost address or by completing a feedback form in person. Details for each of these feedback mechanisms was promoted widely across all consultation materials. The regard given to stakeholder feedback is evidenced in Section 4.7 of this report. The DCO application is being submitted in October 2024, in line with the anticipated timeline provided in the SoCC.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.1.3	The consultation will provide an opportunity for consultees to share their feedback on the Scheme, which has evolved since non-statutory consultation. It will also enable those interested to find out more detailed information on the plans, including in particular, information contained within the PEIR (which will also be publicly available).	<p>The brochure published at the statutory consultation provided an overview of the Scheme and its preliminary environmental information. It also explained how the Scheme had evolved since the Non-statutory Consultation. A full copy of the PEIR was made publicly available at each of the in-person consultation events, while consultees were also offered the ability to download the PEIR onto USB sticks, which were made available at document inspection venues.</p> <p>A non-technical summary of the PEIR was also available at each of the document inspection venues.</p>
3.1.5	The Applicant is committed to running a consultation that is compliant with the methods outlined in the SoCC and the Planning Act 2008.	This table explains the consistency of the consultation with the various methods outlined in the SoCC. Chapter 3 of this Report explains how the consultation was consistent with the parameters in the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulations and guidance.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.2.2	The statutory consultation will use a variety of means to ensure that access to the consultation materials is straightforward, and does not require the inspection of physical hard copies in person. For example, providing access to the materials online allows users to access materials from their own homes and use existing accessibility tools for viewing the materials (such as zoom functions or text-to-audio tools).	Consultation materials were made both physically and digitally available. Materials were available to the public at document inspection venues, as well as in-person events. Local community stakeholders also received a brochure directly through the post. An online consultation event, held on 8 May 2024, allowed those unable to attend an in-person event to take part in the same consultation experience where they could listen to and ask questions of scheme representatives. Consultation materials were also available to view through the Applicant's website, where they remain available to view beyond the end of Statutory Consultation.
3.2.3	Additionally, section 4.9 outlines the approach taken to promote the consultation to seldom heard groups, which targets those who may find it more difficult to engage with consultations.	The Applicant worked with City of Doncaster Council to identify and subsequently contact 'hard-to-reach' groups, as outlined in Section 3.7.8 of this report.
3.2.4a	The stakeholder engagement and consultation approach to be taken for the statutory consultation will be underpinned by the following principles: a. engagement is to be undertaken to inform and influence the design process;	The Applicant has demonstrated that feedback received during statutory consultation has informed and influenced the design process, as evidenced by 'Changes made to the Scheme as a result of consultation' section of this report, in section 4.7.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.2.4b	b. stakeholder concerns will be addressed, where possible and practical, through engagement	The Applicant sought to provide information that would alleviate concerns that had been raised by the local community, where possible. In particular, the Applicant highlighted findings from its preliminary environmental assessment and outlined how identified impacts could be managed. The topics included in this summary included those that had been raised previously with the Applicant, for example construction traffic.
3.4.2c	c. appropriate statutory consultation is undertaken in compliance with requirements of PA 2008 and subordinate regulations	As outlined in Chapter 3 of this report, the statutory consultation fully complied with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1).
3.3.5	All addresses within the consultation zone will be sent consultation brochures. There are 3,762 addresses in this zone. During non-statutory consultation, brochures were sent to a total of 1,164 addresses, therefore the increase to the zone marks an expansion in the number of addresses of 2,598 since non-statutory consultation.	All consultees within the Statutory Consultation Zone were contacted directly, receiving a brochure through the post at the launch of statutory consultation. Section 3.7 explains how the Statutory Consultation Zone was developed and how it changed from the Non-statutory Consultation Zone.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.3.6a	<p>At the same time as consulting with the local community captured by the consultation zone, we will be carrying out consultation on the same information (including the PEIR) with those bodies prescribed under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Persons as prescribed under Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applicant: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (as amended);b. Each local authority as defined under Section 43 of the PA 2008;c. and those persons captured within one or more categories as set out under Section 44 of the PA 2008	<p>Engagement was carried out in line with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), as evidenced in sections 3.4 and 3.5 of this report.</p>
3.3.7	<p>At the launch of consultation, relevant elected representatives within the consultation zone will also be contacted, including the Member of Parliament for Doncaster North (MP) and Doncaster City Council Councillors.</p>	<p>Both the MP and locally elected councillors within the consultation zone were contacted directly via email at the launch of statutory consultation. Copies of these emails can be viewed in Appendix N5: Information issued to councillors (via City of Doncaster Council officers) notifying them of the consultation, Consultation Report Appendices; and Appendix N6: Email to the MP within the consultation zone notifying them of the consultation, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2].</p>

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.3.8	It is also recognised that other groups than those captured above may have an interest in the proposals. A list of non-statutory interest groups and seldom heard groups will be contacted at the launch of consultation.	As well as carrying out its own desk-based research, the Applicant worked with City of Doncaster Council to identify and subsequently contact 'hard-to-reach' groups. These groups were contacted at the launch of statutory consultation, as outlined in paragraph 3.7.8 of this report.
3.4.1	The statutory consultation will allow the Applicant to gather views on the Scheme. Feedback on all aspects of the Scheme will be welcome and considered, including but not limited to the below: a. Proposed layout of the scheme; b. proposed route of the cable connecting the Solar PV Site to the National Grid Thorpe Marsh substation; c. Impacts of the proposed Scheme including, but not limited to: i. Environmental impacts ii. Economic impacts; iii. Social impacts. d. How the construction and maintenance of the Scheme will be carried out; e. Proposed mitigations for the anticipated impacts as detailed above; f. The PEIR and the PEIR Non-Technical Summary	Stakeholders were encouraged to share their feedback through the scheme email address, telephone number, freepost address or by completing a feedback form in person. Details for each of these feedback mechanisms was promoted widely across all consultation materials, and their responses are outlined in Chapter 4 of this report. The feedback form included specific questions covering the topics set out in 3.4.1 of the SoCC, but also provided the opportunity for consultees to provide comments on any other matters they wish to provide feedback on. Freeform responses were also accepted.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.5.1	The documents listed in paragraph 3.5.2 will be available to view throughout the consultation period. These will be made available online via the Scheme's website: www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick . All consultation materials (including the PEIR) will be made available online on the Applicant's 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 in the area	All consultation materials were made available on the Applicant's website and remained publicly available following the conclusion of the Statutory Consultation. The materials were also available as physical copies at in-person events, as well as at document inspection venues in the vicinity of the Scheme for the entire period of the Statutory Consultation.
3.5.2	The documents that will be made available throughout the statutory consultation are listed below: Consultation brochure; a. Consultation feedback form; b. Plans of the proposed solar farm and Grid Connection Corridor; c. SoCC; d. Non-statutory consultation report; e. PEIR NTS; and f. PEIR (available on the Applicant's website and on USB. Full printed copy available only at in-person consultation events).	All consultation materials were made available on the Applicant's website and remained publicly available following the conclusion of the Statutory Consultation. The materials were also available as physical copies at in-person events, as well as at document inspection venues in the vicinity of the Scheme for the entire period of the Statutory Consultation.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.5.3	The consultation brochure will be produced to provide easy to understand information about the Scheme, including a plan of the solar farm, a summary of the potential environmental effects and an outline of the construction process. The consultation brochure will be sent to all addresses within the consultation zone	<p>The consultation brochure used non-technical language as far as possible and included plans of the solar farm a summary of the potential environmental effects and an outline of the construction process.</p> <p>The brochure was issued to all 3,762 addresses in the consultation zone ahead of statutory consultation beginning.</p>
3.5.4	Hard copy consultation materials will be made available on request via advertised channels. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may incur a reasonable copying charge.	<p>The Applicant promoted the availability of hard copy materials at document inspection venues and in-person events, as well as sending a detailed brochure to 3,762 addresses in the vicinity of the Scheme.</p> <p>One request for two copies of the statutory consultation brochure were received and these were issued to the resident.</p>
3.6.1	The Applicant is committed to providing an accessible approach to engagement and consultation on the Scheme, and therefore selected consultation documents will be made available for members of the public to inspect at a range of local venues.	Six document inspection venues were selected, and held consultation materials throughout the consultation period: Askern Community Library; Edenthorpe Community Library; Snaith Library; Thorne Library; The Baxter Arms; and The Old George Inn. Each of these included copies of all consultation materials for public use.
3.6.3	Askern Community Library is the only library which falls within the consultation mailing zone. To ensure sufficient document inspection points within the consultation mailing zone, the Applicant will therefore also place consultation materials at two pubs within the consultation mailing zone which are also listed in Table 3 1 below.	The Applicant placed the consultation materials at two pubs within the consultation mailing zone – being The Baxter Arms; and The Old George Inn. Each of these included copies of all consultation materials for public use.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.6.4	Hard copies of the consultation brochure, feedback form, non-statutory consultation report, plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route, SoCC and the PEIR non-technical summary will be available to view at the document inspection points.	All six document inspection venues included copies of all consultation materials mentioned in 3.6.4 of the SoCC for public use. Images of the document inspection venue consultation material stations can be found in Appendix L6: Evidence of consultation material stations in document inspection points, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] .
3.6.5	The Applicant will make USBs containing all consultation materials (including the full PEIR) available at the document inspection points. At the libraries the USBs will also be able to be used to inspect the documents on computers in the libraries.	USB sticks to take away electronic copies of consultation materials and/or use these to inspect documents on the library venue computers were available as part of the suite of consultation materials at document inspection venues.
3.6.6	The Applicant will liaise with the document inspection points regularly to ensure that sufficient consultation materials remain available should members of the public have taken materials home, and to provide any additional materials or USBs should these be required.	The Applicant contacted the document inspection venues by telephone during the consultation to confirm that stocks of consultation materials were sufficient.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.7.1	Three in-person consultation events will be held during the statutory consultation period. These will be drop-in style events designed for members of the public to attend, view the plans in more detail and engage directly with the project team.	Three in-person events were held as part of the statutory consultation: Friday 26 April, 2-7pm – Askern Town Hall Saturday 27 April, 10am-3pm – Moss & Fenwick Village Hall Monday 29 April, 2-7pm – Sykehouse Village Hall Each event lasted five hours and operated a ‘drop-in’ format. Scheme team members representing a range of disciplines were in attendance and members of the public were able to attend, view the Scheme information and ask questions as required. Evidence of the consultation events can be found in Appendix Q: Evidence of consultation events, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] .
3.7.2	Consultation boards will be displayed at each event to provide information about the Scheme, including maps and images. Printed copies of all consultation materials will be made available for people to inspect.	Consultation boards and physical copies of consultation materials were available at each event. Evidence of the materials at consultation events can be found in Appendix Q: Evidence of consultation events, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] .

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.7.3	A consultation response station will be in place at the events to allow people to fill out the consultation feedback form in hard copy, or virtually via a tablet whilst they are at the event. A member of the project team will be able to assist with this if requested. Hard copies of the consultation feedback form will be available for attendees to take away to complete and return via the dedicated Royal Mail Freepost Address, (Freepost Fenwick Solar Farm).	Each consultation event included a feedback station, complete with feedback form and pens and a feedback form 'box', for attendees to complete their feedback in-person. A tablet was also available for people to provide feedback digitally, with members of the team able to provide assistance if required.
3.7.4	The consultation events will be held across a number of days, to allow flexibility for attendees to take part. The number and locations of the event venues have been selected based on the level of attendance from the non-statutory consultation events held in June and July 2023, and the proximity to the Scheme.	Three in-person events were held as part of the statutory consultation: Friday 26 April, 2-7pm – Askern Town Hall Saturday 27 April, 10am-3pm – Moss & Fenwick Village Hall Monday 29 April, 2-7pm – Sykehouse Village Hall To provide additional flexibility, the Applicant also held an online Q&A event on Wednesday 8 May, 7-8pm.
3.7.5	Communication channels such as telephone, email and freepost will be publicised in the consultation brochure, the poster and on the scheme website to allow people to contact the project team if they have further questions.	A telephone line was set up for stakeholders to contact the project team on: 01964 782 219. Consultees could also email the team on Fenwick.Enquiries@BOOM-Power.co.uk . A freepost address was also in place for feedback to be shared through: FREEPOST Fenwick Solar Farm.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
3.7.6	Consultation venues which were not used at non-statutory consultation Alexander House (Askern Town Hall) and Sykehouse Village Hall will undergo an assessment prior to booking, which will determine the suitability of the location in terms of accessibility for people with disabilities or mobility issues.	A full health and safety and risk assessment was carried out for the two event venues – Alexander House (Askern Town Hall) and Sykehouse Village Hall – which had not been used at the non-statutory consultation.
3.7.8	One online drop-in question and answer session will be held during the statutory consultation period. This will be held on Microsoft Teams and will present attendees with an opportunity to ask questions of the project team. The details of this online surgery event are outlined in Table 3 2.	An online drop-in session was held on Wednesday 8 May. Details of this event are outlined in Table 3-13 of this report.
3.8.1	In the event of a booked venue becoming unavailable, or other unforeseen circumstances meaning the consultation events must be cancelled, the Applicant will inform people as early as possible of the cancellation and, where possible, give details of a substitute event via the Scheme’s website, on social media and notify parish councils requesting that they provide this information to residents via existing channels.	No such action was required to be undertaken by the Applicant.
4.1.1	The Applicant has identified several methods to publicise the statutory consultation, which includes those methods required in accordance with Section 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and Section 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. This will ensure the Scheme's stakeholders have ample opportunities to participate in the consultation and provide feedback on the Scheme.	The Applicant promoted the consultation in line with Sections 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1). Evidence of this is outlined in sections 3.7 and 3.8 of this report.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
4.2.1	Details of the upcoming statutory consultation launch, as well as the dates and addresses of the consultation events, will be published on the Scheme website, www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick . This will contain information for stakeholders, including contact information and a dedicated contact form.	Details of the statutory consultation, including consultation materials and information on how to take part, were made publicly available on the Applicant's website at the launch of statutory consultation.
4.2.2	The consultation documents will be available to view and download from the Scheme website, www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick , free of charge the Consultation brochure; the Consultation feedback form; Plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route; the SoCC (this document); the Non-statutory consultation report; the PEIR Non-Technical summary; and the PEIR.	All consultation materials were made available on the Applicant's website, where they remain viewable to all stakeholders.
4.2.3	The Scheme website will provide stakeholders with details of the consultation events in case they would like to attend.	The Applicant's website included details on each of the in-person and online consultation events, including days, times and full addresses of each venue.
4.2.4	There will also be a link to the online feedback form, allowing people to share their views on the Scheme available on the Scheme website, www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick .	The Applicant's website included a link to the online feedback form.
4.3.1	As set out in paragraph 3.3.4, the consultation brochure will be sent to all addresses within the consultation zone, as set out in 3.3.3. The brochure will describe the Scheme proposals, explain how to take part in the consultation and where to find more information.	The consultation brochure was issued to all 3,762 addresses in the consultation zone ahead of statutory consultation beginning.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
4.3.2	The consultation brochure and feedback form will be available in hard copy to all consultees at in-person events, as well as at document inspection points, and via request through the various communication channels.	All consultation materials were made available at in-person events and online, as well as at document inspection venues.
4.3.3	The brochure will include details of the proposed Scheme, the dates and times of the consultation events, as well as the details for the Scheme website and a summary of how to provide feedback.	The brochure set out details of the Scheme, using non-technical language as far as possible, in order to engage with as wide an audience as possible. The brochure also detailed how stakeholders could share their feedback through the various feedback mechanisms, including dates and times of the consultation events.
4.4.1	Non-statutory consultees will be identified and sent a notification via email.	Non-statutory consultees were identified and received email communication regarding the consultation, as outlined in section 3.7.7 of this report.
4.5.1	<p>The Applicant will run a statutory notice under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, to publicise the proposed DCO application. It will be published as follows, meeting the publication requirements of Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008: once in a national newspaper; one in the London Gazette; and for at least two successive weeks in the Doncaster Free Press and Goole Times local newspapers</p> <p>The Applicant will run a statutory notice under Section 47(6)(a) of the Planning Act 2008, to publicise this SoCC. It will be published once in the Doncaster Free Press and Goole Times local newspapers, meeting the publication requirements of Section 47(6)(a) of the Planning Act 2008.</p>	<p>The Applicant ran a statutory notice in compliance with Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), as evidenced in section 3.8 of this report.</p> <p>The Applicant also ran a statutory notice in compliance with Section 47(6)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), as evidenced in section 3.3 of this report.</p>

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
4.5.3	The statutory notices will include information on the Scheme, details of the proposals and what documents will be available to view, where they can be inspected and the charge for documents. Information on the consultation launch, dates and addresses of the upcoming consultation events will be provided	The notices included all of the relevant information, as evidenced in Appendix M1: Copy of Section 48 notice as included in Section 42(1) consultees consultation letters, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] and Appendix M9: Copy of Section 47 notice - The Goole Times 04.04.2024, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] .
4.5.4	Instructions and the deadline for responding to the consultation will be given, alongside the different communication channels available to contact the project team. A link to the Scheme website will also be included in the notification.	The notices included all of the relevant information, as evidenced in Appendix M1: Copy of Section 48 notice as included in Section 42(1) consultees consultation letters, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] and Appendix M9: Copy of Section 47 notice - The Goole Times 04.04.2024, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] .
4.6.1	Social media content will be shared to publicise the statutory consultation and be scheduled in the run up to the statutory consultation with the objective of raising awareness of the upcoming events and generating interest around the Scheme.	Social media posts were shared on the Scheme's dedicated X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn accounts ahead of statutory consultation taking place.
4.6.2	Social media content across the project's social media pages will include posts regarding the proposals, the consultation event schedule, how feedback can be left, and links to the Scheme website. These pages are: X (formerly Twitter) (Fenwick Solar Farm: @Fenwick_Solar); Facebook (Fenwick Solar Farm); and LinkedIn (Fenwick Solar Farm).	Social media posts were shared on the Scheme's dedicated X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn accounts ahead of statutory consultation taking place, and these posts promoted participation in the consultation, as well links to the Applicant's website, where further details on the Scheme were held.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
4.6.3	These social media channels will be promoted on consultation materials and in supporting communications as applicable.	The social media channels were publicised on the Scheme's poster, which was issued to local stakeholders (via email) on 17 April 2024.
4.7.1	The Applicant will issue a press release to The Yorkshire Post, along with other local and trade media outlets at least one week ahead of the beginning of statutory consultation.	A press release was issued to local, national and trade media (including the Yorkshire Post) ahead of statutory consultation taking place, as well as shortly before the end of the statutory consultation period, in order to further raise interest in the consultation with local stakeholders.
4.8.1	Parish and Town council clerks and other public locations, in particular in those close to the site, will be provided with a narrative explaining how their communities can get involved in the consultation and where to find out information about the Scheme. This will include a digital copy of a promotional poster and a request to promote the consultation to the local community via their established communications channels.	Local stakeholders, including the parish and town council clerks, were contacted on 17 April 2024 with a digital copy of a poster and accompanying promotional narrative, with a request to further boost interest in the consultation among the local community.
4.9.1	To ensure that seldom heard or hard to reach groups have the opportunity to take part in the statutory consultation, the Applicant will prepare the materials so that they are accessible and clear.	Consultation materials were drafted using non-technical language as far as possible, making the materials as understandable for as wide an audience as possible. This included documents like Appendix L4: PEIR Non-technical summary, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] which summarised the scheme in a non-technical manner.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
4.9.1a	Work with the host local authority to identify a range of organisations which represent seldom heard or hard-to-reach groups. The applicant will inform the organisations of the consultation as gatekeepers for the Applicant to engage with these communities	<p>The Applicant worked with City of Doncaster Council to identify and subsequently contact 'hard-to-reach' groups, as outlined in Section 3.7.8 of this report.</p> <p>In contact with these organisations, a request was made that they share information with their users/members.</p>
4.9.1ai	The organisations which represent seldom heard or hard-to-reach groups will be written to at least four weeks prior to the consultation to identify whether their members would need any assistance to enable their participation. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.	Identified organisations were written to on Monday 19 February to inform them about the consultation and invite them to advise of any additional support and activities that could be provided at the consultation. No requests were received.
4.9.1aia	At the launch of the consultation, the organisations will receive the narrative and poster outlined in section 4.8.	Local stakeholders, including identified organisations to bridge to hard-to-reach groups, were contacted on 17 April 2024 with a poster and accompanying promotional narrative, to further boost interest in the consultation among the local community.
4.9.1b	Display the project contact information on the consultation brochure, poster and on the scheme website to enable individuals to contact them with any questions or requests.	Scheme contact information, including phone number, email address and freepost address, were all included across all consultation materials.
4.9.1c	Ensure that the consultation materials can be made available in alternative forms on request.	The consultation materials and notices made it clear that they could be provided in alternative forms if requested, however, no requests for alternative formats were received.

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
4.9.2	<p>Where possible, we will aim to hold events at venues that are accessible and can be reached by public as well as private transport. The events have been scheduled across weekdays and a weekend, in addition to varied hours to enable as many people to attend as possible. For anyone with specific additional requirements in relation to our consultation events, they will be encouraged to email FenwickSolarFarm@BOOM-Power.co.uk or phone 01964 782219.</p>	<p>A full health and safety and risk assessment was carried out at each of the venues, ensuring they were as accessible as possible for all people who may wish to attend an in-person event.</p> <p>No major accessibility issues were identified by the team, nor were there any issues reported by members of the public during or after the in-person events.</p> <p>Three in-person events were held as part of the statutory consultation:</p> <p>Friday 26 April, 2-7pm – Askern Town Hall Saturday 27 April, 10am-3pm – Moss & Fenwick Village Hall Monday 29 April, 2-7pm – Sykehouse Village Hall</p> <p>To provide additional flexibility, the Applicant also held an online Q&A event on Wednesday 8 May, 7-8pm.</p>
4.9.3	<p>For those who are unable to attend in person, an online drop-in question and answer session will be held during the statutory consultation period. This will be held on Microsoft Teams and will present attendees with an opportunity to ask questions of the project team. It will also be recorded and posted on the website to enable those unable to attend any of the events to view the queries asked.</p>	<p>An online drop-in session was held on Wednesday 8 May. Details of this event are outlined in Table 3-13 of this report.</p>

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
5.1.1a	<p>A consultation feedback form will be made available to help consultees provide comments on the Scheme. All consultation responses must be made in writing unless transcription is needed. Comments made via phone calls will not be counted as official consultation responses unless there is a requirement for transcription due to accessibility considerations. Consultation responses can be provided via the following means.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Online response form via www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick;b. Email to FenwickSolarFarm@BOOM-Power.co.uk;c. Hardcopy feedback form; ord. Freetext letter to FREEPOST Fenwick Solar Farm	<p>A consultation feedback form was available both in physical and digital copies. The form included details of how to share feedback through email or freepost.</p> <p>The telephone number was also available for people to contact the team with questions or additional requests for support. No requests to submit feedback via telephone for accessibility reasons were received.</p>
5.1.2a	<p>Contact with the project team during the statutory consultation can be made via the channels outlined below. A member of the project team will aim to respond to the enquiry within five working days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Email Fenwick.Enquiries@BOOM-Power.co.uk;b. Phone: 01964 782219; orc. Postal address: FREEPOST Fenwick Solar Farm	<p>Each of the feedback mechanisms were open to consultees throughout the period of consultation.</p>
6.1.1	<p>In accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008, all responses received will be carefully considered and the Applicant will have regard to them when finalising the Scheme proposals for DCO application.</p>	<p>All correspondence shared with consultees was subject to careful review, and the regard given to consultee feedback in the overall design of the Scheme is outlined in Section 4.7 of this report.</p>

Paragraph No. in SoCC	SoCC requirement	How the Applicant delivered this requirement
6.1.2	If, as a result of feedback from the statutory consultation or from our pre-consultation engagement, the Scheme proposals are amended, then these may be consulted on via targeted consultation on a proportionate basis. Any targeted consultation will be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.	The Applicant held two targeted consultations, each with specific land interests, following statutory consultation. See Chapter 6 for more detail.
6.1.3	The Applicant will summarise consultation responses in a Consultation Report, which will include a description of how the Applicant has had regard of those responses in developing the Scheme, and any changes made since the statutory consultation. The consultation report forms part of the DCO application which will be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. Upon the acceptance of the DCO application the Consultation Report will be made available for consultees to review how their comments have fed into the process.	Section 4.7 of this report outlines the regard given to consultee feedback, and specifically how this has impacted the updated and refined design of the Scheme.
6.2.1	BOOM Power's GDPR Policy can be read on their website at https://www.boom-power.co.uk/privacy-policy/ . This document can be found on the BOOM Power website (https://www.boom-power.co.uk/), scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking "Privacy Policy".	The Applicant's GDPR policy remained online and publicly available before, during and after the consultation. The policy was updated to reflect the data held by the Applicant as part of the online feedback form mechanism.

3.4 Consultation Under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)

- 3.4.1 Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) specifies who the applicant must consult about the proposed application:
- a. Section 42(1)(a) – such persons as may be prescribed;
 - b. Section 42(1)(aa) – Marine Management Organisation (where the development would affect relevant areas to the Organisation, as set out in section 42(1)(2);
 - c. Section 42(1)(b) – each local authority identified within Section 43;
 - d. Section 42(1)(c) – the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London; and
 - e. Section 42(1)(d) – each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1).
- 3.4.2 Section 42(1)(aa) – Marine Management Organisation is not applicable in this case as the Scheme neither interfaces nor impacts with areas relevant to the organisation.
- 3.4.3 Section 42(1) (c) –Section 42(1)(c) is not applicable in this case as the Scheme is not located in Greater London.
- 3.4.4 A full list of consultees identified in accordance with Section 42(1)(a) and (b) is included in **Appendix I1: List of prescribed consultees identified and consulted, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**. The consultees are set out in the format of Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations (2009) (Ref. 2).
- 3.4.5 All consultees identified in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) are listed in **Appendix I3: List of prescribed consultees under Section 42 (1)(d), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- 3.4.6 Further explanation of the Section 42 consultees and how they were identified is provided in the following subsections.

Identification of Consultees Under Section 42(1)(a)

- 3.4.7 The Section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees were identified through careful adherence to Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations (as amended) (2009) (Ref. 2). The Applicant also included the organisations consulted by the Planning Inspectorate on the EIA Scoping Report presented in **Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report of the ES [EN010152/APP/6.3]** and considered and adhered to Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 3 which explains how the Planning Inspectorate identifies these consultees. In identifying those to consult, the Applicant applied the ‘Circumstances Test’ set out in Annex 1 of Advice Note 3. In identifying Prescribed Consultees, the Applicant also reviewed the list provided by the Planning Inspectorate under EIA Regulation 11(1)(c) (Ref. 3) to identify any additional parties, although none were identified that had not already been noted.
- 3.4.8 **Appendix I1: List of prescribed consultees identified and consulted, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** sets out the list of prescribed bodies identified.

- 3.4.9 On 6 March 2024, the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 (Ref. 9) were made, which makes changes to the organisations listed in the APFP Regulations 2009 (Ref. 2). However, it is noted that the transitional provisions for the changes state: *“the amendments in regulation 2 do not apply to any proposed application for an order granting development consent where the applicant has started to consult under section 42 of the Act before 30th April 2024.”* These changes therefore did not apply to the statutory consultation for the Scheme as consultation commenced on 18 April 2024.

Identification of Consultees Under Section 42(1)(b)

- 3.4.10 Section 42(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) requires the applicant to consult with the local authorities identified under Section 43 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), which further categories local authorities within the categories of an “A”, “B”, “C” or “D” local authority. The Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) reads as follows:

*“Local authorities for purposes of section 42(1)(b)
(1) A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area.*

*(2) 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.*

*(2A) 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.”*

- 3.4.11 The relevant local authorities are identified as those whose administrative area the land within the Order limits (Order land) is situated within and those local authorities with neighbouring boundaries.
- 3.4.12 City of Doncaster Council local authority was identified as a category “B” authority (a “host” authority within whose area the Order land is situated and which is a unitary authority or lower-tier district council) for the purposes of Section 43 (shown in **Table 3-5** and **Figure 3-1**).
- 3.4.13 **Table 3-5** also shows the local authorities which share a boundary with the “B” authorities and are therefore “A” authorities for the purposes of Section 43 (shown in **Table 3-5** and **Figure 3-1**).
- 3.4.14 As the Order land is not covered by a County Council, due to there being a Metropolitan Borough Council as the host authority, there were no “C” or “D” authorities identified within **Table 3-5**.

Table 3-5: Identification of relevant local authorities.

Name	A, B, C or D	Criteria for identification: Authority
City of Doncaster Council	B	City of Doncaster Council is a Metropolitan Borough Council in which the Scheme is situated.
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	A	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is a Metropolitan Borough Council which shares a boundary with a unitary authority or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated (City of Doncaster Council).
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	A	East Riding of Yorkshire Council is a unitary authority which shares a boundary with a host 'B' authority (City of Doncaster Council).
North Yorkshire Council	A	North Yorkshire Council is a unitary authority which shares a boundary with a host 'B' authority (City of Doncaster Council).
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	A	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is a Metropolitan Borough Council which shares a boundary with a unitary authority or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated (City of Doncaster Council).
Wakefield Council	A	Wakefield Council is a Metropolitan Borough Council which shares a boundary with a unitary authority or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated (City of Doncaster Council).
North Lincolnshire Council	A	North Lincolnshire Council is a unitary authority which shares a boundary with a host 'B' authority (City of Doncaster Council).
Nottinghamshire County Council	A	Nottinghamshire County Council is a Metropolitan Borough Council which shares a boundary with a unitary authority or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated (City of Doncaster Council).
Bassetlaw District Council	A	Bassetlaw District Council is a Metropolitan Borough Council which shares a boundary with a unitary authority or lower-tier district 'B' council within whose area development is situated (City of Doncaster Council).

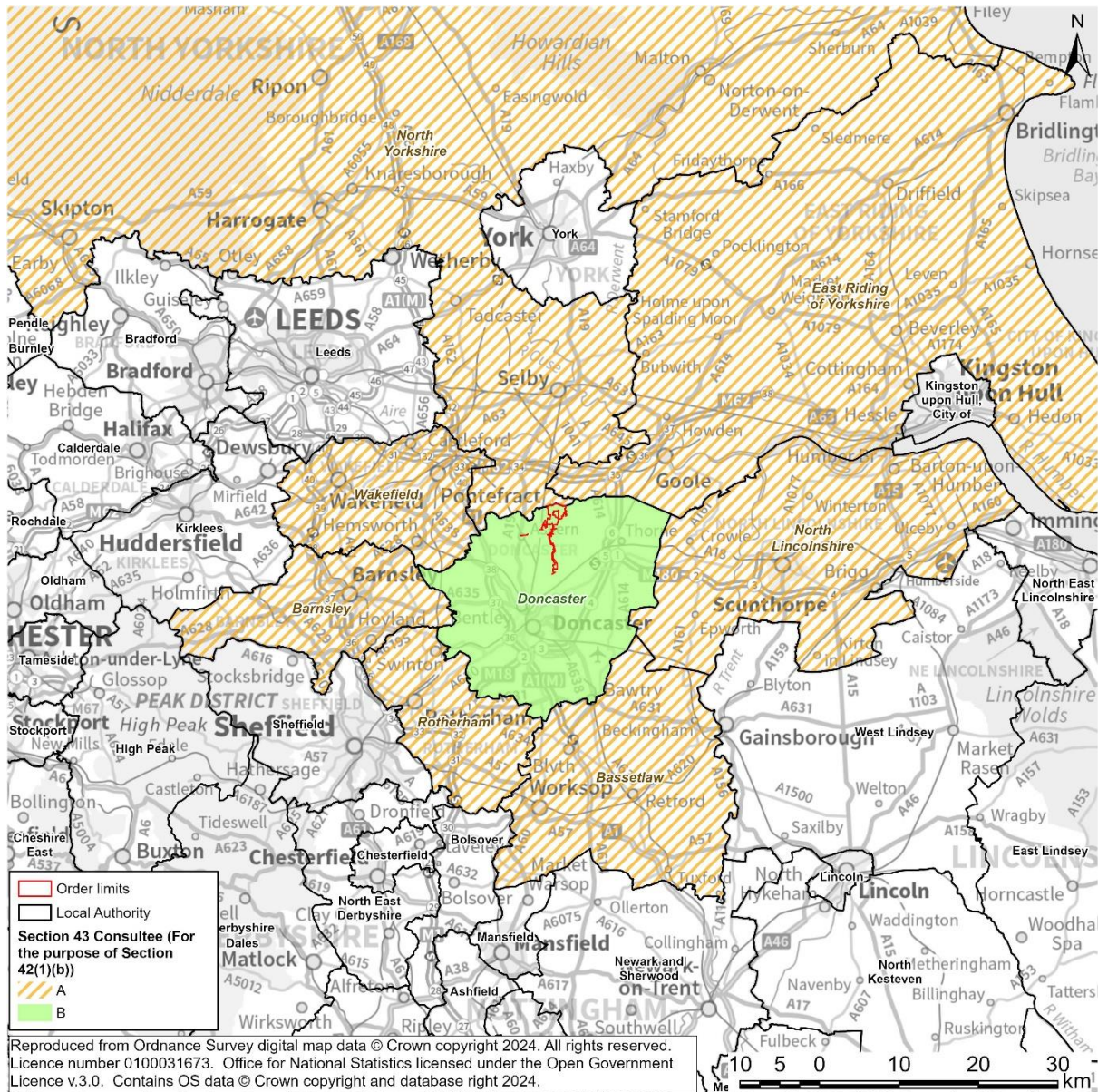


Figure 3-1: Relevant ‘A’ and ‘B’ authorities for the Scheme

Identification of Consultees Under Section 42(1)(d)

Land Referencing overview

- 3.4.15 Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) states that the Applicant must identify and consult each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1). Section 44 includes three categories of persons who may have interests in the land subject to the relevant development.
- 3.4.16 In preparing the DCO application, the Applicant has carried out diligent inquiry in order to identify all persons who, by virtue of the nature of the interest they have in land, and the location of that land in relation to the Applicant’s Order limits, fall within the categories set out in Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) for the Scheme. Such persons identified at the point of submission of the DCO application are listed in the **Book of Reference [EN010152/APP/4.2]**. The categories are explained in

paragraphs 3.4.17- 3.4.20 and the methods used to identify the persons with an interest in the land, are outlined fully in the **Land Referencing Methodology (Appendix P1: Land referencing methodology, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2])**.

Category 1 and 2 Persons

- 3.4.17 Category 1 comprises owners, lessees, tenants (whatever the tenancy period) and occupiers of the land.
- 3.4.18 Category 2 comprises persons that are interested in the land or have the power to sell and convey, or to release, the land.
- 3.4.19 Category 1 and 2 persons were identified through diligent inquiry as having a legal interest in or rights over land which may be directly affected by the Scheme.

Category 3 Persons

- 3.4.20 Category 3, as prescribed by Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), comprises persons who the applicant thinks would or might be entitled to make a “relevant claim” for compensation, if the order sought by the application were to be made and fully implemented. A “relevant claim” is defined in the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) as meaning a claim under:
 - a. Section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (CPA 1965) (Ref. 12), where a person is entitled to seek compensation where their interests in land have been injuriously affected by the execution of the works and the acquiring authority has not appropriately rectified this; or
 - b. Part I of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (LCA 1973) (Ref. 13) where a person has a right to compensation because the value of their land is depreciated by physical factors (being noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke and artificial lighting and the discharge on to the land of solid or liquid substances) caused by the use of public works; or
 - c. Section 152(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) where a person has a right to compensation where their land is injuriously affected by the carrying out of the works and they do not have usual recourse to a claim in nuisance due to statutory authority defences.

Diligent Inquiry Process

- 3.4.21 In order to identify persons coming within Categories 1, 2 and 3, referencing limits were established, comprising the proposed land requirements (including all land within the Order limits), and;
 - a. Properties closest to the Scheme.
 - b. Properties identified as a receptor as a consequence of the property being located outside the Order limits but in the vicinity of the Scheme.
- 3.4.22 Land referencing has been undertaken throughout the pre-application period to ensure that any changes in ownership or new interests have been identified, consulted and subject to engagement. The Order limits were submitted to HM Land Registry for a polygon plus service to identify all affected interested parties. Land referencing was also complimented via data validation using tools such as Trace IQ and the Royal Mail Address validator as well as Companies House checks to ensure the Applicant sent post to the

most recent address associated with contacts, reducing the likelihood of documents being issued to historic addresses. Further to this, the Applicant supported its understanding of land ownership by creating unregistered site notices and issuing documents known as Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs), this allowed the Applicant to validate the data received from HM Land Registry and to identify any non-registered interests in land.

- 3.4.23 HM Land Registry updates have also been checked periodically (generally at six monthly intervals or at key scheme milestones that would require an update) with the first search being completed in January 2023. Further detailed searches were completed in January 2024 just prior to the commencement of statutory consultation in April 2024. Subsequently, official copies of the Registered Titles and Plans were examined to identify all registered land interests. This was further validated via the LIQs (see **Appendix P3: Land Interest Questionnaire template, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**), which were issued to the most recent address for each registered contact. The Applicant attempted to contact registered interests where possible using contact information from open-source data and Trace IQ searches. Where these documents were returned, the Applicant validated the contact information, ownership and occupancy of land as well as identified interests which may not have been lodged with HM Land Registry. Approximately two weeks after issue of the LIQ the Applicant also issued reminder documents encouraging the return of the LIQ (see **Appendix P4: Follow up letter template, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).
- 3.4.24 Land referencing has been undertaken throughout the pre-application period to ensure that any changes in ownership or new interests have been identified, consulted and subject to engagement. Land referencing has been undertaken by Ardent on behalf of the Applicant. Land referencing has been supplemented by ongoing one-to-one engagement with the affected land interests by the Applicant's appointed land agent, DDM Agriculture. HM Land Registry updates have also been checked periodically (generally at six monthly intervals or at key scheme milestones that would require an update). The final HM Land Registry update took place on 27 September 2024, in order to provide a **Book of Reference [EN010152/APP/4.2]** for submission.

Unregistered Land and Site Notices

- 3.4.25 On completion of the above initial desk-based exercise, the extent of unregistered land interests became known. In order to establish interests in unregistered land that falls within the referencing limits, public sources of information were used, including non-contact site observations, the Rural Payments Agency website, Natural England, the Companies House website, the relevant local highway authority, records held by statutory undertakers, electoral registers and online resources. Discussions were also held as part of the engagement meetings to attempt to identify owners and occupiers of unregistered land. Unregistered site notices (**Appendix P2: Unregistered site notices, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) were erected on 21st February 2024, then erected again at the beginning of statutory consultation (18th April 2024) and were monitored until statutory consultation closed on 31st May 2024 (44 days) or until owners were identified (if earlier).

3.4.26 Following the initial non-contact methods outlined above, persons identified as a Category 1, 2 or 3 (see 3.4.26 for information on how Category 3 interests were identified) interest were issued with a letter and Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) requesting return of information about their interests within the referencing limits. Copies of these materials are provided in **Appendix P3: Land Interest Questionnaire template, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**. Where responses were not received, this was then followed up by telephone call, email, site visits and/or letter (**Appendix P4: Follow up letter template, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) to prompt a response, where appropriate.

Assessment of Category 3 persons who may fall under Section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (CPA 1965) (Ref. 12) and/or Section 152(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)

- 3.4.27 Identification of Category 3 persons was undertaken at the early stages of developing the Scheme, in order to inform the design and preparation of the DCO application. The identification of Category 3 persons under section 10 of the CPA 1965 and section 152(3) of the Planning Act 2008 is informed by considerations referred to as the “McCarthy Rules”. These are that (i) the works must be pursuant to statutory powers; (ii) the works must be lawful and would have given rise to a claim in private law (e.g. nuisance) but for the statutory authorisation; (iii) the injurious affection must have been damage (loss) to the land; (iv) the injurious affection must have been caused by the execution of the works (i.e. their construction) rather than their use/operation.
- 3.4.28 As is standard practice, persons with enforceable rights and covenants were included at the initial land referencing stage, as these parties are included as a Category 3 interest in the **Book of Reference [EN010152/APP/4.2]**, as having the potential to make a relevant claim. Land interests that hold such rights and the benefit of restrictive covenants were issued a Land Interest Questionnaire to confirm if these rights were still applicable to the said land within the Order Limits. The Applicant also issued Land Interest Questionnaires to all registered interests to ensure that any unregistered restrictive rights and covenants could be identified to be accounted for in the final **Book of Reference [EN010152/APP/4.2]**.
- 3.4.29 For further information, see Land Referencing Methodology (**Appendix P1: Land referencing methodology, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).

Assessment of Category 3 persons which fall under Part I of the LCA 1973 (Ref. 13)

- 3.4.30 In identifying potential claimants under Part I of the LCA 1973 (Ref. 13) physical factors arising from and impacts as a result of the Scheme were considered. Those identified include:
- a. Properties closest to the Scheme; and
 - b. Properties identified as a potential receptor as a consequence of the property being located outside the Order limits but in the vicinity of the Scheme.

- 3.4.31 The Applicant was provided with guidance from environmental specialists to identify those receptors potentially impacted by physical factors (noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, artificial lighting and discharge of solid/liquid substance onto land). This guidance was based on the topography of the land and the likely significant effects arising from the Scheme.
- 3.4.32 The physical factors were verified against the PEIR (Ref. 4) to identify consultees for the statutory consultation. The Applicant has also conducted further checks against the **Environmental Statement - Volume 1: Main Text [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.
- 3.4.33 Based on the above information, professional judgement was used to ascertain whether a person may potentially be entitled to make a relevant claim as defined in Section 44(6) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), based on a worst-case assessment on 2 April 2024 to identify consultees for the statutory consultation. This process was undertaken for all of the physical factors set out in Part I of the LCA 1973 (Ref. 11), and in each case the parties and properties assessed in terms of potential relevant claims for that factor.

Noise

- 3.4.34 The noise and vibration assessment presented in Chapter 11 (Noise and Vibration) of the PEIR (Ref. 4) did not identify any significant adverse noise effects during operation based on a reasonable worst case design scenario. Noise modelling calculations have confirmed that none of the noise levels at sensitive receptors within 500m of the Site boundary are above +3dB change from baseline. A 3dB change is the lowest perceptible change. A distance of 500m from the site boundary was used as a measurement following the Applicant's previous experience of solar farms where modelling has identified that adverse effects are unlikely at a distance greater than 500m.

Vibration

- 3.4.35 The noise and vibration assessment presented in Chapter 11 (Noise and Vibration) of the PEIR (Ref. 4) confirmed there are no sources of vibration during operation with the potential to cause significant adverse effects. Solar farm infrastructure would not generate perceptible levels of vibration therefore no adverse vibration effects would occur during operation.

Smells

- 3.4.36 The operation of the Scheme is not anticipated to generate any smells.

Fumes

- 3.4.37 Chapter 14.1 (Other Environmental Topics including Air Quality) of the PEIR (Ref. 4) set out that it is not expected that operational traffic would result in significant increases in local road traffic air quality concentrations. This is because there would be a very low number of vehicles to visit the site for operational maintenance purposes. There are no other likely significant air quality impacts predicted during operation from plant or machinery. Therefore, there are no anticipated significant adverse effects on sensitive receptors resulting from fumes arising from air emissions.

Smoke

- 3.4.38 The operation of the Scheme is not anticipated to generate any smoke as set out in Chapter 14.1 (Other Environmental Topics including Air Quality) of the PEIR (Ref. 4).

Light emissions

- 3.4.39 Chapter 14.2 (Other Environmental Topics including Glint and Glare) of the PEIR (Ref. 4) stated that due to the topography, existing surrounding vegetation and ability to plant vegetation, it is anticipated at this stage that there will be no significant effects arising as a result of Glint and Glare. Chapter 16 (Other Environmental Topics including Air Quality) of the PEIR (Ref. 4) also noted that should significant effects be predicted following further modelling these can be mitigated as part of the design through screening, fencing and repositioning of panels. Chapter 2 (The Scheme) of the PEIR (Ref. 4) stated that during operation of the solar farm areas of solar PV will not require artificial lighting other than during temporary periods of maintenance/repair. All routine maintenance activities, except panel cleaning, will be scheduled for daylight hours as far as is practicable, and therefore it is anticipated that focussed task specific lighting should only be required in the event of emergency works/equipment failure requiring night-time working or panel cleaning operations. It is estimated that the solar panels would be cleaned once every two years. The panels would be cleaned at night when they are cool and the preferred approach to lighting during this cleaning would be tractor mounted lighting which is akin to that used during night-time arable harvesting operations. At the operations and maintenance hub task specific and fixed 'general' lighting may be required in winter periods (early mornings and evenings) to meet safety requirements. The operational measures for lighting will be controlled by the **Framework Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) [EN010152/APP/7.8]**. This will ensure a sensitive lighting scheme is developed to avoid lighting that would impact nearby properties.

Discharges on to the land in respect of which the claim is made of any solid or liquid substance

- 3.4.40 During operation there would be limited discharges on to the land. These would likely arise from cleaning of panels. Chapter 2 (The Scheme) and Chapter 9 (Flood Risk, Drainage and Water Environment) of the PEIR (Ref. 4) explained that cleaning of panels would not involve cleaning materials and only water and that foul water from the site offices will be treated offsite and therefore there would be no discharge of foul water to a watercourse, and no discharge to the public foul sewer. Chapter 9 (Water Environment) of the **ES Volume 1 [EN010152/APP/6.1]** explains that the operational Scheme design will include both tanks to provide water for firefighting and associated fire water containment storage should there be a fire within the BESS and therefore the risk that contaminated water may pollute nearby watercourses or land if it is not contained would be avoided. A Framework Drainage Strategy (**Appendix 9-4 of the ES 1 [EN010152/APP/6.3]**) is also proposed to be developed to implement measures to control pollution during operation. This is proposed to be secured through a DCO requirement. Further details about the environmental assessments undertaken can be found in Chapters 6 to 16 of the **ES Volume 1 [EN010152/APP/6.1]**.

- 3.4.41 As a result of the above assessments, the Applicant did not identify anyone that might be entitled to make a relevant claim as a result of these physical factors. All directly affected landowners were referenced through issuing Land Interest Questionnaires (see **Appendix P3: Land Interest Questionnaire template, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) and further follow up letters to correctly identify the parties affected (**Appendix P4: Follow up letter template, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP /5.2]**).
- 3.4.42 A list of Section 42(1)(d) consultees consulted at statutory consultation can be found in **Appendix I3: List of prescribed consultees under Section 42 (1)(d), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.

Unregistered Land and Site Notices

- 3.4.43 On completion of the above initial desk-based exercise, the extent of unregistered land interests became known. In order to establish interests in unregistered land that falls within the referencing limits, public sources of information were used, including non-contact site observations, the Rural Payments Agency website, Natural England, the Companies House website, the relevant local highway authority, records held by statutory undertakers, electoral registers and online resources. Discussions were also held as part of the engagement meetings to attempt to identify owners and occupiers of unregistered land. Unregistered site notices (**Appendix P2: Unregistered site notices, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) were erected initially on 21 February 2024, then again on 18 April 2024, prior to the statutory consultation, and were monitored until statutory consultation closed.
- 3.4.44 Following the initial non-contact methods outlined above, persons identified as a Category 1, 2 or 3 interest were issued with a letter and Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) requesting return of information about their interests within the referencing limits. Copies of these materials are provided in **Appendix P3: Land Interest Questionnaire template, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**. Where responses were not received, this was then followed up by telephone call, email, site visits and/or letter (**Appendix P4: Follow up letter template, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) contact to prompt a response, where appropriate.
- 3.4.45 Further information on the diligent inquiry process is provided in the Land Referencing methodology (**Appendix P1: Land referencing methodology, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).

3.5 Consultation Methodology for Section 42 Consultees

Notifying Section 42 Consultees

- 3.5.1 The Applicant sent all Section 42(1)(a), Section 42(1)(b) consultees a letter on 15 April 2024, to inform them of the start of the statutory consultation (**Appendix J1: Section 42 (1)(a) and (b) letter, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).
- 3.5.2 The Applicant sent all Section 42(1)(d) consultees a letter on 16 April 2024, to inform them of the start of the statutory consultation **Appendix J2:**

Section 42 (1)(d) letter, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2].

- 3.5.3 The letters provided an overview of the Scheme, explained that the Scheme was a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), EIA development, that the party to whom it was addressed was being formally consulted under the requirements of Section 42(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) and set out how to respond to the consultation. The letters specified to consultees that they were being consulted:
- a. as a consultee identified under Section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) and Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations (2009) (Ref. 2), a consultee identified under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3) or a consultee where it has been decided it would be appropriate to consult in any event;
 - b. as a local authority under Section 42(1)(b) and section 43 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1); or
 - c. as a person or organisation who has an interest in the land which the Applicant is proposing to seek powers for under the DCO for the Scheme in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1).
- 3.5.4 The following information was enclosed within the Section 42(1)(a) and (b) letters:
- a. A copy of the Section 48 notice (Appendix M1: Copy of Section 48 notice as included in Section 42(1) consultees consultation letters, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]) in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3). The notice outlined that hard copy consultation materials, or copies of the consultation materials on USB sticks would be made available on request by contacting the Applicant via the details in the “Feedback” section of the notice. Requests would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and the complete set of consultation materials could be made available in hard copy format on request at a cost of £3,000. Electronic copies of all of consultation materials on a USB memory stick could also be requested for free. Further information or other formats of the consultation material could be requested;
 - b. The deadline for responses set out as 23:59 on 31 May 2024 (providing a period of 44 days from the day after the letters were received);
 - c. Dates of the consultation period;
 - d. Public consultation event dates, times and locations;
 - e. Dates, times and link to the online webinar events;
 - f. Details about the location and opening time of document inspection points where documents could be viewed in hard copy;
 - g. The email, freepost address and contact number for the Scheme; and
 - h. A link to the Scheme’s website which contained digital copies of the consultation materials listed in paragraph 3.7.18.
- 3.5.5 In addition to receiving a physical copy of the letter and Section 48 notice in the post, Section 42(1)(a), Section 42(1)(b) consultees were sent a PDF copy of the letter and Section 48 notice referred to in paragraph a via email on 18 April 2024 where email addresses for these consultees were known to the Applicant.

- 3.5.6 The following information was enclosed within the Section 42(1)(d) letters:
- a. A copy of the consultation brochure (Appendix L1: Statutory consultation booklet, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]) providing a high-level overview of the proposed Scheme, as well as the community consultation that is taking place on the proposed Scheme;
 - b. A copy of the consultation feedback form (Appendix L2: Statutory consultation feedback form, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]);
 - c. A copy of the plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route (Appendix L3: Plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]);
 - d. A copy of the landownership plan for the land that their interest is in reference to (**Appendix J3: Template land ownership plan included with Section 42(1)(d) letters, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**);
 - e. The deadline for responses set out as 23:59 on 31 May 2024, providing (providing a period of 43 days from the day after the letters were received);
 - f. Dates of the consultation period;
 - g. The email, freepost address and contact number for the Scheme; and
 - h. A link to the Scheme's website which contained:
 - i. digital copies of the consultation materials listed in paragraph 3.7.18;
 - ii. public consultation event dates, times and locations listed in Table 3-12;
 - iii. dates, times and link to the online webinar event listed in Table 3-13; and
 - iv. details about the location and opening time of document inspection points where documents could be viewed in hard copy listed in Table 3-11.

Approach to Return to Senders and Consultation Extensions

Section 42(1)(a) consultees

3.5.7 Letters issued to the following Section 42(1)(d) consultees were returned to the Applicant. **Table 3-7** below outlines the approach take to re-issuing the letters to correct addresses.

Table 3-6: Reissuing approach to Section 42(1)(a) letters returned to sender

Category	Contact	Reason undelivered	Action taken	Date resent	New address	Consultation deadline
Section 42(a)	OFGEM	No contact / organisation name on the initial posted package	Re-sent with organisation name	19/04/2024	Ofgem 10 South Colonnade Canary Wharf London E14 4PU	31 May 2024
Section 42(a)	Transport Focus	Incorrect address	New address found and resent	19/04/2024	7th Floor Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester M1 2WD	31 May 2024

Section 42(1)(b) consultees

3.5.8 No letters issued to Section 42(1)(b) consultees were returned to the Applicant.

Section 42(1)(d) consultees

3.5.9 Letters issued to the following Section 42(1)(d) consultees were returned. **Table 3-7** below outlines the approach taken to re-issuing the letters to correct addresses.

Table 3-7: Reissuing approach to Section 42(1)(d) letters returned to sender

Category	Contact	Reason undelivered	Action taken	Date resent	New address	Consultation deadline
Section 42(1)(d)	Utility Assets Limited	'Emailed' stamped on RTS	Sent to an alternative address	16/05/2024	5 Brayford Square London E1 0SG	30 June 2024
Section 42(1)(d)	Limen Technologies UK Limited	Moved address	New address found and resent	16/05/2024	260-266 Goswell Road London EC1V 7EB	30 June 2024
Section 42(1)(d)	Stephen James Mason	Address error	Rectified and resent	16/05/2024	Bethel House Moss Road Doncaster DN6 0HN	30 June 2024

Consultation extensions provided

3.5.10 On 3 June 2024, the Applicant was made aware of a resident (section 47 consultee) whose address was unregistered with Royal Mail and did not receive hard copy consultation materials in the post. Following communications exchanges, the Applicant managed to contact the consultee on 28 June 2024 and offered a consultation extension of 28 days from 1 July to 29 July for the consultee to submit a response.

3.6 Section 46 (Notifying the Planning Inspectorate)

- 3.6.1 The Applicant sent a letter to the Secretary of State, via email to the Case Manager at the Planning Inspectorate on 11 April 2024 to provide formal notification of the commencement of the statutory consultation for the Scheme. A copy of this letter is included in **Appendix K1: Section 46 letter to Secretary of State, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- 3.6.2 In accordance with Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), this letter had the following enclosed and therefore treated the Secretary of State as if it was consulting it for the purpose of complying with section 46:
- a. Example copies of covering letters to consultees identified under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (see **Appendix J1: Section 42 (1)(a) and (b) letter, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** for an example);
 - b. A copy of the Section 48 Notice pursuant to Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 (Ref. 3) (**Appendix M1: Copy of Section 48 notice as included in Section 42(1) consultees consultation letters, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**);
 - c. A copy of the consultation brochure (**Appendix L1: Statutory consultation booklet, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) providing a high-level overview of the proposed Scheme, as well as the community consultation that is taking place on the proposed Scheme;
 - d. A copy of the consultation feedback form (**Appendix L2: Statutory consultation feedback form, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**); and
 - e. A copy of the plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route (**Appendix L3: Plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).
- 3.6.3 The letter confirmed that the following documents would be available on the scheme website from 18 April 2024:
- a. Consultation brochure (**Appendix L1: Statutory consultation booklet, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**);
 - b. Consultation feedback form (**Appendix L2: Statutory consultation feedback form, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**);
 - c. PEIR (Ref. 4) accompanied by a NTS (**Appendix L4: PEIR Non-technical summary, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**);
 - d. Plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route (**Appendix L3: Plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**); and
 - e. SoCC (**Appendix H1: Published SoCC, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).
- 3.6.4 The acknowledgement of the Section 46 notification letter received in response from the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 15 April 2024 is included in **Appendix K2: Acknowledgement of Section 46 letter from the Planning Inspectorate, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.

3.7 Section 47 (Local Community Consultation)

Identification of Consultees

- 3.7.1 Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) requires the preparation of “a *statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, those people living in the vicinity of the land*” (a SoCC). Section 3.3 provides details of the production of the SoCC.
- 3.7.2 To define the primary consultation zone, the Applicant used the mailing area set for the non-statutory consultation as a starting point.
- 3.7.3 City of Doncaster Council were consulted on the mailing zone as part of the informal and formal SoCC consultations.
- 3.7.4 The Statutory Consultation Zone was reviewed and updated following non-statutory consultation, to take account of the updated proposals. This has included considering where the Scheme may have a direct or indirect impact during construction or operation (in particular, the potential visibility of the Scheme and impacts on local roads from construction traffic). This resulted in an updated consultation zone consisting of a 2.5 km buffer around the boundary of the Solar PV Site and a 1 km buffer around the Grid Connection Corridor (see **Figure 3-2**). This zone has been further rationalised to account for local roads that will need to be used by construction traffic (which has resulted in the inclusion of some properties in Askern and to avoid splitting streets or villages).
- 3.7.5 The Statutory Consultation Zone is presented in **Figure 3-2** and comprised 3,762 addresses. Although the approach to defining the Statutory Consultation Zone was different to that used at non-statutory consultation, the Statutory Consultation Zone included all of the addresses contacted at the first stage of consultation.
- 3.7.6 The Statutory Consultation Zone was agreed with City of Doncaster Council as part of the informal and formal reviews of the SoCC.

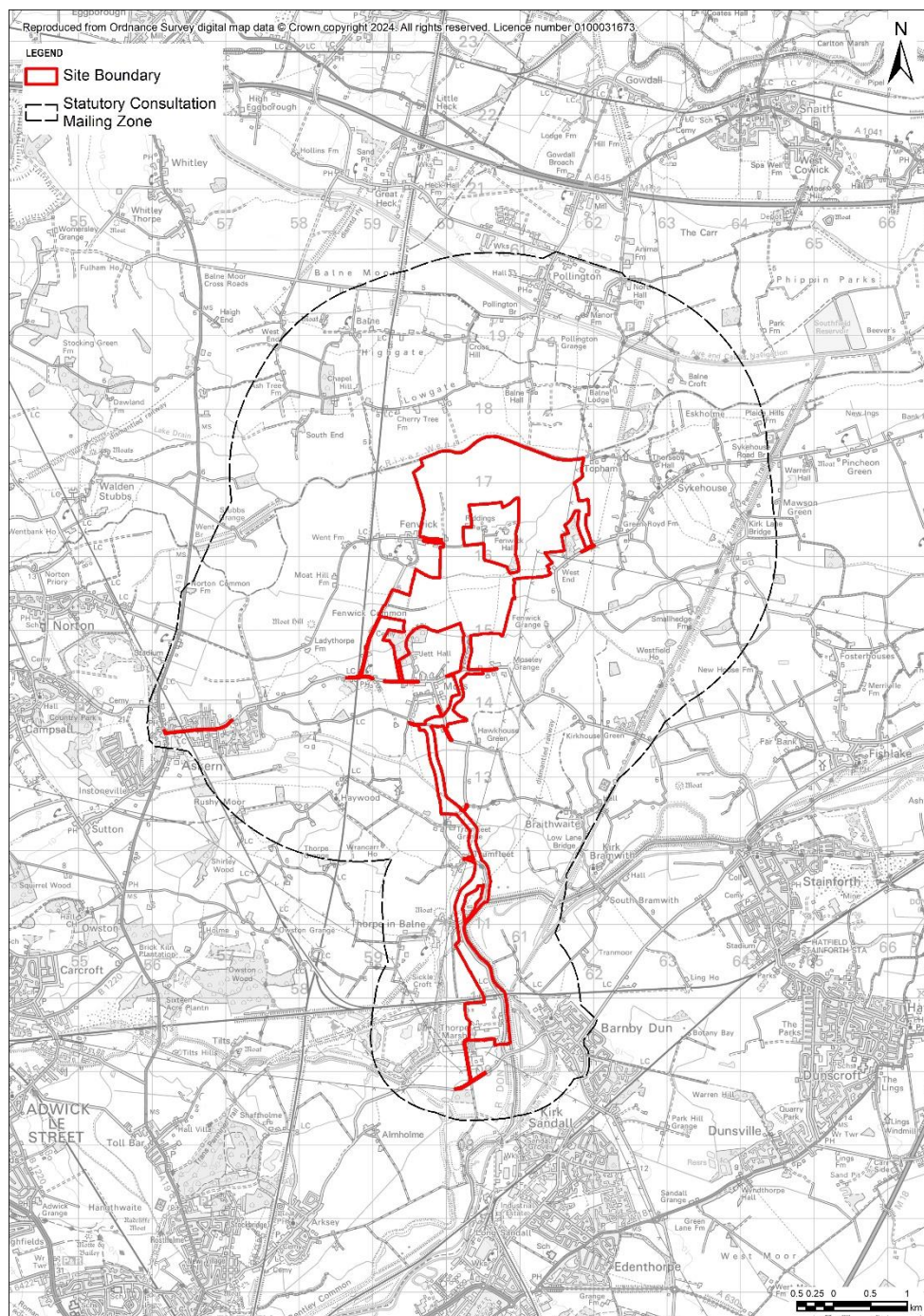


Figure 3-2: Primary consultation zone boundary at statutory consultation

3.7.7 In addition to those people living in the vicinity of the land, the Applicant also sought feedback on the proposals from local business and community groups with an interest in the Scheme. These consultees were identified via desk-based research. They received invitations via email (**Appendix N1: Email to hard to reach groups and non-statutory consultees ahead of the consultation notifying them of the consultation, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) For a list of these consultees, please see **Appendix I2: List of non-prescribed consultees contacted, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**. The publicity to these groups is detailed in paragraph 3.9.2.

Hard to Reach Groups

- 3.7.8 The term “hard-to-reach groups” refers to people who are less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques in comparison to other consultees. They may find it harder to get involved in consultation and need additional support to access materials.
- 3.7.9 The Applicant conducted desktop research from publicly available data to identify hard to reach groups in the vicinity of the Scheme. The Applicant identified 71 organisations representing Hard to Reach groups across the Order limits and wider locality. The Applicant specifically identified groups in across the following categories:
- a. Minority Ethnic groups
 - b. People with disabilities/ mental health conditions/ learning difficulties
 - c. Rural residents
 - d. The elderly
 - e. Young people and young families
 - f. Homelessness
 - g. Travelling community
- 3.7.10 Details of the Hard-to-Rreach groups consulted by the Applicant can be located in **Appendix I2: List of non-prescribed consultees contacted, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- 3.7.11 Prior to the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant contacted City of Doncaster Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire Council for any data they may hold on hard-to-reach groups and individuals in the vicinity of the Scheme. City of Doncaster Council were informally and formally consulted on the draft SoCC, but their responses did not identify any additional hard-to-reach groups.
- 3.7.12 To help establish any additional activities that may be required, the Applicant wrote to identified hard-to-reach groups on Monday 19 February to inform them about the consultation and invite them to advise of any additional support and activities that could be provided at the consultation. No requests were received.
- 3.7.13 The Applicant made the consultation inclusive for hard-to-reach groups by sharing information on the scheme website and by offering to share consultation materials in other formats on request.
- 3.7.14 To ensure that seldom heard or hard-to-reach groups were able to take part in the statutory consultation, materials were prepared in an accessible and clear format.
- 3.7.15 The contact telephone number and email address for the Scheme was displayed in a prominent location on all published material, enabling individuals to contact the scheme with questions and requests.
- 3.7.16 Where possible, events were held at venues that were accessible and could be reached by public as well as private transport. The SoCC requested that anyone with specific additional requirements in relation to the consultation events should contact the scheme team using the contact details outlined in paragraph 3.11.1. An excerpt from the letter is copied below:

We want to make sure that taking part in the consultation is as easy as possible. Ahead of the consultation, please let us know if you or your members would benefit from any additional methods or activities to take part in the consultation. You can get in touch with us via the email or telephone details below. We will consider all requests on a case-by-case basis.

Statutory Consultation Materials

- 3.7.17 To support the delivery of the consultation, the Applicant produced a variety of materials to explain the proposals and publicise the consultation. These set out the methods via which people could respond and included the date by which responses needed to be provided.
- 3.7.18 The materials below were made available on the Applicant's web page and were also available to view in hard copy at a number of Document Inspection Points (listed in **Table 3-11**) and at consultation events:
- a. Statutory consultation brochure – explaining the Scheme the Applicant was consulting on (**Appendix L1: Statutory consultation booklet, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**);
 - b. Consultation feedback form – containing the specific questions on which the Applicant was seeking feedback (**Appendix L2: Statutory consultation feedback form, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**). The feedback form was also available to complete online at the scheme webpage;
 - c. Plans of the proposed solar farm and grid connection and on-site cable routes showing the land within which all the required construction and permanent infrastructure will be located (**Appendix L3: Plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**);
 - d. SoCC – setting out how and when the Applicant planned to consult with people living in the vicinity of the land and other stakeholders (**Appendix H1: Published SoCC, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**);
 - e. PEIR (Ref. 4)– detailing the results of environmental surveys to date, and providing the preliminary assessment of the potential impacts of the solar farm and how the Applicant proposes to avoid or reduce these effects; and
 - f. Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR – providing a summary of the environmental assessment findings (**Appendix L4: PEIR Non-technical summary, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).
- 3.7.19 To ensure the consultation was accessible to as many people as possible, the Applicant offered materials in large print and alternative formats. No requests for alternative formats were received.
- 3.7.20 The Applicant offered printed copies of materials and USBs containing copies of the statutory consultation materials which were available for free on request and available at document inspection points.
- 3.7.21 The Applicant's website was designed to be accessible in line with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG2.0) (Ref. 13).
- 3.7.22 Details of the statutory consultation launch, as well as the dates and addresses of the consultation events, were published on the Applicant's website. The information included contact information and a general BOOM

Power contact form separate from the Fenwick Solar Farm statutory consultation feedback form (which was only available during the statutory consultation). To enable people to access the range of consultation materials, the documents listed in paragraph 3.7.18 were available to download via the Scheme web pages throughout the consultation period and remain there at the time of writing.

3.8 Section 48 (Newspaper Notices)

- 3.8.1 Section 48(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) requires the Applicant to publish a notice of the proposed DCO application in accordance with Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations (as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020) (Ref. 8).
- 3.8.2 The requirement for the Section 48 notice is for it to appear for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the Scheme; once in a national newspaper; and once in The London Gazette.
- 3.8.3 The Section 48 notice included information on the proposed Scheme; the consultation documents that were made available to view; where they could be inspected including the Scheme website; and the charge for hard copies of documents. Information on the consultation launch, dates and addresses of the upcoming consultation events were also provided.
- 3.8.4 The Applicant complied with the guidance in relation to Regulation 4(3) of the APFP regulations (2009) (Ref. 2), as per **Table 3-8** below.

Table 3-8: Requirement of Regulation 4(3) of the APFP regulations (2009) (Ref. 2) and complied with by the Applicant

Requirement	Text contained in Section 48 notice
The matters which the notice must include are— (a) the name and address of the applicant;	Fenwick Solar Project Limited (company number 13705886) of Unit 5E, Park Farm, Chichester Road, Arundel, BN18 0AG
(b) a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Commission;	proposes to make an application (“the Application”) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008
(c) a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;	The Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref. 3). As a result, the Applicant is required to carry out an EIA and submit and publish an Environmental Statement (ES) as part of the Application containing a detailed description of the Scheme and information about its likely significant effects on the environment.

Requirement	Text contained in Section 48 notice
(d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development;	The Scheme, located entirely within City of Doncaster Council's administrative area, will principally consist of the elements listed below. The construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating station, to generate electricity with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), making it a nationally significant infrastructure project, located within the "Solar PV Site" east of Fenwick, near the town of Askern, the villages of Moss and Sykehouse and the hamlet of Topham. The northern edge of the Solar PV Site borders the River Went.
(e) a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development are available for inspection free of charge on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Applicant, including the address of the website; the place on the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected; and a telephone number which can be used to contact the Applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps	From Thursday 18 April 2024 to at least 11.59pm on Friday 31 May 2024 , all consultation materials including documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Scheme will be available for inspection free of charge on the Applicant's website, https://www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/ . The consultation materials are within the Statutory consultation section of the website during the consultation period. For further information about this notice, the consultation materials (including the documents, plans and maps), the consultation or the Scheme more generally, please contact the Applicant using one of these contact methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email: Fenwick.Enquiries@boom-power.co.uk• Write: FREEPOST Fenwick Solar Farm• Telephone: 01964 782219 between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday
(f) the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection on the website	From Thursday 18 April 2024 to at least 11.59pm on Friday 31 May 2024 , all consultation materials including documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Scheme will be available for inspection free of charge on the Applicant's website, https://www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/ . The consultation materials are within the Statutory consultation section of the website during the consultation period.
(g) whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;	Hard copy consultation materials, or copies of the consultation materials on USB sticks will be made available on request by contacting the Applicant via the details in the "Feedback" section of this notice. Requests will be

Requirement	Text contained in Section 48 notice
	considered on a case-by-case basis, and the complete set of consultation materials can be made available in hard copy format on request at a cost of £3,000.
(h) details of how to respond to the publicity; and	Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this consultation. Responses must be received by 11.59pm on 31 May 2024 . Responses received after this time may not be considered. All responses must be made in writing by: Completing the online feedback form located within the Statutory consultation section on the Scheme website: https://www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/ Attending a consultation event and completing a paper copy feedback form Obtaining a paper copy of the consultation feedback form at one of our document inspection venues or by requesting one using the contact details in this notice, which can be returned via FREEPOST Fenwick Solar Farm Alternatively, feedback in a letter or email format can be sent to us by: Emailing: Fenwick.Enquiries@BOOM-power.co.uk Writing to us: FREEPOST Fenwick Solar Farm
(i) a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published.	Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this consultation. Responses must be received by 11.59pm on 31 May 2024 .
3.8.5 Instructions and the deadline for responding to the consultation were provided, alongside the different communication channels available to contact the Scheme. The deadline was more than 28 days following the date of the last publication of the notice.	
3.8.6 Copies of the Section 48 notice as it appeared in the various newspapers can be found in Appendix M2: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Guardian 11.04.2024; Appendix M3: Copy of Section 48 notice - The London Gazette 11.04.2024; Appendix M4: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Doncaster Free Press 11.04.2024; Appendix M5: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Doncaster Free Press 18.04.2024; Appendix M6: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Goole Times 11.04.2024; Appendix M7: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Goole Times 18.04.2024, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2].	

Table 3-9: Publication of Section 48 notice in newspapers.

Name	Date
London Gazette	10 April
The Guardian	11 April
Doncaster Free Press	11 April & 18 April
Goole Times	11 April & 18 April

3.9 Publicity

Consultation Mailing Zone

- 3.9.1 Addresses falling within the consultation mailing zone received a consultation brochure (**Appendix L1: Statutory consultation booklet, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) and feedback form (**Appendix L2: Statutory consultation feedback form, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) issued on Monday 15 April 2024.

Emails to Non-statutory Organisations

- 3.9.2 Non-statutory organisations were sent a notification via email on Wednesday 17 April 2024. Non-statutory consultees who were specifically contacted included local business and community groups and a range of organisations which represent seldom heard or hard-to-reach groups who were identified through working with the host local authority as having an interest in the Scheme (see **Appendix N1: Email to hard to reach groups and non-statutory consultees ahead of the consultation notifying them of the consultation, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** for the notification that was sent to these stakeholders and **Appendix I2: List of non-prescribed consultees contacted, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** for a list of non-statutory consultees).

Scheme Website

- 3.9.3 The Scheme website hosted copies of the consultation materials detailed in paragraph 3.7.18, signposted stakeholders to details of the consultation events and the Applicant’s contact details.
- 3.9.4 The webpage contained a link to the online feedback form which replicated the hard copy feedback form in **Appendix L2: Statutory consultation feedback form, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**, allowing people to share their views on the Scheme online.

Social Media

- 3.9.5 Social media content was shared on the Scheme’s X (formerly known as Twitter) page (@Fenwick_Solar) and the LinkedIn account “Fenwick Solar Farm” in advance of, and during, the statutory consultation to raise awareness of the events, and to generate interest around the Scheme. Social media content included posts regarding the proposals, the consultation event schedule, how feedback could be left, and links to the Scheme website. An example post can be found in **Figure 3-3**.



Figure 3-3: Example social media post posted to the Applicant's X (formerly known as Twitter) social media account

Press

3.9.6 The Applicant issued a press release to the following media outlets but did not receive coverage from them: Doncaster Free Press; Doncaster Echo; Thorne Times; The Star; The Yorkshire Post; Yorkshire Live; ReNews; Solarmagazine.com; Solardaily.com; rechargenews.com; Solar Power Portal; Renewables Now; and Energy Storage Report.

Table 3-10: Media outlets who received press release and coverage provided

Media outlet	Format
Renews.Biz	Online coverage
InfraBe	Online coverage

3.10 Statutory Consultation Activity

Document Inspection Venues

3.10.1 Printed copies of the consultation materials listed in paragraph 3.7.18, with the exception of the PEIR, were available at the following locations throughout the statutory consultation period at the venues and times listed below in **Table 3-11**. Opening times were accurate at the time of the consultation brochure being published. During the statutory consultation there were no deviations of the opening times of the document inspection venues.

3.10.2 The Applicant also made USBs available at the document inspection points which contained all of the consultation materials (including the PEIR).

3.10.3 The Applicant contacted each deposit location regularly to enquire as to whether the venues were running low on copies of the consultation materials. The Applicant replenished the consultation materials whenever this was required, through regular liaison with the deposit location point contacts. None of the document inspection venues ran out of consultation materials throughout the consultation.

Table 3-11: Opening hours of document inspection venues for statutory consultation

Document inspection venue	Opening hours
Askern Community Library	Monday – Saturday: 10am – 1pm
Edenthorpe Community Library	Monday: 2pm - 5pm. Wednesday: 9.30am - 12.30pm Friday: 2pm. - 5pm. Saturday: 10a.m. - 12p.m.
Snaith Library	Tuesday: 2pm – 6pm. Thursday: 10am – 4pm. Saturday: 10am – 12pm
Thorne Library	Monday - Friday: 8.40am - 1pm and 1.30 - 5pm. Saturday: 8.40 - 1pm
The Baxter Arms, Fenwick	Monday – Wednesday: 4–11 pm. Thursday – Sunday: 12–11 pm
The Old George Inn, Sykehouse	Daily: 9:30 – Late (approx. 10pm)

Public Consultation Events

3.10.4 The Applicant hosted three in-person public events during the course of the statutory consultation at the venues listed in **Table 3-12**. Staff were available at all events to explain the Scheme and answer any questions from members of the public.

3.10.5 In total, 74 people attended across the events as set out in **Table 3-12**.

Table 3-12: In person statutory public consultation events

Date and Time	Venue	Attendees
26 April: 2pm to 7pm	Alexander House (Askern Town Hall)	8
27 April: 10am to 3pm	Moss & Fenwick Village Hall	47
29 April: 2pm to 7pm	Sykehouse Village Hall	19
Total		74

3.10.6 The locations for the consultation events were identified to make it as easy as possible for those likely to be affected or interested in the Scheme to attend. Venues were identified in each of the main communities in the vicinity of the Scheme.

- 3.10.7 Moss & Fenwick Village Hall had been used successfully during the previous non-statutory consultation and was selected again for the statutory consultation exhibition events. All venues were checked to ensure they were fully accessible and at each location a building risk assessment was carried out. The locations of all of the events were consulted upon and agreed with City of Doncaster Council as part of the drafting of the SoCC.
- 3.10.8 At these public exhibition events the Applicant presented the consultation materials (Appendix L1: Statutory consultation booklet; Appendix L2: Statutory consultation feedback form; Appendix L3: Plans of the proposed solar farm and cable route Appendix L4: PEIR Non-technical summary, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] and the PEIR (Ref. 4), including exhibition boards (Appendix L5: Consultation event boards, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]) which illustrated details of the proposals and large plans of the Scheme.
- 3.10.9 A consultation response station was in place at the events to allow people to fill out the consultation feedback form manually, or virtually via a tablet while they were at the event.
- 3.10.10 Hard copies of the consultation feedback form were made available for attendees to take away and return in their own time via Royal Mail Freepost Address (Fenwick Solar Farm).
- 3.10.11 Care was taken by the scheme team to ensure those in attendance at the public exhibition events from the scheme had sufficient knowledge of all Scheme aspects and technical disciplines.

Online Webinars

- 3.10.12 In order to make the consultation as accessible as possible to those unable to attend events in person, the Applicant hosted one online webinar via the scheme website. **Table 3-13** lists the timings and attendee numbers for these events. A total of **15 people** joined the webinar.

Table 3-13: Details of online webinar event.

Date and time	How to join	Attendees
8 May 2024	Visitors joined on the scheme webpage and click on the webinar link.	15

3.11 Feedback Mechanisms

- 3.11.1 From the start of the statutory consultation period on 18 April 2024 to the end of the consultation period at 23:59 on 31 May 2024, people were able to provide feedback on the Scheme in the following ways:
- by completing and handing in the response form available at public consultation events or returning them by post using the Freepost address: "Fenwick Solar Farm";
 - by completing and submitting the online response form available via the Scheme web pages;
 - by downloading the response form available via the Scheme web pages, completing it and sending a digital copy via email to the Scheme email address (Fenwick.Enquiries@BOOM-Power.co.uk) or posting a printed copy to the Freepost address provided; and

- d. by submitting free form responses to the Scheme email address (Fenwick.Enquiries@BOOM-Power.co.uk) or in writing to the Freepost address “Fenwick Solar Farm”.
- 3.11.2 Information on how to provide responses was included in the Section 47 (**Appendix M8: Copy of Section 47 notice - The Doncaster Free Press 04.04.2024; Appendix M9: Copy of Section 47 notice - The Goole Times 04.04.2024, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) and Section 48 notices (**Appendix M2: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Guardian 11.04.2024; Appendix M3: Copy of Section 48 notice - The London Gazette 11.04.2024; Appendix M4: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Doncaster Free Press 11.04.2024; Appendix M6: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Goole Times 11.04.2024; Appendix M7: Copy of Section 48 notice - The Goole Times 18.04.2024, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**), the consultation brochure (**Appendix L1: Statutory consultation booklet, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**), the Applicant’s website and the Section 42 letters sent to statutory and prescribed consultees (**Appendix J1: Section 42 (1)(a) and (b) letter; and Appendix J2: Section 42 (1)(d) letter, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**).

3.12 How the Applicant Responded to General Scheme Enquiries During Statutory Consultation

- 3.12.1 The Scheme email address enabled people with any comments or questions on the Scheme to contact the scheme team directly.
- 3.12.2 The Scheme freepost address remained available until after the statutory consultation which closed on 23:59 on 31 May 2024.
- 3.12.3 All enquiries were logged into a database for recording and monitoring response timeframes. As they were received, enquiries were categorised as either queries, which included any questions relating to the proposals, or as statements, which were used as feedback for the Scheme. The target time for responses to correspondence was ten working days. For any responses that required technical input, a holding response was issued, and the full response was issued as soon as practicably possible once the technical information had been gathered.
- 3.12.4 The scheme phone number was also in operation from the start of the non-statutory consultation and remained available during the statutory consultation and through to the submission of the DCO application. People were able to call 01964 782 219 Monday–Friday between 9–5pm to speak to a person who took down details of the enquiry. A voicemail system was available outside these days and times for people to leave a message at any time.
- 3.12.5 During the statutory consultation period, all email correspondence which included a query was dealt with by the Applicant through the scheme inbox. An automated acknowledgement email thanked the stakeholder for their email, confirmed receipt of the feedback and outlined how it would be taken into consideration in the Consultation Report, if it was a consultation response. It also assured the recipient that, if their email contained specific questions, they would receive a reply in due course. Upon receipt, emails were reviewed to establish whether each was a response to the consultation,

a request for information to enable the consultee to respond, or a piece of routine correspondence. Consultation responses were judged to be such if they contained a reference to the consultation, expressed an opinion on the Scheme or read as feedback on the proposals. Enquiries which required a response typically asked direct questions about the Scheme and requested a response from the Applicant. Email enquiries and routine communications were responded to within ten working days.

- 3.12.6 Following the consultation finishing, the automated acknowledgement email was replaced with a new message stating that the statutory consultation had finished, that all feedback had been logged, and that the Consultation Report would be published before the end of the year. The message also assured the stakeholder that if their email contained specific queries or was regarding another matter, they would receive a response in due course.

4. Consultation Responses

4.1 Structure of this Chapter

- 4.1.1 This chapter provides an overview of the responses received during the statutory consultation in 2024 and sets out the methodology the Applicant has used to analyse them. This also includes an explanation of:
- The classification of the respondents; and
 - The process for how changes proposed in the feedback have been considered.
- 4.1.2 This chapter also provides a statistical breakdown of responses received to closed questions, followed by a summary of the key comments arising.
- 4.1.3 **Appendix O: Tables evidencing regard had to statutory consultation responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** notes the type of consultee that raised the matter and their name where appropriate, where they requested a change to the Scheme, and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1)).
- 4.1.4 The chapter ends with an overview of changes to the Scheme following the statutory consultation (see **Table 4-3**).

4.2 Overview

- 4.2.1 The Applicant has considered a consultation response to be any written communication received during the statutory consultation period through the advised channels of email; post; or submitted via the response form (either online or through hard copies completed at these consultation events). Consultation responses were judged to be such if they contained a reference to the consultation, expressed an opinion on the Scheme or read as feedback on the proposals.
- 4.2.2 The Applicant received 105 responses to the statutory consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1). These responses varied in length and detail; some were very technical, whilst others were brief (for example, simply expressing support for or an objection to the proposals).
- 4.2.3 Respondents were identified by consultee strand as part of the analysis process. The consultee strand refers to the section of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) pursuant to which they were consulted, either Section 42 (explained in section 3.4 of this report), Section 46 (explained in section 3.6) Section 47 (explained in section 3.7) or in response to the Section 48 publicity (explained in section 3.8).
- 4.2.4 In line with the requirements of Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), the Applicant has had regard to all relevant responses. Due to the multiple points raised across the responses, the Applicant has undertaken analysis in accordance with the approach outlined in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Fourteen (Ref. 6) which states:

"If the level of response was significant it may be appropriate to group responses under headline issues. Care must be taken to ensure that in doing this the responses are not presented in a misleading way or out

of context from the original views of the consultee. An explanation of the process by which consultation responses were grouped and organised (coded) is helpful, including any safeguards and cross checking that took place to ensure that the responses were grouped appropriately.”

- 4.2.5 The Applicant has analysed all statutory consultation responses it received by splitting each response into a number of constituent comments and associating these with a theme to allow them to be categorised and responded to. The application of themes allowed similar comments to be grouped by each theme/topic area. This approach was taken to summarise the findings systematically and coherently.
- 4.2.6 The statutory consultation due regard responses (**Appendix O: Tables evidencing regard had to statutory consultation responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) lists comments raised by Section 42 consultees verbatim and identifies consultees by name where appropriate. The statutory consultation due regard responses are comprised of four separate documents, one for each consultee strand:
- a. Section 42(1)(a)
 - b. Section 42(1)(b)
 - c. Section 42(1)(d)
 - d. Section 47
- 4.2.7 **Table 4-3** in section 4.7 provides a summary of design changes that occurred following the statutory consultation, taking into consideration the feedback received.

4.3 Feedback analysis methodology and recording

Structure of the questionnaire

- 4.3.1 The response form grouped the questions into the following sections “About you”, “Our proposal” and “Mitigations, enhancements and community benefit”.
- About you**
- 4.3.2 Under the “About you” section, the response form (found in **Appendix L2: Statutory consultation feedback form, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) invited consultees to respond to the following questions about the Scheme. It also asked a number of optional questions about respondents.
- 4.3.3 An opening question asked respondents to provide the following details in free text boxes:
- a. Title;
 - b. Name;
 - c. Address;
 - d. Postcode;
 - e. Email; and
 - f. Telephone number.

- 4.3.4 Question 1 asked respondents “What is your interest in the Scheme?” Respondents could choose any of the following answers:
- a. Local resident;
 - b. Local elected representatives;
 - c. Local business owner;
 - d. Landowner;
 - e. Regular visitor to the area;
 - f. Interested in solar power/renewable energy;
 - g. Statutory organisation representative;
 - h. Local interest group; or
 - i. Other (please specify). If respondents chose this option, they were able to elaborate on their answer using a free text box.
- 4.3.5 Question 2 Part 1 asked respondents “Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group and if so, please share the name of the organisation or group?”. Respondents could choose from the following answers:
- a. Yes; or
 - b. No.
- 4.3.6 Question 2 Part 2 provided a free text box where the respondent could add the name of the group or organisation.
- 4.3.7 Question 3 asked respondents “Are you happy for us to contact you about your response if required?” Respondents could choose from the following answers:
- a. Yes; or
 - b. No.

Our Proposal

- 4.3.8 Question 4 Part 1 asked respondents “Do you agree with the layout in our proposed masterplan for Fenwick Solar Farm?”. Respondents were able to choose the following options:
- a. Strongly agree;
 - b. Agree;
 - c. Neither agree or disagree;
 - d. Disagree; or
 - e. Strongly disagree.
- 4.3.9 Question 4 Part 2 asked respondents “Please provide any further comments and suggestions you may have on the masterplan.” Respondents were provided with a free text box to elaborate on their answer from Question 5 Part 1.
- 4.3.10 Question 5 asked respondents “We are proposing to connect to the National Grid substation at Thorpe Marsh via an underground cable and have presented a Grid Connection Corridor. Please provide any further comments

and suggestions you may have on the cable route.” Respondents were provided with a free text box to respond to the question.

Mitigations, enhancements and community benefit.

4.3.11 The section entitled “Mitigations, enhancements and community benefit” opened with the following introductory text:

“We are committed to mitigating the environmental impact of the scheme and have updated our proposals to include mitigations and enhancements across Fenwick Solar Farm. Our environmental assessment work to date is detailed in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which is available as part of this consultation.

We also summarise these findings, as well as the steps we’re taking to mitigate impacts on local communities, in our consultation brochure pages 40-43.”

4.3.12 Question 6 asked respondents “Do you have any comments on the information presented in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report? Please specify any environmental topic areas you are commenting on.” Respondents were provided with a free text box to respond to the question.

4.3.13 Question 7 asked respondents “Community benefit fund: As part of this scheme, we are exploring the use of a community benefit fund, and we intend to work with organisations that will use the fund to support projects that will benefit the local community. We would like to understand what causes are important to you. Please indicate which causes you feel the benefit fund should support. (Please tick as many boxes as needed). Respondents were able to choose the following options:

- a. Environment;
- b. Education;
- c. Wildlife;
- d. Combating climate change;
- e. Community healthcare; and
- f. Other (please specify).
- i. If respondents chose this option, they were able to elaborate on their answer using a free text box.

4.3.14 Question 8 asked respondents “Further comments: Please share any further comments you have on Fenwick Solar Farm.” This question provided respondents with a free text box to write their answer in.

4.3.15 Question 9 asked respondents “Have you attended any of our consultation events?” Respondents were able to choose the following options:

- a. Yes; or
- b. No.

4.3.16 Question 10 asked respondents “How did you find out about our consultation?” This question provided respondents with a free text box to write their answer in.

4.3.17 Question 11 asked respondents “How informative did you find our consultation materials?” Respondents were able to choose the following options:

- a. Very informative;
- b. Quite informative;
- c. Not informative; or
- d. Did not use.

Analysis Methodology

- 4.3.18 In addition to the response form, written freeform consultation responses were also received and accepted.
- 4.3.19 All consultation responses, regardless of which consultee strand they were from or the format they were received in, were analysed in the same way.
- 4.3.20 All responses were logged within a consultation database, their consultee strand identified, and the consultee given a unique contact ID for identification purposes.
- 4.3.21 An online survey system was used to enable response forms to be completed and captured electronically, then uploaded into the consultation database. Any responses received in paper copy or via email were manually inputted into the consultation database.
- 4.3.22 Once uploaded into the database, a process of coding began. Each response was read and dissected into individual, relevant comments. Each comment was assigned a theme.
- 4.3.23 This iterative process of categorising comments into discrete codes based on relevant themes enabled repeated comments to be grouped under an umbrella summary and accurate analysis to commence. These themes were driven by discipline area.
- 4.3.24 The themes are split into sub-themes to provide further detail on their sentiment and specific comments. The themes and sub-themes can be located in **Table 4-2** in section 4.6.
- 4.3.25 Appendix O1: S Section 42(1)(a) Table showing due regard to Statutory Consultation feedback; Appendix O2: Section 42(1)(b) Table showing due regard to Statutory Consultation feedback; and Appendix O3: Section 42(1)(d) Table showing due regard to Statutory Consultation feedback, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] provides Section 42(1)(a), (aa) (b) and (d) consultee comments verbatim, organised by the themes detailed at paragraph 4.3.23 and identifies who raised each of these comments by consultee strand.
- 4.3.26 Comments from Section 47 consultees are reported in summary within Appendix O4: Table showing due regard to Statutory Consultation feedback, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2] with similar comments pooled together - however all issues have been detailed and responded to. As per Advice Note Fourteen (Ref. 6) these have been checked to ensure that they are reflective of the comments raised, and checks were undertaken throughout the process.

- 4.3.27 Statutory consultees and organisations are named in **Appendix O: Tables evidencing regard had to statutory consultation responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** to provide clarity on which consultees raised specific matters. The identities of private individuals (Section 42(1)(d) land interests and Section 47 consultees) are not included in **Appendix O: Tables evidencing regard had to statutory consultation responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** for data protection purposes; land interests have been assigned a unique code. Similarly, responses have been anonymised where necessary to protect personal information (in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation implemented in England via the Data Protection Act 2018 (Ref. 15).
- 4.3.28 This review and analysis process also meant that comments identified as requesting specific changes to the Scheme were highlighted for review. Regular reviews were undertaken to review comments which specifically requested changes to the Scheme. These were shared with the relevant technical teams for their consideration and logged. Where a request for a change has resulted in a change to the Scheme this has been marked as such within **Appendix O: Tables evidencing regard had to statutory consultation responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.3.29 Section 4.7 provides a summary of all the changes that were made as a result of taking into consideration feedback received from the statutory consultation.
- 4.3.30 As discussed earlier in this report, Advice Note Fourteen (Ref. 6) groups consultees into the following categories:
- a. Section 42(1)(a) – prescribed consultees;
 - b. Section 42(1)(b) – relevant local authorities (those within whose boundaries the Scheme falls or bordering authorities);
 - c. Section 42(1)(d) – persons with an interest in land (those with interests in land affected by the Scheme or entitled to make a relevant claim);
 - d. Section 47 – the local community; and
 - e. Section 48 – responses to statutory publicity.
- 4.3.31 In line with this advice and as referenced in the preceding sections of this report, the Applicant categorised each respondent within the strands detailed above.
- 4.3.32 The response form for the consultation asked people to provide their address, or at least their postcode, to help identify their consultee strand and to understand the reach of the consultation. However, the classification of consultees has been superseded by additional checks for identifying information within the content of the response, for example, checking their postcode against the Order limits to determine whether they would be classified as a Section 42(1)(d) consultee. Additionally, the form asked whether responses were being submitted on behalf of an organisation, business, or campaign group. It should be noted that the responses to these

questions did not result in the comments being weighted or given any more priority than others.

4.3.33 Section 42 responses have been identified by the following methods:

- a. Respondent provided information, for example the organisation name, allowing cross reference with the statutory consultee Section 42(1)(a) and local authority Section 42(1)(b) lists;
- b. Respondent identified themselves as an affected land interest on the response form; and
- c. Respondent provided full address details and/or postcode which were cross referenced against the Section 42(1)(d) list.

4.3.34 Where the Applicant could not positively identify a respondent to the statutory consultation as being a Section 42 consultee, they were identified as a Section 47 consultee.

4.3.35 Although Section 48 notices (**Appendix M1: Copy of Section 48 notice as included in Section 42(1) consultees consultation letters, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**) were sent to all Section 42 consultees and published in newspapers, no respondent stated they were replying in response to the Section 48 notice.

4.3.36 Detailed written responses were received from a number of respondents and were processed in the same way as response forms as per the methodology outlined in paragraphs 4.3.18 - 4.3.24.

4.4 Responses received

4.4.1 105 responses were received during the statutory consultation period between 18 April to 31 May 2024. As of 11 July 2024, the Applicant did not receive any late consultation responses in addition to those received during the consultation period.

By feedback method

4.4.2 In total 105 responses were received to the statutory consultation in the following formats:

- a. Responses via the response form (online) – 44;
- b. Responses via the response form (hard copy) – 6;
- c. Responses via scanned response forms submitted by email -23;
- d. Freeform responses received via email – 32; and
- e. Freeform responses received via post – 0.

By consultee type

4.4.3 **Table 4-1** provides a breakdown of the responses received under each consultee strand of the statutory consultation as described in section 3.4.1. In total, 30 responses were received from Section 42 consultees (of all categories) and 75 responses from Section 47 consultees. No respondents stated they were replying in response to the Section 48 notice (**Appendix M1: Copy of Section 48 notice as included in Section 42(1) consultees**

consultation letters, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]).

4.4.4 Where consultees fall into more than one consultee strand, they have only been counted once in **Table 4-1**. For the purposes of this table only, where consultees fall into more than one consultee strand, the numbers have been reported against the first strand they fall into.

Table 4-1: Responses received by consultee strand

Consultee strand	Strand reference	Number of responses to the statutory consultation
Prescribed consultees	Section 42(1)(a)	20
Local authorities	Section 42(1)(b)	4
Land interests	Section 42(1)(d)	6
Local community	Section 47	75
Total		105

4.5 Quantitative responses to response form

4.5.1 This section provides a summary of the quantitative data provided by those who responded using the consultation response form (comprising hard copy or online submissions) which totals 73. The vast majority of those who provided feedback via the response form were members of the public/local community (classified as Section 47 consultees). A copy of the response form is in **Appendix L2: Statutory consultation feedback form, Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** and the results which follow are in the same order of the questions as they appeared.

4.5.2 Question 1 asked respondents to state their interest in the Scheme. Respondents were able to tick more than one category for this question. 71 respondents using the response form answered the question. Two respondents who completed a form did not answer the question. Where respondents selected other and specified this this has been back coded and included in the analysis below.

4.5.3 As shown in **Figure 4-1**, 82% of respondents (58) stated they were local residents, 17% of respondents (12) stated they were landowners, 7% of respondents (5) stated they were responding as a local business owner, 7% of respondents (5) stated they were interested in solar power/renewable energy and 6% of respondents (4) stated they were a regular visitor to the area, 4% of respondents (3) stated they were a local interested group. The remaining categories comprised of 1% (1) respondent each:

- a. Locally elected representative;
- b. Statutory organisation representative,
- c. "Other" interest in the Scheme - Footpath Protection Society;
- d. "Other" interest - Local Council;
- e. "Other" interest in the Scheme - Moss and District Parish Council;

- f. "Other" interest in the Scheme - Footpaths; and
- g. "Other" interest in the Scheme - Walker/hiker in the area.

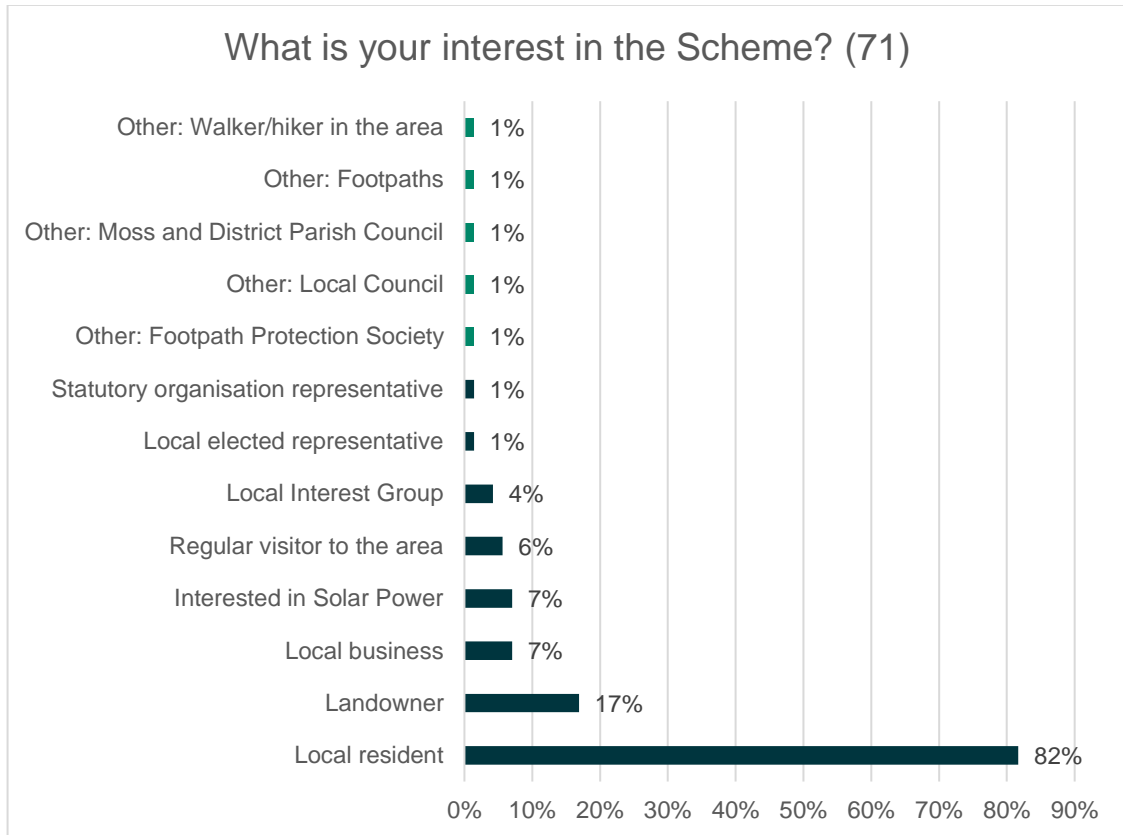


Figure 4-1: Respondents interest in the Scheme

- 4.5.4 Question 2 Part 1 asked respondents whether they were responding on behalf of an organisation. All 73 respondents using the response form answered the question.
- 4.5.5 As shown in **Figure 4-2**, 90% of respondents (66) stated they were not responding on behalf of an organisation or group and 10% of respondents (7) stated they were responding on behalf of an organisation or a group.

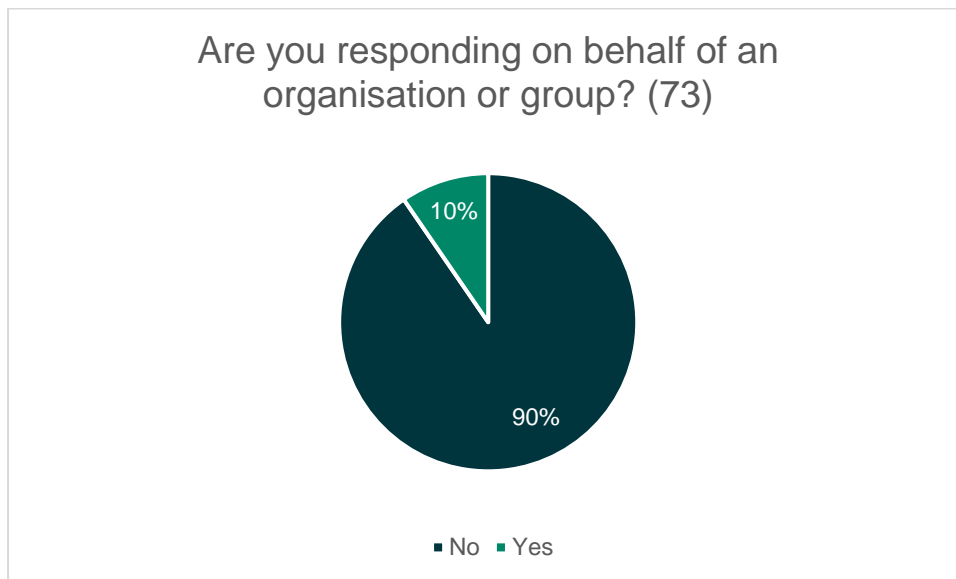


Figure 4-2: Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group?

4.5.6 Question 3 asked respondents whether they were happy to be contacted about their response if required. 71 respondents using the response form answered the question. 2 respondents who completed a form did not answer the question.

4.5.7 As shown in **Figure 4-3**, 70% of respondents (50) stated they would be happy to be contacted about their response and 30% of respondents (21) stated they were not happy to be contacted about their response.

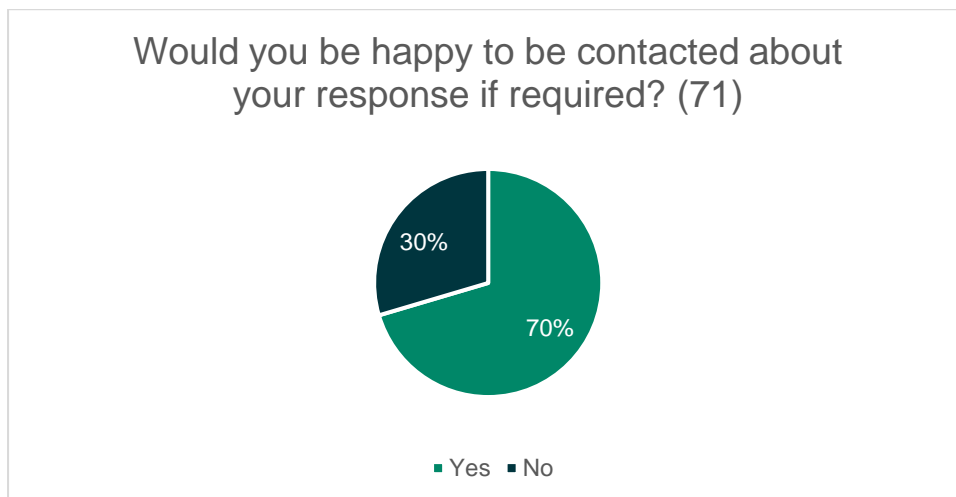


Figure 4-3: Would you be happy to be contacted about your response if required?

4.5.8 Question 4 Part 1 asked respondents whether they agreed with the layout in the proposed masterplan for Fenwick Solar Farm. 71 respondents using the response form answered the question. 2 respondents who completed a form did not answer the question.

4.5.9 As shown in **Figure 4-4**, 52% of respondents (37) stated they strongly disagreed with the proposed masterplan for Fenwick Solar Farm, 17% of respondents (12) stated they neither agreed or disagreed, 14% of

respondents (10) stated they strongly agreed, 10% of respondents (7) stated they agreed and 7% of respondents (5) stated they disagreed.

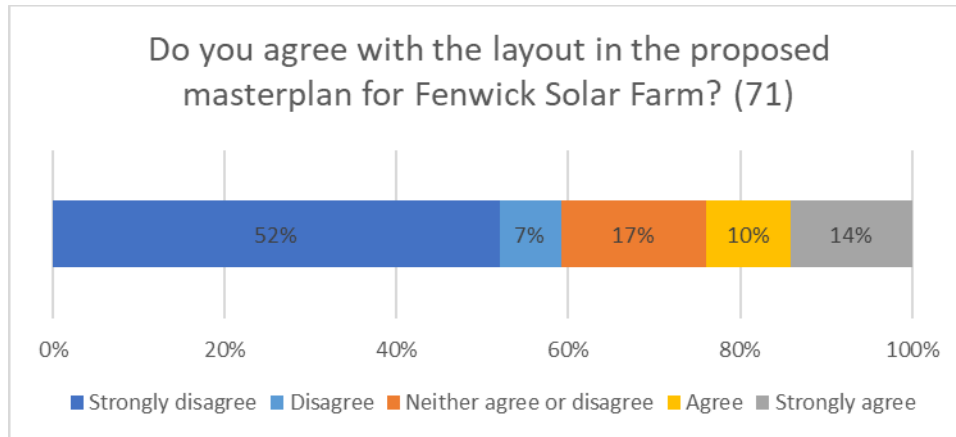


Figure 4-4: Do you agree with the layout in our proposed masterplan for Fenwick Solar Farm?

4.5.10 Question 7 asked respondents which causes they felt the community benefit fund (explained in the feedback form) should support. 56 respondents using the response form answered the question. 17 respondents who completed a form did not answer the question.

4.5.11 As shown in **Figure 4-5**, 52% of respondents (29) stated they felt wildlife causes should be supported, 50% of respondents (28) stated they felt environment causes should be supported, 32% of respondents (18) stated they felt other causes should be supported 23% of respondents (13) stated they felt educational causes should be supported, 20% of respondents (11) stated they felt community healthcare causes should be supported, and 14% of respondents (8) stated they felt causes to combat climate change should be supported. Other responses included: youth causes; allowing decision to be made by the community; assistance for those on low income or who are disabled to receive support in paying bills; improvement of footpaths and other local amenities; support for local groups such as Sykehouse cricket club and the Burnet Heritage Trust.

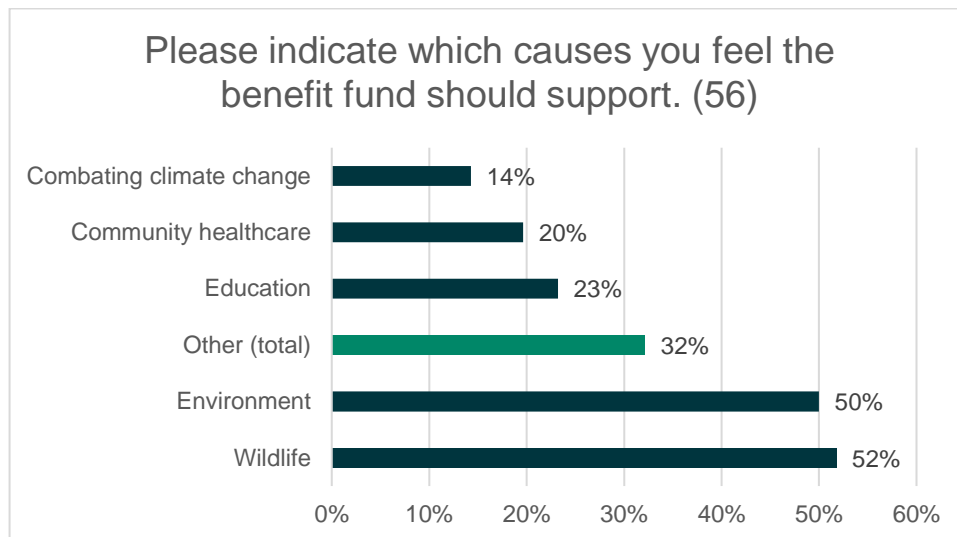


Figure 4-5: Please indicate which causes you feel the benefit fund should support.

4.5.12 Question 9 asked respondents whether they had attended any of the consultation events. 72 respondents using the response form answered the question. 1 respondent who completed a form did not answer the question.

4.5.13 As shown in **Figure 4-6**, 58% of respondents (42) stated they had attended a consultation event, 40% of respondents (29) stated they had not attended a consultation event and 1% of respondents (1) stated “No comment”

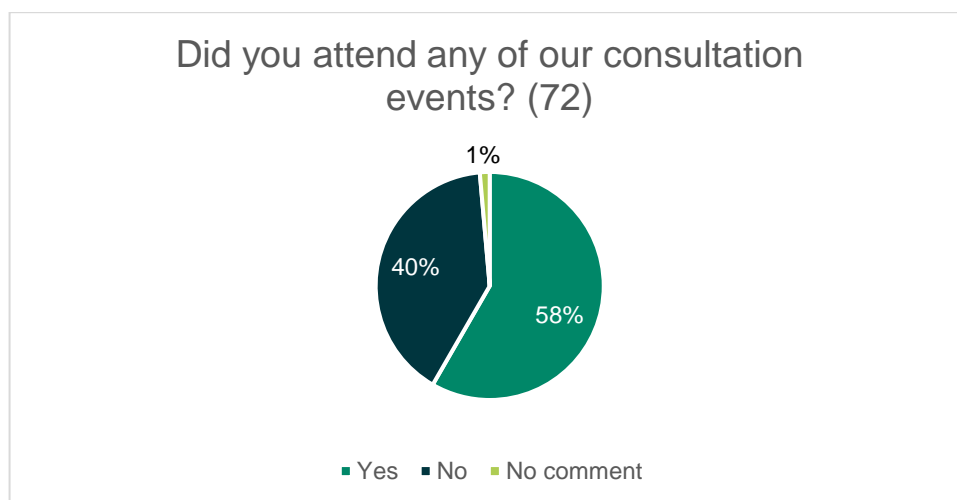


Figure 4-6: Did you attend any of our consultation events?

4.5.14 Question 11 asked respondents how informative they found the consultation materials. 63 respondents using the response form answered the question. 10 respondents who completed a form did not answer the question or provide a response.

4.5.15 As shown in **Figure 4-7**, 38% of respondents (24) found the materials quite informative, 35% of respondents (22) stated they found the materials very informative, 21% of respondents (13) stated they found the materials not informative, 6% of respondents (4) provided another response, 3% of respondents (2) stated they did not use the materials.

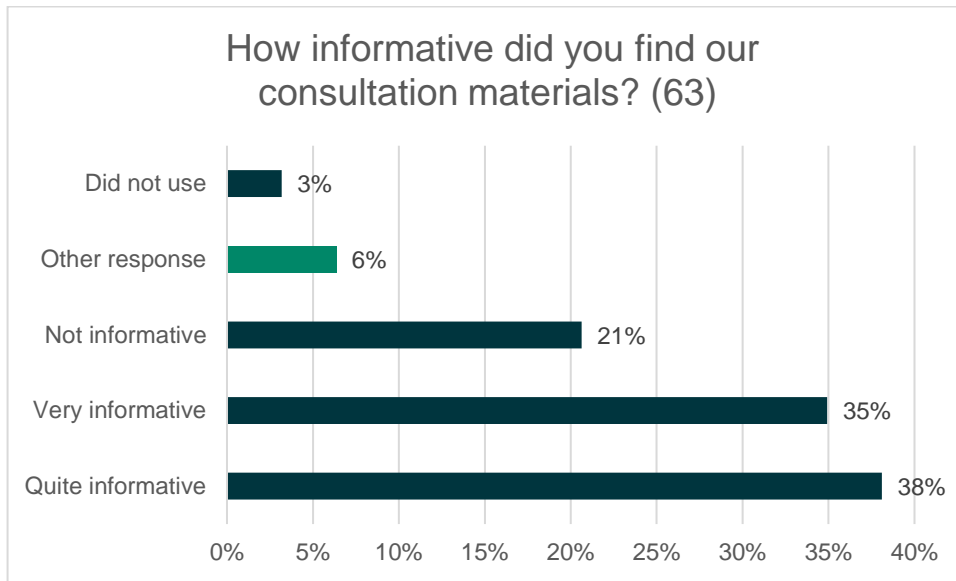


Figure 4-7: How informative did you find our consultation materials?

4.6 Summary of issues raised

- 4.6.1 As outlined in paragraph 4.3.22, responses were organised by themes, with similar responses pooled together. These comments were received both by freeform email and feedback form, and are therefore not broken down by feedback form question. The Applicant has provided a summary of the comments received in **Table 4-2**.
- 4.6.2 **Appendix O: Tables evidencing regard had to statutory consultation responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]** provides the Applicant’s responses to the issues raised by consultees and demonstrates the due regard had to them.

Table 4-2: Summary of issues raised at statutory consultation

Issues

Air Quality

Air pollution as a result of construction traffic

Community Benefit

Community benefit will not compensate for the damage done to the landscape or environment

Construction Impact

Concern about length of construction period being longer than suggested

Concern regarding 7am to 7pm construction workday

Concerned about safety impacts at primary school / primary school children (Askern)

Employees should be made aware of sustainable transport routes to site (inc. TransPennine Trail and National Cycle Network)

Issues

Consultation

Criticism of information gaps / not enough information in consultation materials

The Applicant should take local insights / knowledge / concerns into account

Consultation feedback will not have material impact on design/ pre-determined outcomes of consultation

Insufficient notice of consultation and consultation events

Consultation materials are biased or misleading / questions are loaded

Design

Too much land take required across Project

Solar Panels should be installed on industrial sites / roofs

Site location is unsuitable for the area (general)

Suggests moving the Scheme to Thorpe Marsh

Grid Connection Corridor to Thorpe Marsh is too large/ requires too much land take

Project should link with / use existing infrastructure

Ecology & Biodiversity

Construction/operation will have negative impact on important wildlife areas

Concern regarding impact on loss of habitats

Insufficient desk study conducted regarding impact on bird habitats

Impact on endangered bird species

Negative impact on newt population - mitigation required

Damage local wildlife area (River Went)

Economic

Profit is clear driver for solar PV site /corridor locations / other factors (people, environment, wildlife) should be given equal or more weight in decisions-making

Project is a waste of taxpayer money

Environment

The scheme will damage / destroy the environment

Negative impact on green belt

General / Other

General support for the project

General opposition to the project

Issues

The Scheme is not required

Health, Safety & Security

Construction impacts on food security

Concern regarding health, safety and environmental risks of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Impacts on health of local residents

Impact on livestock/grazing animals and their land

Landowner

Impacts to individual property

Landscape & Visual

Concern regarding urbanisation

Negative impact on the local landscape and views

Visual impacts should be mitigated / screening should be used / natural screening should be used

Noise & Vibration

Disruption to quiet village, communities and countryside

Concern regarding impact of construction noise and vibration on local community

Concern regarding impact of operational noise and vibration

Operational impacts

Concern regarding ongoing impact of regular maintenance/operational impacts of the site

Concern regarding permanent increase of HGV movements through Askern during operation

Concern that verbal assurances regarding existing project operations provided by project staff are insufficient/not being maintained

Socio-economic

Concern regarding impact on good quality (Best and Most Versatile (**BMV**)) agricultural land

Land should be used for farming

Poses operational challenges for farming / degradation of farmland

Impact on UK food security / Reduction in amount of agricultural land

Devaluation of property / Difficult to sell property

Compensation for nearby homeowners

Issues

Concern about blight

Proximity to local property / nearby residents

No benefit for local residents

Impact of construction on local services/amenities

Landowners will benefit financially at the local area and residents' expense

Sustainability

Project is not green/Project does not improve environment/Project is not sustainable

Support for Net Zero aspect/Appreciate need to incorporate green energy and renewable technologies into the energy system

Opposed to the use of solar power / opposed to the construction of infrastructure that caters for and facilitates solar power

Support for long-term proposal aspect of the development

Alternative suggestions provided to meet UK sustainability targets / alternative green energy and carbon reduction methods

Traffic

Increased traffic and construction traffic will cause damage to poor quality roads (small, single-track lanes, paths and bridges etc.) / improvements required to local roads and paths

Construction traffic will have a negative impact on local roads

Closure of local roads during construction

Concern regarding HGV traffic through Moss Rd / Askern / A19

Concern regarding rail crossing closures and impacts on construction traffic

Walkers, Cyclists & Horse riders

Due consideration should be given to the intersection points with Trans Pennine Trail / PRow and opportunities taken to increase access for all members of the public.

Damage/obstruction of footpaths

Heavy traffic will cause safety concerns for walkers / cyclists / riders

Impact on PRow (Visual/Noise/Closure)

Water/Flood Risk/Drainage

Site is positioned in a flood zone/area prone to flooding

Solar PV Site is positioned in a flood zone/area prone to flooding (River Went)

Grid Connection Corridor is positioned in a flood zone/area prone to flooding

Issues

Further flood risk mitigation is needed / mitigation should be a priority

4.7 Changes proposed to the Scheme as a result of consultation/ specific requests made and how these have been considered

4.7.1 A number of specific design change requests were made as part of feedback to the statutory consultation. The Applicant has considered each of these and, where the change has not been taken forward, the reason for this is explained below. The suggestions made from consultation responses and the changes made are outlined in **Table 4-3**.

Table 4-3: Changes made to the Scheme as a result of statutory consultation

Request	Accepted/ rejected	Applicant's response
Several responses suggested that fields SE6 and SE7 would be better used as mitigation areas.	Not progressed	This mitigation has been reviewed and it has been concluded that appropriate mitigation has been identified for the Scheme through surveys and assessments within the Environmental Statement [EN010152/APP/6.1] . The creation of wetlands within SE6 and SE7 was considered by the Applicant, but based on field surveys undertaken by the Applicant, topography and presence of existing boundary features consisting of mature hedgerow/tree lines, it was decided that the River Went corridor was a more suitable location for wetland creation/enhancement.
A number of respondents requested that the construction access to fields SE6 and SE7 off West Lane is removed due to the proximity of the railway bridge towards Sykehouse.	Not progressed	During construction the access route for all HGVs will be via Moss Road and the town of Askern to the west of the Solar PV Site. Passenger vehicles will enter via both Fenwick Common Lane / Haggs Lane and Moss Lane and will exit via Moss Road only. Any access from West Lane would be due to exceptional circumstance and would not use HGVs.
Yorkshire and Humber Drainage Boards requested that directional drilling was used to cross any of its maintained watercourses.	Partially accepted	The Applicant has undertaken further survey work on affected watercourses to understand the appropriate crossing technique. It is anticipated that not all crossings will require directional drilling but this will be used as required. The Applicant has carried out further

Request	Accepted/ rejected	Applicant's response
		<p>engagement with the respondent to discuss how crossing will be managed and agreement was reached as long as crossing techniques do not impact watercourse maintenance.</p>
<p>Two respondents suggested use of an alternative route from the A19 junction, using an unmade road to connect to the junction of Clough Lane and Fenwick Lane. This would avoid construction traffic travelling through Askern and the use of the level crossing to the west of Moss, which can cause delays at junction of Fenwick Common Lane and Moss Lane when under maintenance.</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>The Applicant has considered the alternative suggested and it would not be suitable due to the extensive improvement works and additional construction that would be needed to the suggested unmade road for use by construction vehicles. However, the Applicant has sought to reduce impacts on the junction near the level crossing by adopting a one-way route on Fenwick Common Lane, meaning construction vehicles will not use the junction of Fenwick Common Lane and Moss Lane to leave the site.</p> <p>Construction traffic was assessed within ES Volume 1 Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010152/APP/6.1] and found to not have a significant effect on the factors assessed, which include potential for delay, severance of communities and road user and passenger safety.</p>
<p>A respondent requested that Trumfleet Lane was not used as it is not suitable for construction traffic.</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>HGVs will not use Trumfleet Lane, but it will be required for smaller vehicles (tractor and trailer). This use will be temporary, during construction only and has been assessed to be suitable for the types of vehicle the Applicant will require.</p>
<p>The British Horse Society asked that the proposed diversion of the footpath Sykehouse 29 be upgraded to a bridleway as part of the plans.</p> <p>The British Horse Society suggested several additional routes that should be made formal Public Rights of Way, due to the impact on existing PRow.</p>	<p>Not progressed</p>	<p>As set out in the consultation materials, the Applicant intends to make a permanent diversion to Sykehouse 29. This diversion was assessed in ES Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio-economics [EN010152/APP/6.1] and any effects from this diversion were found to be negligible.</p> <p>The Applicant is aware that City of Doncaster Council has received an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order to upgrade public</p>

Request	Accepted/ rejected	Applicant's response
		<p>footpath numbers 29 (Sykehouse) and 12 (Fenwick) to bridleways. The Applicant does not wish to pre-determine the outcome of the application (which could take up to two years to determine) and, therefore, the Applicant will install the diversion to an equivalent standard to the existing Public Right of Way, i.e. a footpath.</p> <p>The only other affected Public Right of Way is Fenwick 16, which will be a temporary impact during construction. This route will not be diverted, but pedestrian traffic will be separated from construction traffic using temporary barriers.</p>
<p>The British Horse Society requested noise mitigation through soundproofing on inverter housing.</p>	<p>Not progressed</p>	<p>Noise impacts from equipment, including inverters, have been assessed as set out in ES Volume 1 Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration [EN010152/APP/6.1]. Noise from inverters is not considered to be a significant effect and is likely to be less than ambient noise levels.</p>
<p>A respondent requested that all consideration for London Lane to be removed.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>London Lane was not within the order limits presented at statutory consultation and the Applicant has no plans to use this road.</p>
<p>The Burnet Heritage Trust requested that all additional areas of scrub and tree planting should be located outside of the areas regularly flooded by the River Went, preferably where the land begins to flatten at the top of the bank.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Scrub and tree planting along the northern boundary of the Solar PV Site has been moved to the top of the bank, adjacent to the fence line boundary.</p>
<p>The Burnet Heritage Trust requested the designing of earthworks to create large permanent pools in the River Went floodplain, shallow scrapes in the north-eastern area and a shallow berm (to be planted with scrub) to</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>The Applicant has considered opportunities to create habitat for wetland birds throughout the Scheme and has incorporated a series of permanent pools along the River Went corridor on the northern edge of the Order Limits. Details of these are provided in, and shown on the Landscape Masterplan in, Appendix</p>

Request	Accepted/ rejected	Applicant's response
<p>assist noise attenuation and winter screening. Should new pools be created, a bird hide with permissive access was requested.</p>		<p>10.8 (Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) Volume III of the Environmental Statement [EN010152/APP/6.3].</p>
<p>The Burnet Heritage Trust requested anti-predator fencing around high-biodiversity areas.</p>	<p>Not progressed</p>	<p>This mitigation has been reviewed and is not considered necessary - appropriate mitigation has been identified through surveys and assessments within ES Volume 1 Chapter 8: Ecology [EN010152/APP/6.1].</p>
<p>The Environment Agency requested the erection of exclusion fencing at terrestrial edge of buffer strips (River Went and Fleet Drain) due to the potential damage as a result of sheep grazing within riparian buffer zones.</p>	<p>Not required</p>	<p>While the Scheme's Order limits run along the river, the fenceline is set back from the river and the space by the river is allocated for mitigation. Sheep grazing will be confined to within the fenced Solar PV site and there will be no sheep between the fence and the river.</p>
<p>The Environment Agency requested that any infrastructure should be sited outside the 10m riparian buffer, and open trenches should be covered overnight to avoid entrapment of terrestrial species.</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>A 10-metre buffer has been committed to by the project. Trenches will not be covered but as is standard for projects of this nature, means of escape (such as exit ramps) will be included to avoid entrapment. This would be secured through the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP), a framework of which is available as Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010152/APP/7.7].</p>
<p>A respondent requested amending a section of fence line in field SE3.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>This proposed section of fencing has been moved in line with the requested change.</p>
<p>A respondent requested that the BESS is moved to Thorpe Marsh so that it is further away from residential properties.</p>	<p>Not progressed</p>	<p>Thorpe Marsh would not be a suitable location for the BESS area as it is within flood zone 3. In addition, locating the BESS area in close proximity to the Solar PV panels reduces the impacts of a large additional cable connection. The Applicant considers that the current site – more than 500 metres from residential properties – is appropriate.</p>

Request

**Accepted/
rejected**

Applicant's response

The operation of the BESS will be subject to the Battery Safety Management Plan. **A Framework Battery Safety Management Plan [EN010152/APP/7.15]** is included in the application documents.

5. Engagement Following Statutory Consultation

5.1 Meetings held with key stakeholders

5.1.1 After the completion of the statutory consultation on 31 May 2024, the Applicant continued to engage with elected and technical stakeholders to inform the Scheme’s design and approach to the EIA. **Table 5-1** provides a summary of engagement with various stakeholders following the end of the statutory consultation.

Table 5-1: Ongoing engagement via meetings with stakeholders following statutory consultation

Stakeholders	Dates	Engagement methods	Scheme elements discussed
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	06/06/2024	Site meeting	On-site meeting to monitor trial trenching being undertaken across solar PV site
City of Doncaster Council	04/07/2024	Teams meeting	The Applicant presented the proposed access locations for both the solar park and associated grid connection corridor with the aim to agree those locations and highways design parameters. This will then provide design certainty for preparing the DCO deliverables and assist in developing a future Statement of Common Ground.
Danvm IDB	19/07/2024 and 04/09/2024	Teams meeting	Meeting held to update the IDB on the proposed crossing strategy for board-maintained watercourses and agree on the PRow and traffic management proposals at Higgs Lane in order to allow for maintenance of Fenwick Lane Drain (East) (URN AAA892) by the IDB.
Archaeological Advisor South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	13/08/2024	Teams meeting	Meeting to discuss the Grid Connection Corridor and requirement for archaeological surveys. SYAS confirmed that a geophysical survey would be required within the Grid Connection Corridor in the first instance. The results of the

Stakeholders	Dates	Engagement methods	Scheme elements discussed
Archaeological Advisor South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	20/08/2024	Teams meeting	geophysical survey will inform the requirement for any further archaeological surveys and mitigation requirements, the scope of which would be set out in the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy.
Conservation Officer for City of Doncaster Council Archaeological Advisor South Yorkshire Archaeology Service Planning Officer for City of Doncaster Council	04/09/2024	Teams meeting	Meeting to provide an update on the status of the trial trenching, proposed mitigation strategies discussed at the previous meeting (held on 20.08.2024), and updated impact assessment on built heritage assets. Identified impacts on built heritage assets were confirmed to be the same as those identified at PEIR stage, and that the mitigation proposed at PEIR stage to reduce effects on designated heritage assets at Fenwick Hall and Riddings Farm had been retained in the Scheme design. Three new non-designated built heritage assets had been added to the assessment as a result of desk-based research and site walkovers, and it was confirmed that the assessment of the effects of the Scheme through change to the setting

Stakeholders	Dates	Engagement methods	Scheme elements discussed
			<p>of these assets was considered to be not significant.</p> <p>It was also confirmed that the interaction between the proposed Scheme and the consented demolition of the Grade II listed Lily Hall Farmhouse at Riddings Farm would be considered as a cumulative impact. AECOM confirmed that this was considered to result in a moderate adverse significant cumulative effect and that no mitigation could be proposed as part of the proposed Scheme as the effect of the demolition of the building alone is considered to be significant.</p>
Environment Agency	05/09/2024	Teams meeting	Meeting held to present flood risk modelling results and proposed mitigation measures.
Ed Miliband MP and members of Fenwick Solar Farm Action Group	13/09/2024	Site meeting	Meeting in Fenwick with constituency MP and members of the local community group to discuss the proposals and updates since statutory consultation.
Archaeological Advisor South Yorkshire Archaeology Service	18/09/2024	Teams meeting	Meeting to discuss interim results of trial trench evaluation within Solar PV Site and agree potential mitigation requirements.
Danvm IDB	19/07/2024 and 04/09/2024	Teams meeting	Meeting held to update the IDB on the proposed crossing strategy for board-maintained watercourses and agree on the PRow and traffic management proposals at Hags Lane in order to allow for maintenance of Fenwick Lane Drain (East) (URN AAA892) by the IDB.

Stakeholders	Dates	Engagement methods	Scheme elements discussed
City of Doncaster Council	08/2024	Teams meeting	Meeting to discuss potential permanent diversions to Moss 6 and Fenwick 14. Feedback was received from City of Doncaster Council on all proposed PRow diversions, and this feedback has been incorporated into Scheme design and proposed PRow mitigation measures.
Burnet Heritage Trust	18 October 2024	Teams meeting	Update meeting to provide progress towards application and to discuss what documents would be published alongside the application.

6. Targeted consultation

6.1 July 2024

- 6.1.1 As part of design refinements carried out following the Statutory Consultation one area was identified that required an extension to the red line boundary within the same parcel of land of an existing landowner. This change required a small amount of additional land to accommodate visibility splays (a traffic safety measure) to support construction vehicles using the construction access off Moss Road to the south-west of the landowner's land. The change involved moving the site boundary approximately 2 metres further north, requiring a total additional land take of approximately 70m².
- 6.1.2 There were no new or materially different environmental effects associated with this additional land. The relevant landowner had also been consulted at the statutory consultation with regards to land already included within the Scheme boundary.
- 6.1.3 The Applicant consulted the relevant landowner regarding the additional land required. A letter was sent to the landowner on 30 July 2024, outlining how feedback could be provided (via email or freepost) and providing a deadline for response by 30 August 2024 – in excess of the minimum 28 day period required.
- 6.1.4 No other land interests were identified with regards to this additional land.
- 6.1.5 No response was received to the targeted consultation.

6.2 September 2024

- 6.2.1 As a result of ongoing diligent inquiry in the Scheme area, the Applicant identified two landowners and an agricultural tenant with interests in the Order limits consulted on at statutory consultation who had not been consulted at the statutory consultation.
- 6.2.2 The Applicant wrote to the newly identified landowners/occupier on 6 September 2024, with the same information provided to landowners at the launch statutory consultation, including a Consultation Brochure, feedback form, plan of the proposed Solar PV Site and Grid Connection Corridor and a plan of the relevant land interest.
- 6.2.3 The Applicant advised the landowners how they could take part in the consultation and provided a deadline of 8 October 2024 – in excess of the minimum 28 day period required.
- 6.2.4 No response was received to the targeted consultation.

6.3 Further changes

- 6.3.1 The Applicant did not make any other changes following statutory consultation that increased the Order limits or introduced new environmental effects, and therefore no other targeted consultation was considered necessary.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Compliance With Advice and Governance

- 7.1.1 The Applicant held a non-statutory consultation from 27 June 2023 and 24 July 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 since the non-statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 2.
- 7.1.2 The Applicant carried out comprehensive pre-application statutory consultation on the Scheme between 18 April 2024 to 11:59pm on 31 May 2024. The statutory consultation process met the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3),) and the APFP Regulations (2009) (Ref. 2), and has followed relevant advice and guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate and UK Government, as set out in the compliance checklist at **Appendix A: Compliance checklist (supplementing Section 55 checklist), Consultation Report Appendices [EN010152/APP/5.2]**.
- 7.1.3 For the pre-application statutory consultation, the Applicant prepared a draft SoCC which set out how it proposed to consult people living in the vicinity of the Scheme about the proposed application in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) and regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref. 3). In accordance with Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1), the Applicant consulted the following local authorities on the contents of the draft SoCC: City of Doncaster Council pursuant to Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) (for more information see, section 3.3).
- 7.1.4 The Applicant had regard to the comments made by the local authority and published the finalised SoCC on 4 April 2024. The pre-application statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the commitments set out in the SoCC, and in compliance with Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) and the APFP Regulations (2009) (Ref. 2) from 18 April to 11:59pm on 31 May 2024 as set out in Chapter 3.
- 7.1.5 The Applicant received 105 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 4. The Applicant has complied with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) by demonstrating in Chapter 4 of this report that it has had regard to all of the statutory consultation responses received and the comments raised within them.

7.2 Summary

- 7.2.1 In conclusion, the Applicant has fully met the statutory consultation requirements of the pre-application process. This report describes the phased consultation process undertaken by the Applicant in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 (Ref. 1) and the SoCC issued for the statutory consultation stage.

- 7.2.2 A wide range of stakeholders have been engaged. They have influenced the evolution of the Scheme throughout its development, including via non-statutory consultation in 2023, and statutory consultation in 2024.
- 7.2.3 Non-statutory and statutory consultations served as the primary means of gaining feedback on the proposals. The summary of these activities is set out in **Table 1-1** of this report. Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has had regard to the responses received and this is demonstrated in the development of the Scheme through the pre-application stage.
- 7.2.4 A summary of the changes made to the Scheme as a result of the statutory consultation is set out in Chapter 4, summarised in **Table 4-2**.
- 7.2.5 As demonstrated through the number and types of comments summarised in this report, consultation has proven effective in securing valuable feedback which has informed the Scheme proposals submitted for development consent.
- 7.2.6 This report has been prepared in accordance with MHCLG guidance (Ref. 5) and relevant Advice Notes 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.

8. References

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