



Frodsham Solar

Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Guidance: Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

March 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Overview

- 1.1. This early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document has been prepared by Cubico Sustainable Investments ('the Applicant') in preparation for the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Frodsham Solar ('the Project').
- 1.2. In the first half of 2024, the Government introduced new guidance relevant to the application for a DCO:
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects¹ ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024); and
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus² ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024).
- 1.3. In setting out the requirements and expectations for the preparation of an application for a DCO, both the updated Guidance and the Prospectus introduced an early adequacy of consultation milestone (AoCM).
- 1.4. The Applicant understands this to be aimed at providing it with an opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a document setting out the consultation undertaken during the pre-application phase, how this aligned with the approaches set out in a Statement of Consultation (SoCC), and how responses to consultation are being considered in the preparation of the DCO application for the Project.
- 1.5. The Guidance and the Prospectus indicate that the early AoCM milestone should involve a written statement prepared by the Applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This is to give early consideration of the adequacy of

¹ Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>)

² Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>)

consultation undertaken by the Applicant, prior to the acceptance stage of a DCO application.

- 1.6. The Guidance states: “This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.
- 1.7. “The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.”
- 1.8. The Applicant notes that that, due to the timing of the Guidance and the Prospectus coming into effect relative to the programme for the Project, this AoCM document is being submitted within three months of the intended DCO application submission date. While this period of time is less than suggested within the Guidance, the Applicant stills considers it useful to prepare and submit this document prior to submission, particularly given the characteristics of the Project and the extensive engagement the Applicant has been undertaking.

Seeking the views of local authorities

- 1.9. The Applicant issued a draft of this early AoCM document with the host local authority for the Project for any comments on 17 February 2025. This authority is Cheshire West and Chester Council ('CwaCC').
- 1.10. CWaCC responded to the draft AoCM on 03 March 2025. The letter sent by CWaCC to the Applicant with comments regarding the AoCM is included within Appendix 1 of this document.
- 1.11. CwaCC commented that they generally have no concerns with regards to the adequacy of consultation for the Project.
- 1.12. CWaCC stated that they are “yet to see the details of consultation responses provided to the Applicant and cannot yet comment in terms of how the Applicant has

had regard to the relevant responses to publicity and consultation as required by Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008. However, it does appear from the amendments made to date and other comments, that the Applicant is having due regard.”

- 1.13. CWaCC reserved the right to comment on how the Applicant has had regard to the relevant responses to publicity and consultation as required by Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 once they have sight of the Applicant’s DCO submission.
- 1.14. This version of the AoCM has been recirculated to CWaCC prior to sending the document to PINS for publication.

2. PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Overview

- 2.1. The Applicant has consulted and engaged iteratively throughout the pre-application phase of the Project and in preparation of the DCO application for the Project. This has included defined non-statutory and statutory periods of consultation, alongside ongoing engagement.
- 2.2. The Applicant undertook statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements set by the Planning Act 2008 (the ‘2008 Act’).
- 2.3. In accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on the Project ahead of submission of the Application to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:
- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a));
 - Local authorities (in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and as set out in Section 43(1);
 - Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and as set out in Section 44);
 - Community and other organisations in the “vicinity” of the Project who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Project (in accordance with Section 47); and
 - Wider communities and organisations (through local, national and regional newspaper notice publication) in order to seek their comments on the Project proposals (in accordance with Section 48).

2.4. A list of bodies that received Section 42 communications, excluding those with an interest in the land as set out in Section 44, is provided in Appendix 4 of this document.

Stages of consultation undertaken

2.5. The key stages of pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant are set out in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Pre-application consultation and engagement activities undertaken

Date	Activity Undertaken
Q2 2023	<p>Project introduction and ongoing engagement and consultation with local authorities, and political stakeholders.</p> <p>Prior to the start of Phase One consultation in Q2 2023, the Applicant commenced early engagement with consultees including Cheshire and West Chester Council, Halton Borough Council and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. This engagement was organised to introduce the Scheme and discuss intention to consult on Statement of Community Consultation, and engagement with these bodies has been ongoing throughout the pre-application period.</p> <p>The Applicant also commenced engagement with locally elected members and representatives including ward and parish councillors and Members of Parliament (MPs) through briefing meetings. For example, the Applicant introduced the proposals to parish councils and elected ward members by hosting an online webinar the day before public launch of the project on 24th May 2023.</p>
April - May 2023	<p>Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with local authorities under Section 47 of the 2008 Act</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with the Section 43(1) local authorities on the draft SoCC between 05 April and 05 May 2023. At this time, both CWaCC and Halton Borough Council were consulted, as part of the project boundary was hosted within the administrative boundary for Halton Borough Council.</p>
25 May 2023	<p>Project public launch and publication of SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act</p> <p>On 25th May 2023, the Project was launched publicly with the launch of the dedicated project website.</p> <p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act on the same day, which took account of the comments received from the LPAs. The Section 47 Notice was also published, with the notice placed in the Chester Standard and Chester Chronicle.</p>
30 May 2023	<p>Scoping Report submitted</p> <p>The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 30 May 2023. Through this report, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate that it intended to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Scheme pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
01 June – 13 July 2023	<p>Phase One Consultation</p> <p>The Applicant held a seven-week community consultation on early-stage proposals for the Scheme.</p>

Date	Activity Undertaken
	<p>The consultation period was initially scheduled for six weeks. This was communicated via a consultation postcard that was sent to the Core Consultation Zone of over 11,000 addresses, as well as an email notification to key stakeholders.</p> <p>During this time the Applicant held five in-person information events and an online webinar.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing a community consultation postcard to over 11,000 local homes and business; • Advertising the events across local media; • Publishing Notices in the Chester Standard and the Chester Chronicle on 25th May 2023 • Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display; • Providing details of the events on the Scheme website; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.
10 July 2023	<p>Scoping Opinion and receipt of Regulation 11(1)(b) list.</p> <p>A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 10 July 2023 and included the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
Autumn 2023 – Summer 2024	<p>Engagement between consultation regarding project design</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken ongoing engagement with CwaCC, Statutory stakeholders, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England, Canal and Rivers Trust and National Highways. Engagement has also been undertaken with interest groups such as the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB.</p>
August 2024	<p>Phase One Consultation Summary Report</p> <p>The Applicant published a Phase One Consultation Summary Report to summarise the feedback received during the Phase One consultation and how this feedback was being used to inform the Scheme.</p> <p>The Phase One Consultation Summary Report was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed to Community Access Points in the local area, consistent with the locations stated within the SoCC. • Shared by email with stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed; and • Uploaded to the Scheme website.
31 October 2024	<p>Publication of SoCC Addendum and 2nd Section 47 Notice</p> <p>Prior to the publication of the PEIR and the commencement of the Phase Two community consultation, given the time since the Phase One Consultation, the Applicant published an Addendum to the Statement of Community Consultation and a 2nd Section 47 Notice. This addendum set out the details of the upcoming Phase Two consultation, consistent with the principles established in the published SoCC.</p> <p>On 15 October 2024, Cheshire West and Chester Council, and Halton Borough Council were invited to comment on the SoCC Addendum. Cheshire West and Chester Council commented that the Weaver Vale has been updated to Runcorn & Helsby following the update to parliamentary constituencies, which was updated</p>

Date	Activity Undertaken
	within the SoCC addendum. Halton Borough Council did not provide feedback on the approach set out within the SoCC addendum.
05 November 2024	<p>Notification to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 46 of the 2008 Act</p> <p>The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the 2008 Act on 05 November 2024 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 07 November 2024 and closing on 19 December 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a covering letter; • example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being for prescribed consultees and the other one to landowners); • A site plan showing the location of the Scheme; and • A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).
07 November 2024	<p>Publication of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (and Non-Technical Summary)</p> <p>The Applicant published a PEIR on 07 November 2024 to be consulted on as part of the statutory Section 42 (including section 44), 47 and 48 consultation with prescribed consultees, land interests, and the community (Phase Two consultation), requesting responses by 19 December 2024 (providing a 43-day consultation response period) discussed in the next row.</p> <p>Section 42 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of statutory consultation on or before 07 November by written letter and/or email, depending on the availability of contact details to the Applicant and if confirmation had been received from recipients that electronic communications could be the sole means of communication. The deadline for responding to the Section 42 consultation was 19 December 2024 (therefore exceeding the 28-day requirement).</p> <p>The consultation documents provided to Section 42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials; • A site plan showing the location of the Scheme; and • A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge). <p>The PEIR and PEIR Non-technical Summary (NTS) were made available to the community as part of the Phase Two Section 47 consultation via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheme website; • In hard copy form at the community information events • On request by USB or printed (with the latter at a cost of up to £500) <p>Details of how to access the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Scheme website; • the community consultation leaflet; and • the Section 48 notice.
07 November 2024 – 19 December 2024	<p>Phase Two community consultation (statutory)</p> <p>The Applicant held an over six-week community consultation on more detailed proposals for the Scheme, including the PEIR in accordance with the SoCC.</p>

Date	Activity Undertaken
	<p>During Phase Two consultation the Applicant held five in-person information events and one online webinar.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly distributing a Community Consultation Postcard to over 11,000 properties within the Core Consultation Zone as defined within the SoCC. • Publishing two rounds of Section 48 notices in relevant newspapers; • Providing Section 42 (including section 44) consultees a Section 42 letter, Section 48 Notice and Site Location Plan, inviting bodies to be consulted; • Erecting Section 48 notices around the Scheme site; • Distributing a press release containing details of the consultation to regional media publications; • Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display; • Distributing hard copies of consultation documents and the PEIR NTS to three Community Access Points as identified in the SoCC; • Providing details of the events on the Scheme website; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed. <p>The Applicant invited feedback from the community via a paper feedback form, an online feedback form, and feedback to the Scheme communication channels over a stated 43-day response period.</p>
10 th January and 22 nd January 2025	<p>Focused Design Review Sessions</p> <p>The Applicant held four design review meetings to provide the opportunity for the various groups to comment on and influence the design approach to the scheme. The meetings held were with the following groups:</p> <p>Meeting 1 - Frodsham Ward Cllrs / Frodsham Town Council; Helsby Ward Cllr; Frodsham Town Council.</p> <p>Meeting 2 – Cheshire Wildlife Trust; BTO Wetland Bird Survey; Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society, Frodsham Birder (sent apologies)</p> <p>Meeting 3 – Frodsham Festival of Walks; Cycle North Cheshire; Ramblers Association; Frodsham Town Council Sustainable Transport Coordinator</p> <p>Meeting 4 – CwaCC Case Officer, Landscape Officer, Biodiversity Officer and Footpaths Officer.</p>
March 2025	<p>Additional consultation with statutory bodies</p> <p>As part of our review to ensure adequacy of consultation, and in light of PINS' new advice regarding the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations (both the transitional provisions in Regulation 4 and the updates to Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations) published in May 2024, we have considered whether any new or different consultation bodies should be consulted.</p> <p>As such, an additional 23 organisations have been identified and consulted under Section 42, and we provided over the 28-day statutory minimum period to submit comments. These organisations are listed in Table 12 within Appendix 4 of this document.</p>

Compliance with the 2008 Act

2.6. Table 2 describes how the Applicant has complied with the consultation requirements set by the 2008 Act.

Table 2: Consultation compliance checklist with 2008 Act

Section	Requirement	Compliance
Section 42 (The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application:)	a) such persons as may be prescribed,	<p>The Applicant consulted all relevant prescribed consultees; as defined in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations and the Regulation 11(1)(b) parties notified by the Planning Inspectorate</p> <p>In addition to this, the Applicant consulted further 'non-prescribed', including the National Trust, the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), Chartered Association of Agricultural Values (CAAV), RSPB, National Trust, Ramblers, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.</p>
	(b) each local authority that is within section 43	<p>The Applicant consulted each local authority that is within S.43.</p> <p>These are listed below*:</p> <p>'B' Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire West and Chester Council <p>'A' Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warrington Borough Council Wrexham County Borough Council St Helens Council Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council Cheshire East Council Halton Borough Council Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Shropshire Council Liverpool City Council Flintshire County Council *there are no C or D authorities
	(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and	Not applicable.
	(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44	The Applicant consulted each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.
Section 45 (Timetable for consultation under section 42)	(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	The Applicant notified all those consulted under s. Section 42 of the deadline in writing by email and/or post.

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	<p>All defined consultation periods (statutory and non-statutory) for Frodsham Solar have exceeded 28 days.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook statutory consultation from 07 November 2024 to 19 December 2024. Section 42 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of statutory consultation on or before 07 November by written letter and/or email, depending on the availability of contact details to the Applicant and if confirmation had been received from recipients that electronic communications could be the sole means of communication. The deadline for responding to the Section 42 consultation was 19 December 2024 (at 43 days, and therefore exceeding the 28-day requirement).</p>
	(3) In subsection (2) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	<p>The consultation documents provided to Section 42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials; • A site plan showing the location of the Scheme; and • A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge). <p>A USB with all of the above materials was also available upon request, free of charge. Printed copies were also available on request, with a reasonable charge of up to £500.</p>
Section 46 (Duty to notify Commission of proposed application)	(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.	<p>The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the 2008 Act on 05 November 2024 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 07 November 2024 and closing on 19 December 2024</p> <p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a covering letter, • example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being for prescribed consultees and the other one to landowners); • A site plan showing the location of the Scheme; and • A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).
	(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before	The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	commencing consultation under section 42.	2008 Act on 05 November 2024 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 07 November 2024 and closing on 19 December 2024.
Section 47 (Duty to consult the local community)	(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	The Applicant prepared and published a Statement of Community Consultation.
	(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.	<p>To inform the preparation of the statement, the Applicant consulted each local authority that is within Section 43(1) on the content of the SoCC, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire and West Chester Council. Halton Borough Council <p>For consultation on the SoCC Addendum to set out in more detail how the Applicant would carry out Phase Two Consultation, in October 2024, Halton Borough Council were again consulted. This was because properties within the CCZ remained within their administrative area, and for consistency in approach between consultations regarding the SoCC.</p>
	(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.	The Applicant formally consulted with the Section 43(1) local authorities on the draft SoCC from 05 April 2023 – 05 May 2023
	(4) In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).	The consultation documents supplied by the Applicant included a covering letter and email, and the draft SoCC.
	(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).	<p>The Applicant had regard to all relevant comments received on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant shared a response table with each local authority to explain how their comments had been considered. This detail will also be included in the Consultation Report.</p>
	6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must — make the statement available for	The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act on 25 May 2023, having regard to the local authorities' comments.

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,</p> <p>(a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and</p> <p>(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.</p>	<p>The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's website and made available to view and collect from the public venues (Community Access Points) listed below.</p> <p>Community Access Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frodsham Library • Helsby Library • Ellesmere Port Library <p>Notices were published in the Chester Chronicle and the Chester Standard on 25 May 2023 to publicise the SoCC and its availability.</p> <p>The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of project updates.</p>
	(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.	<p>The Applicant undertook consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act in accordance with the SoCC.</p> <p>This is evidenced in a further table in this document and will be further detailed in the Consultation Report.</p>
Section 48 (Duty to publicise)	(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.	<p>The Applicant prepared and publicised the application in the prescribed manner set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 by publishing a Section 48 notice.</p> <p>The Section 48 Notice was published in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chester Standard (31 October 2024 and 07 November 2024) • The Chester Chronicle (31 October 2024 and 07 November 2024) • The Guardian (31 October 2024) • The London Gazette (05 November 2024) <p>It was determined by the Applicant that it was not required to place a notice within Fishing News or Lloyds List, as the Project does not include any offshore development.</p>
	(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.	<p>The Section 48 notice included a deadline of 19 December 2024 for receipt of responses to the publicity. The final notice was published on 07 November 2024, providing a total of 43 days for responses, therefore exceeding the 28 days statutory minimum response time.</p>
Section 49 (Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity)	<p>(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant —</p> <p>(a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and</p>	<p>The Applicant has had and will continue to have regard to all relevant responses made pursuant to Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 in the preparation of the DCO application for the Project in accordance with Section 49.</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>(b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).</p> <p>(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means—</p> <p>(a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case,</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or</p> <p>(c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.</p>	<p>A summary of relevant responses received and how the Applicant has considered these will be provided in the Consultation Report, and a short summary is provided in Section 4 of this document.</p>
Section 50 (Guidance about pre-application procedure)	<p>(1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Section.</p> <p>(2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Planning Inspectorate or the Secretary of State.</p> <p>(3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.</p>	<p>The Applicant has had regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, 2015), Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process.</p> <p>The Applicant has also had regard to updated guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2024 and the updated Advice Note on the Consultation Report, published in August 2024.</p> <p>This will be set out in full in the application Consultation Report.</p>

3. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Overview

- 3.1. In accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act, a draft Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') was prepared, consulted on with host authorities, finalised and published ahead of commencing statutory consultation on the Project.
- 3.2. In accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act, a draft Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') was prepared, consulted on with host authorities, finalised and published ahead of commencing consultation on the Project.
- 3.3. Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act states that before preparing the SoCC, the Applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) in regard to the content of the SoCC.
- 3.4. The finalised SoCC was shared with each host authority prior to publication, alongside a table explaining how each of their comments on the draft had been considered and whether it informed a change to the document content.
- 3.5. The applicant consulted the following host authorities on the content of the SoCC:
 - Cheshire West and Chester Council;
 - Halton Borough Council;
- 3.6. At this time, both CWaCC and Halton Borough Council were consulted, as part of the project boundary was hosted within the administrative boundary for Halton Borough Council.
- 3.7. The Applicant considered comments made by these authorities, before publishing the SoCC in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act, as described below. A copy of the final SoCC can be seen in Appendix 2 of this document, and a copy of the SoCC Addendum can be seen in Appendix 3.
- 3.8. The Applicant has subsequently undertaken consultation consistent with the principles and commitments and principles set out in the published SoCC, in accordance with Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act.

Consultation on a draft SoCC

- 3.9. The Applicant formally provided a draft SoCC to host authorities for consultation on 05 April 2023. This was provided alongside a covering email and letter to explain the purpose of the draft SoCC, the response process and deadline for comments.
- 3.10. The Applicant stated a response deadline of 05 May 2023. This provided a consultation period of 30 days, therefore exceed the requirement set in Section 47(3) to provide a period of 28 days.
- 3.11. Cheshire West & Chester Council and Halton Borough Council provided comments on the draft SoCC.
- 3.12. The responses received from these authorities to this consultation on the draft SoCC were considered by the Applicant when finalising the SoCC prior to publication.
- 3.13. A copy of the final SoCC, alongside a table explaining how comments received had been considered by the Applicant when finalising the SoCC, were shared with each host authority following publication on 09 June 2023.
- 3.14. The feedback submitted to the consultation on the draft SoCC, and how this was considered by the Applicant, is described in Table 3 and Table 4. It is consistent with what was shared with the LPAs in June 2023, but has been updated following the completion of Phase Two Consultation.
- 3.15. Prior to the second phase of consultation, a SoCC Addendum was drafted to provide more details of how the Applicant intended to carry out the second phase of consultation and to explain how the proposed approach was consistent with the principles and commitments set out in the published SoCC.
- 3.16. The SoCC addendum was provided to Cheshire West and Chester Council, and Halton Borough Council on 15 October 2024 for comment.
- 3.17. Cheshire West and Chester Council commented that the Weaver Vale has been updated to Runcorn & Helsby following the update to parliamentary constituencies, which was updated within the SoCC addendum, can be seen in Appendix 3: Statement of Community Consultation Addendum – October 2024.

Halton Borough Council did not provide feedback on the approach set out within the SoCC addendum.

Table 3: Applicant consideration of feedback received to the draft SoCC from Cheshire West and Chester Council (Comments provided 09 June 2023).

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
General Comments		
I can advise that the Council is in general agreement with the content of the proposed consultation approach within the SoCC.	Noted.	
It should be noted that as your accompanying e-mail on 5th April 2023 refers to the consultation being carried out in confidence this response is at an officer level only (as discussed previously) and that the intention is that you will carry out briefings with Councillors, in particular the Ward Councillors, before finalising the SoCC and commencing formal consultation.	Noted. The Applicant's programme allowed time following local elections (5 th May 2023) before finalising the SoCC. Briefings were offered to councillors at Cheshire West and Chester Council, with two briefing meetings held on 24 th May 2023, prior to the publication of the SoCC and commencement of formal consultation.	
Also, due to the confidential nature of the request for comments at present, I have not contacted colleagues at Halton Borough Council to liaise and co-ordinate a response to the SoCC. I have restricted commenting to this Council's administrative area and presume that Halton Borough Council will provide comments relevant to their area.	Noted. Halton Borough Council were also consulted on the draft SoCC and have provided comments separately.	
You have separately requested a meeting/briefing be arranged for Councillors before the consultation commences, and this is welcome.	Briefings were offered to councillors at Cheshire West and Chester Council, with two briefing meetings held on 24 th May 2023, prior to the publication of the SoCC and commencement of formal consultation.	
1. Introduction		
No Comments	Noted.	
2. About Us		
No Comments	Noted.	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
3. Frodsham Solar		
<p>This section is primarily a description of the proposed development, with some commentary on the scheme's potential.</p> <p>The proposed description refers to the proposal being situated on land to the north of the M56 and east of Frodsham Windfarm. It appears that part of the proposed site is within / beneath the eastern cluster of the windfarm turbines, and the location should therefore be clarified.</p>	<p>This text description in the SoCC will be updated to clarify location as requested.</p>	<p>The proposal is situated on land to the north of the M56, including an area of land beneath the eastern cluster of turbines of Frodsham Wind Farm.</p>
<p>It would be helpful to provide further indication of the potential scale of the ground-mounted solar array e.g. how many panels, what site coverage is proposed? Incorporation of initial design parameters for the scheme may help to comprehend the consultation better.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>While this level of scheme detail isn't included within the Statement of Community Consultation, further information on these topics will be provided as appropriate through consultation materials during the pre-application stage.</p>	
<p>It would also be useful to describe the scale of the BESS, both physically (e.g. are they equivalent to single or double mounted shipping containers) and in terms of capacity (e.g. the megawattage of storage)?</p>		
<p>Further details of the proposed construction aspects of the scheme would assist e.g. likely duration, access routes for construction.</p>		
<p>Confirmation of the nature of the operational development would also be beneficial e.g. is it permanent or for a temporary duration, and if so how long?</p>		
<p>A summary of potential / key impacts may assist with focussing consultation feedback.</p>		
<p>An acknowledgement / summary details of cumulative impacts and relationship with other developments (e.g. the Hynet Hydrogen Pipeline DCO), as well as impacts/relationship with existing development in the area, (such as the windfarm) ought to be referenced.</p>		
<p>Commentary on the relevance / relationship to the EIA process should be included. Whilst scoping of the EIA is liable to concentrate on technical consultees input, some other interested parties may wish to contribute to the scoping process, and clarification of how community representations will be handled would be welcome.</p>	<p>Noted. An additional paragraph has been included in Section 9 to explain the intention for community consultation phases to be held in parallel with statutory consultation on EIA materials, allowing interested members of the community to access and comment on materials.</p>	<p>We intend to coordinate the timing of community consultation phases to align with the publication of the Scoping Report and the PEIR. This will allow community members to consider and provide feedback to us directly on relevant EIA information in parallel to statutory consultees. All comments will be considered.</p>

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
Clarification of the scope of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) to be sought would be beneficial e.g. in terms of identifying the extent/nature of non-planning consents that may be included, and any use of compulsory purchase powers.	Noted. While this level of scheme detail isn't included within the Statement of Community Consultation, further information on these topics will be provided as appropriate through consultation materials during the pre-application stage.	
4. Our Public Consultation Process		
The proposal for a minimum of a two-phase consultation, both phases lasting longer than the statutory minimum period, is supported.	Noted.	
The initial phase of consultation, seeking feedback on the concept plan, appears to offer opportunity for the community to influence refinement of the project.	Noted.	
At present the SoCC refers to some potential issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary impacts during construction, such as traffic and noise. • Operational impacts, such as upon wildlife, landscape, and views. • Benefits, such as the opportunity for biodiversity and recreational improvements. However, it is not clear what level of detail will be available to help make informed comments.	Information will be provided through community consultation materials. An additional paragraph has been added to Section 4 to explain the type of information and detail that will be shared through consultation materials (which are then described in Section 6).	Details to inform responses on these topics – such as visual plans, descriptions of design parameters, and proposed mitigation measures – will be presented through the materials and activities described in Section 6.
It would assist the process if the concept plan were accompanied by supporting documentation including information such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of site constraints • Details of the essential project parameters (e.g. minimum requirements) • Details of the project development to date (similar to information often provided in a design and access statement, e.g. as to how the project / design has evolved to date, options already considered) • Details / summary of anticipated impacts (and benefits) • Details of any emerging options / matters where community feedback would be particularly pertinent 	Noted. While this level of scheme detail isn't included within the Statement of Community Consultation, further information on these topics will be provided as appropriate through consultation materials during the pre-application stage.	
Reference is made to submitting the EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in parallel with your Phase One consultation, and the	Noted. This sentence has been removed from	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
<p>following statement is included in the SoCC “This means that communities will not be involved in the EIA Scoping Report consultation”. This does not appear to be in inclusive approach and justifies further explanation. This may also be a missed opportunity to facilitate access to the EIA scoping material for those participating in the Phase 1 consultation to provide better more informed comments. It is acknowledged that EIA scoping does not normally entail public consultation, but as a minimum a clear explanation should be included in the SoCC. It is also recommended that clear signposting be included for those that may wish to make comment on the EIA process including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and subsequent ES (see also comments further below on Section 9).</p>	<p>Section 4, and additional clarification has been added to Section 9 (as described above).</p>	
<p>The options for providing consultation responses beyond simple objection (or support) should be clarified, to encourage comments on potential mitigation, without prejudice to any in principle concerns.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed that responses on potential mitigation should be encouraged, beyond and without prejudice to positions of opposition or support.</p> <p>The sub-section <i>What will we consult on?</i> within Section 4 (<i>Our public consultation process</i>) sets out the aim of the pre-application public consultation process, including an explanation of what will be consulted on. The SoCC does not refer to levels of objection or support.</p> <p>For example, the SoCC includes the following text:</p> <p><i>The aim of our pre-application public consultation is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have a chance to understand and influence our proposal. We will seek feedback to help develop our proposal. This will include potential issues such as, but not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Temporary impacts during construction, such as traffic and noise.</i> • <i>Operational impacts, such as upon wildlife, landscape, and views.</i> • <i>Benefits, such as the opportunity for biodiversity and recreational improvements.</i> 	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
	Section 6 of the SoCC: How will we consult ? sets out how the Applicant ensured inclusive, meaningful and open consultation. The activities include a range of methods to ensure our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.	
Requests for feedback/feedback forms should encourage detailed comments beyond the question of the principle of objection/support and the reasons for such, but to explicitly encourage comments from objectors / interested parties as to how the project might be modified or mitigated if it is to be consented.	Noted and agreed. Feedback forms will be published for each phase of community consultation. These forms will include a series of closed and open questions to encourage feedback on a range of topics, including potential opportunities and mitigation, beyond levels of opposition and support.	
In terms of consultation reporting, the proposal to share a high-level document summarising the responses received during the first phase of consultation, and how you are considering the feedback is supported.	Noted.	
Further details of how you intend to share/publicise the high-level document summarising responses received during the Phase One consultation and how it has influenced the proposals prior to Phase Two consultation should be confirmed. The expectation being that anyone that has commented will be readily able to access such summary/feedback report.	Noted. Additional text has been added to Section 4 to clarify this.	During the pre-application phase we will share a high-level document summarising the responses we have received during the first phase of consultation, and how we are considering this feedback. This document will be made publicly available on the project website and provided in hard copy by request. Key stakeholders, such as relevant local planning authorities and parish councils, and anyone who has registered to be kept informed will be notified of the document being published.
Provision should be made to offer post consultation briefings to Parish Councils (and/or other organisations requesting it) at the end of the Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 consultations for the Applicant to relay their responses to the consultation process.	Text has been amended in Section 6 (Meetings) to confirm that stakeholder meetings may be arranged in between as well as during consultation phases.	Meetings and briefing sessions may be arranged with local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups during and in-between the two phases of community consultation.

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
<p>Following the Phase 2 consultation, provision should be made to offer opportunity to the Local Authorities and Parish Councils (and any other interested party or consultee who requests the opportunity) to provide comment on the Applicant's responses to consultation prior to finalising the Consultation Report (required under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008).</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>We intend to continue working with local authorities throughout and beyond phases of community consultation. This may involve ongoing engagement and exploring Statements of Common Ground.</p> <p>However, we are not in a position to commit to sharing all responses to consultation prior to submitting our Consultation Report. We acknowledge the important role of the Examination Phase of the DCO process on this matter.</p>	
<p>The SoCC should set out details of how the community will be kept informed of changes to the scheme, even if the changes are not material and triggering the need for further consultation. The SoCC should also enable pursuit of a localised/targeted consultation should particular issues arise through initial consultation.</p>	<p>An additional subsection (Ongoing engagement) has been included within Section 4 (Our public consultation process) to explain this.</p>	<p>Ongoing engagement</p> <p>Our free to use communication lines will remain open throughout the pre-application consultation period, so that any engagement with stakeholders can continue outside of defined phases of consultation. The project website will also be kept updated with relevant project information and materials. This includes if there are any changes to the project that may or may not require a formal targeted consultation period. We will discuss the details of any further consultations that may be needed with the local planning authorities.</p>
<p>The SoCC should include details of how any interested party should respond if they are dissatisfied with the consultation process at any point, including initial reference to the Applicant, and if necessary, referral to their Local Authority, or ultimately to the Secretary of State (via PINS).</p>	<p>Noted. Additional text has been included within Section 4 (Our consultation process) to explain this.</p> <p>The SoCC, alongside other communications materials such as the project website, will also refer to the Planning Inspectorate's website where information is available in their FAQs.</p>	<p>Any feedback on our methods of consultation is encouraged and will be considered by our team. Comments on our community consultation are best provided to us for consideration in the first instance, so that they can be addressed when designing future consultation activities. When we submit our DCO application, Local Planning Authorities will be invited to provide an Adequacy of Consultation Representation.</p>

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
A statement in relation to how you will ensure compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GPDR) would be advisable.	Noted. Text added to Section 4 (<i>Our Public Consultation Process</i>).	General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Throughout the pre-application consultation period, all stakeholder personal details will be stored in compliance with the GDPR by Counter Context, acting on behalf of the Frodsham Solar project team, and will not be shared with any third parties.
5. Who Will We Consult?		
There is no objection to the Figure 3 consultation zone in terms of the geographical extent of notifying residents etc in the locality. This is supported, noting that the SoCC acknowledges that some interested parties may be outside the zone identified, but will still have opportunity to comment via other publicity.	Noted.	
The proposals for engaging with other interested stakeholders, including the Town and Parish Councils and seldom heard groups are supported.	Noted.	
Whilst liaison with the Town and Parish Council's may cover the Neighbourhood Planning Groups in this instance, as the three designated neighbourhood areas covered by the proposals were submitted by the respective Town/Parish Council, it would be advisable to consult the Neighbourhood Planning Groups for Frodsham, Helsby and Ince Parish. Neighbourhood Planning - Keystone (cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) Frodsham - pre-submission (regulation 14) consultation ran from 24 October to 4 December 2022. Helsby – neighbourhood plan made 8 June 2016 Ince Parish – at Examination (publicity stage (regulation 16) ran from 30 January - 14 March 2023)	Noted. The parish councils of Frodsham, Helsby and Ince will be notified of project information and consultation opportunities. The contact email for Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan (frodshamplan@gmail.com) has been added to our stakeholder list and will also be notified of consultation opportunities.	
You will be aware of the statutory requirements for consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), if you have not already engaged with the MMO it is recommended that they be contacted even if a statutory consultation is not triggered.	Noted. Our team has now engaged with the MMO to confirm with them any need or request for consultation with them.	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
	At Phase Two Consultation, the Project included the MMO notwithstanding that the scheme does not involve works in the marine environment.	
An excel spreadsheet accompanies this letter with names of various other organisations/groups that should be considered for inclusion in the consultation. The list is not exhaustive, and some you will already have identified as being consultees. I have not included addresses and contact details, but if you require assistance with this please let me know.	<p>Noted and thanks.</p> <p>Community organisations and representatives within this list are included within the project stakeholder list and will be notified of project information and community consultation activities. They received an email prior to each phase of consultation notifying them of consultation and opportunities to comment.</p> <p>We note a number of more technical or specialist organisations will be engaged through the EIA process (e.g. consultation on the Scoping Report) and the upcoming statutory Section 42 consultation (Phase Two consultation).</p> <p>The Applicant hasn't been able to identify contact details for all organisations on the list, and would be grateful if Cheshire West and Chester Council could supply these. These specific organisation are listed in the accompanying email.</p>	
Pamela Bradley, Senior Manager, Communities & Engagement: Rural should be a useful contact for assistance and ongoing support in terms of the community engagement.	Noted and thanks.	
6. How will we consult?		
The proposals to carry out consultation and publicity using a variety of methods including meetings, events, literature and on-line sources of information is supported. Consideration of the use of social media should be included.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>We do not intend to establish a standalone social media profile for the project, as it wouldn't be expected to have as wide an audience reach as existing social media channels.</p> <p>Section 5 (Who Will We Consult?) of the SoCC notes how information will be provided to parish councils to allow them to publicise consultation opportunities</p>	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
	through their existing social media channels.	
Press adverts using Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard is considered appropriate. Frodsham Life as an on-line newspaper may provide an appropriate source of further publicity.	<p>Noted. Adverts and notices have been placed in the Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard.</p> <p>Frodsham Life will be added to media distribution list for press releases.</p>	
The proposed number of meetings/events etc. are considered appropriate. Consideration of an in-person event at one of the local schools would be advantageous in terms of inclusion of young persons as one of the potential hard to reach groups.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Suitability and availability of school venues were considered for events at Phase Two, but it was determined that the same venues would be used for the Phase Two Consultation as were used at Phase One Consultation, for consistency with the approach set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>Ahead of consultation, we contacted a number of schools to notify them of consultation activities. Our approach to consultation was intended to be accessible to people of all ages. Furthermore, the event in Elton Community Centre was adjacent to Elton Primary School, and the event time overlapped with the end of school day.</p>	
Holding events to include the evenings and weekends is supported.	Noted.	
There should be provision in the programme for adequate publicity of in-person information events before the respective Phase 1 and Phase 2 consultations commences.	<p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>The intention is for information events to be arranged during the middle period of the consultation phase, allowing approx. two weeks' notice of events from consultation launch and associated publicity, which will include press releases, adverts, mailouts and online updates.</p> <p>For Phase One consultation, information event details were publicised from 25th May 2023. The first information event is arranged for Saturday 17th June (over three weeks later).</p>	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
<p>Consideration should be given to recording the webinar for subsequent public viewing by those not able to access the webinar at the original event time. The responses to questions raised at the webinar should be made available post the meeting. Responses should also be provided for any questions not able to be covered during the meeting.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The webinar is part of a range of activities designed to make information available during phases of consultation, which also include a series of in-person information events and free-to-use communications channels to submit questions.</p> <p>We agree to adding a recording of the webinar presentation and have added text to Section 6 (How will we consult?) to confirm this.</p> <p>We will consider updating the FAQs published on the project website following the webinar and information events, and will encourage any questions still considered unanswered to be submitted for response via the communications channels.</p>	<p>A recording of the webinar presentation will be made available on the project website.</p>
<p>Meetings, events, webinar, briefing sessions should be held early enough that the timing of events does not materially reduce or restrict the community's ability to make comments on the project during the statutory minimum 28 days consultation period. It appears appropriate to commence meetings / events immediately before the commencement of the formal consultation period where practical.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>The SoCC commits to phases of consultation being held for longer than the statutory minimum of 28 days.</p> <p>The intention is for information events to be arranged during the middle period of consultation phases, therefore allowing sufficient time following the final event for attendees to consider the information they have accessed before finalising their consultation responses.</p> <p>For example, for Phase One consultation the final in-person information event is scheduled for 23rd June 2023 and a subsequent community webinar is scheduled for 26th June 2023, ahead of the response deadline of 13th July 2023.</p> <p>Key stakeholders and consultees will be notified in advance of consultation phases commencing.</p>	
<p>In conducting the consultation, the SoCC should reference / adopt appropriate standards of accessibility in relation to accessing the various</p>	<p>Noted and thanks. Cheshire West and Chester protocols will be considered when undertaking engagement</p>	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
materials and events to ensure inclusive consultation. The Council has developed protocols in relation to accessibility that should be adopted where practical.	activities. Section 5 (Who will we consult?) states that our consultation has been developed with the intention of being accessible to all groups in the community, and presents the names of gateway organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups in the consultation area that will be engaged to inform consultation activities. Section 11 (Contact Us) includes text advertising the ability for information to be provided in alternative formats (such as large print, translated language, audio or braille).	
You should ensure that venues are appropriate to provide access for all.	Noted and agreed. This will be considered by our team when identifying and booking venues for public events.	
Local existing information points should include local libraries in the consultation area (Frodsham Library and Helsby Library) along with Ellesmere Port library.	These locations have been included as proposed Local Information Point locations.	
The location of the in-person information events, proposed for: Frodsham Community Centre, Helsby Community Centre and Elton Community Centre, appears appropriate, although some flexibility in the SoCC is advocated to enable consideration of other potential venues; e.g. Castle Park Arts Centre; Frodsham Leisure centre, local schools.	Noted and agreed. The community centres listed have been confirmed as information event venues for Phase One consultation information events. Flexibility has been retained for considering alternative venues for Phase Two consultation.	
Consideration should be given to holding on-line and / or in-person workshops / focus group meetings to explore in more depth key issues/concerns within the community, and in particular the potential opportunities for proposals to mitigate impacts.	We will consider the opportunity and merits for holding topic-specific working groups following feedback to the first phase of community consultation. A series of focused design feedback meetings were held in January 2025 as described in Table 1.	
In addition to the display of publicity posters/material at local existing information points the display of site notices in suitability prominent/accessible positions in the vicinity of the site, prior to the commencement of the Phase 1	Local Information Points will be provided with posters advertising consultation opportunities for display during each phase of consultation. Text in Section 6 (How Will We Consult?) has been	Local existing information points such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing consultation

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
and Phase 2 consultation phases, should be provided. Arrangements to replace any notices removed during the consultation periods should be put in place.	updated to reflect this. As the second phase of community consultation will be held in parallel with a statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act, it will also involve placing statutory notices in the vicinity of the project area.	information for each phase of consultation.
7. Community Access Points		
The use of Community Access Points for provision of hard copies of materials etc is supported. Consideration of additional access points would be beneficial, potentially including Castle Park Arts Centre, Frodsham Library, Helsby Library and Ellesmere Port library.	Frodsham and Helsby library have now been included as agreed CAP sites. However these are in place of others previously suggested, as three designated CAP sites is considered proportionate.	Updated table in Section 7 (Community Access Points)
8. The Planning Process		
No Comments	Noted.	
9. Environmental Information		
Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires that the SoCC must state whether the development is EIA development, and if so, how it is intended to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information. It is recommended that this be expanded on for clarity. It may be best to include reference to the status as EIA development early in the SoCC (possibly Section 3). As noted earlier, Section 4 should be clear on the EIA process and opportunity to access and comment on the various stages of the EIA. Section 9 is a useful summary of the EIA stages. It could be expanded to clarify whether links to the Scoping Report will be available as part of the Phase 1 consultation, and how the Scoping Report provides additional information to assist in the Phase 1 feedback process. For the PEIR some expansion on how this will be publicised and consulted on is needed (either in Section 4 or Section 9).	Noted. Section 9 (Environmental Information) confirms that Frodsham Solar will be subject to EIA. This includes explaining how publication of the PEIR will be coordinated with Phase Two community consultation. Text has been added to Section 1 (Introduction) to confirm earlier in the SoCC that the project will be subject to EIA. Text has been added to Section 9 (Environmental Information) to explain how community consultation will be aligned with the publication of Scoping Report and PEIR to allow community to access and comment on EIA information.	Additional text for Section 1 (Introduction): This SoCC outlines how we will consult during the 'pre-application stage' before we submit our Development Consent Order ("DCO") application for the project to the Planning Inspectorate. We will also be undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the proposals. There is more information on the DCO and EIA process in Sections 8 and 9 of this SoCC and on the Planning Inspectorate's website . Additional text for Section 9 (Environmental Information): A Scoping Report and PEIR (explained below) will be consulted on as part of the EIA

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
		process and as the DCO application is prepared. We intend to coordinate the timing of community consultation phases to align with the publication of the Scoping Report and the PEIR. This will allow community members to consider and provide feedback to us on relevant EIA information in parallel to statutory consultees. All comments will be considered.
10. Indicative Consultation Timeline		
No Comments.	Noted.	
11. Contact Us		
No Comments.	Noted.	
For information, a link to the Council's statement of community involvement (updated Oct 2022) is provided.	Noted and thanks.	

Table 4: Applicant consideration of feedback received to the draft SoCC from Halton Borough Council (Comments provided 09 June 2023).

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
4. Our Public Consultation Process		
No Comments.	Noted.	
5. Who Will We Consult?		
Council agree with proposed zone of consultation.	Noted.	
6. How Will We Consult?		
The Council would suggest that an event should be held in Runcorn.	Noted. An information event has been arranged to take place at Christchurch Hall, Runcorn on Tuesday 20th June, as part of our Phase One community consultation. Flexibility has been retained for considered venues when organising information events for the Phase Two community consultation.	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
Publicity should be considered in the Runcorn Weekly News which covers this area.	Runcorn Weekly News has been included in the media list for press releases.	

Publication and publicity of the SoCC

- 3.18. The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act on 25 May 2023.
- 3.19. The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's website and made available to view and collect from the public venues (Community Access Points) listed in table 2 and accompanying notice.
- 3.20. Section 47 notices were published in the Chester Standard and the Chester Chronicle on 25 May 2023 to publicise the SoCC and its availability.
- 3.21. The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of project updates.

Compliance with the SoCC

- 3.22. The Applicant undertook consultation consistent with the commitments established in the published SoCC, in accordance with Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act.
- 3.23. Table 5 describes how the Applicant has complied with commitments set out within the published SoCC, as published in 2023.
- 3.24. Table 6 adds any commitments that were added on in the addendum to the SoCC published in October 2024, where relevant. Please note that commitments that applied to both phases of the SoCC are stated within Table 5.

Table 5: SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance, as set out in the SoCC published in May 2023

Section	Commitment	Compliance
1.Introduction	The approach to consultation set out in this document has been consulted upon with Cheshire West and Chester Council and Halton Borough Council in accordance with Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008. We have had regard to the comments that they have made.	The Applicant had regard to the comments made following the SoCC consultation between 05 April and 05 May 2023. Tables 3 and 4 of this document show how the Applicant had regard to the comments, which were submitted to the respective local authorities on 09 June 2023.
	We recognise consultation to be a vital stage in the development of our proposals. We want to receive feedback and work with stakeholders to refine our proposals for Frodsham Solar. This will allow us to develop our plans responsibly and in a manner that supports local community interests.	<p>Between Phase One and Phase Two consultation for Frodsham Solar, the Applicant made a number of design changes and refinements, as a result of community feedback and ongoing environment assessment.</p> <p>The Applicant has set out how feedback has been considered and helped to refine the proposals in section 4 of this document between Phase 1 and Phase 2 and is being used in finalising the DCO application post Phase 2.</p> <p>The Applicant will be producing a Consultation Report for the DCO application, which will further evidence how the project has had regard to feedback</p>
4. Our Public Consultation Process	We are undertaking an iterative consultation process for Frodsham Solar. The feedback and information we receive will help inform the design of the project that we submit to the Planning Inspectorate for approval.	<p>The Applicant updated their dedicated Project website to communicate information and receive feedback during each phase of consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant's range of free-to-use communications lines remained open throughout each phase of consultation to provide information and receive feedback.</p> <p>Following the first phase of consultation, the Applicant produced a Phase One Consultation Summary Report, providing an overview of the feedback received during the first phase of consultation, setting out how the Applicant was considering the feedback.</p>
	The aim of our pre-application public consultation is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have a chance to understand and influence our proposal.	<p>The Applicant held consultation with community and technical consultees in parallel under 47 of the 2008 Act as part of the Phase One Consultation, which ran from 01 June – 13 July 2023.</p> <p>A suite of consultation materials was published on 01 June 2023 to provide information on the topics referred to in the SoCC.</p> <p>This involved publishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Community Consultation Leaflet; • a Community Consultation Postcard; • a Concept Plan; • event Displays; and • a Feedback Form to encourage responses. <p>The Applicant published a PEIR and accompanying Non-Technical Summary on 07 November 2024, alongside a community consultation leaflet, to be consulted on as part of the statutory Section 42, 47 and 48 consultation with prescribed consultees and the community (Phase Two consultation), requesting responses by 19 December 2024 (providing a 43-day consultation response period).</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		At public information events, exhibition boards and project maps were displayed around the room and on tables, containing information on the project, containing technical and non-technical information.
	Our consultation will consist of at least two phases: • A Phase One community consultation, lasting six weeks, which will be held from Thursday 1 June 2023 to Thursday 13 July 2023. • A Phase Two community consultation, which will also last longer than the statutory minimum of 28 days, planned for Winter 2023.	Phase One Community Consultation ran from Thursday 01 June 2023 to Thursday 13 July 2023. Phase Two consultation ran from Thursday 07 November 2024 to Thursday 19 December 2024 for a period of 43 days, therefore exceeding the statutory minimum of 28 days.
	This SoCC applies to both phases of consultation.	An addendum to the SoCC was published in October 2024, which set out the precise details of the upcoming Phase Two consultation, consistent with the principles established in the published SoCC.
	At the start of Phase One consultation, we will also be submitting our EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who will be running a 42-day consultation, in parallel with our Phase One consultation. PINS' consultation will involve technical stakeholders, local planning authorities and parish councils to gather feedback on the Applicant's proposals for how it intends to carry out its EIA, to form their Scoping Opinion.	The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to PINS on 30 May 2023. PINS then subsequently published a Scoping Opinion for Frodsham Solar on 10 July 2023.
	Our free to use communication lines will remain open throughout the preapplication consultation period, so that engagement with stakeholders can continue outside of defined phases of consultation. The project website will also be kept updated with relevant project information and materials. This includes any changes to the project that may or may not require a formal targeted consultation period.	The Applicant publicised their range of free-to-use communications channels ahead of their statutory Phase One consultation commencing on 25 May 2023. These channels include a Freephone information line, Freepost address and email address. They have been open during both Phase One and Phase Two and will remain open from now until at least the end of the pre-application phase. Between Phase One and Phase Two Consultation, the freepost address name was changed from FREEPOST FS PCR CONSULTATION to FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR and this was made clear on the project website.
	During the pre-application phase we will share a high-level document summarising the responses we have received during the first phase of consultation. This document will be made publicly available on the project website and provided in hard copy by request. Key stakeholders, such as relevant local planning authorities and parish councils, and anyone who has registered to be kept informed will be notified of the document being published.	The Applicant published a Phase One Consultation Summary Report in August 2024, summarising the feedback received during the first phase of consultation, including an overview of how feedback was considered by the Applicant. Key stakeholders were notified of the publication of the documents, as well as those who had registered to be kept informed. The document was available to pick up at Community Access Points and by request.
5. Who Will We Consult?	Our consultation process is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, our proposals for Frodsham Solar.	The Applicant accepted all feedback submitted in response to consultation.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>Figure 3 shows a Consultation Zone, which centres on the proposed site and extends to nearby towns, villages and settlements considering existing infrastructure and boundaries. The zone comprises over 11,000 addresses.</p> <p>Properties within the Consultation Zone will directly receive a consultation postcard to notify them of upcoming consultation from us in the post.</p> <p>The core consultation zone comprises of over 11,000 addresses within the Cheshire West and Chester and Halton Borough authority areas, including every address within the parish of Frodsham.</p>	<p>The Applicant issued a Community Consultation Postcard to all properties (over 11,000 addresses) within the defined Core Consultation Zone) to publicise and encourage responses to both the Phase One and Phase Two consultations.</p> <p>The Core Consultation Zone included every property within the parish of Frodsham.</p>
	<p>Information events will be held at locations within the Consultation Zone, and relevant organisations, such as parish councils and community groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.</p>	<p>During both the Phase One and Phase Two consultations, the Applicant hosted five in-person public information events at four locations within and across the defined Core Consultation Zone.</p> <p>Prior to each phase of consultation, the Applicant sent electronic notifications to parish councils and community groups, informing them of consultation opportunities.</p>
	<p>We recognise that there may be some interested individuals or parties who are not within the Consultation Zone. We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to view our proposals and have their say.</p> <p>We will publicise consultation opportunities to communities beyond the Consultation Zone by advertising in local media and maintaining a register of interested individuals.</p> <p>Informative consultation materials will be published online and available to view and either be collected or sent to parties via our contact details.</p>	<p>The Applicant maintained a register of prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, including a register of those who wished to be kept informed, and notified them at the commencements of each phase of consultation.</p> <p>Advertising was placed in the Chester Chronicle and the Chester Standard for both phases of consultation.</p> <p>Consultation materials were published online at the start of each phase of consultation, available to view via the Documents Library section of the website (www.frodshamsolar.co.uk), and a number of materials were available to be seen at Community Access Points. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of the Community Consultation Leaflet for reference and taking away. • Copies of the Feedback Form for reference and taking away. • A copy of the PEIR NTS for reference only (Phase Two only)
	<p>As well as our two phases of community consultation, we will be engaging with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees on Frodsham Solar throughout the consultation exercises and beyond, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land included within the DCO application. • MPs, Local Planning Authorities and Parish Councils. • Statutory stakeholders, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England. 	<p>The Applicant engaged with the stakeholders listed in the commitment. All stakeholders, except for statutory stakeholders, were sent electronic notifications on or before each consultation period.</p> <p>Statutory stakeholders were engaged via email and post on or before the start of Phase Two consultation under Section 42 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>• Local interest, community and environmental groups</p> <p>We have developed our consultation with the intention of being accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of 'gateway organisations' representing potentially seldom heard groups in the consultation area. These organisations will be contacted ahead of both phases of consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members.</p>	<p>The Applicant maintained a contact list of organisations representing community members and groups that may be seldom heard or less likely to take part in consultations. Comments and additions to an identified list were invited from host authorities as part of the SoCC development process. These organisations have been contacted throughout the pre-application process, including ahead of phases of consultation, to publicise opportunities to take part and invited suggestions for any further measures to increase accessibility.</p> <p>Public consultation materials, such as the Community Consultation Leaflet and Project website, clearly signposted to the Applicant's free-to-use communications channels. They also encouraged anyone who might require consultation materials in alternative formats to contact the team to request this.</p>
6. How Will We Consult?	<p>In-person information events will be held at locations within the Consultation Zone (see Figure 3). They will be advertised in consultation materials, across local media, and by issuing publicity materials to identified public venues (referred to as local information points). We have organised in-person information events across a range of days and times.</p> <p>A Webinar will be held for any member of the public to join via internet or telephone during Phase One consultation and will be considered at Phase Two.</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook a six-week community consultation on preliminary proposals for the Project between 01 June 2023 and 13 July 2023.</p> <p>The Applicant held the following events, including an online webinar, during their Phase One consultation, held across a range of days and times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helsby Community Centre (Saturday 17 June 2023, 12pm - 4pm) - Christchurch Hall, Weston Point (Tuesday 20 June 2023, 11am - 3pm) - Frodsham Community Centre (Wednesday 21 June 2023, 2pm - 7pm) - Elton Community Centre (Thursday 22 June 2023, 11am - 4pm) - Frodsham Community Centre (Friday 23 June 2023, 2.30pm - 7pm) - Community Webinar – Zoom (Monday 26 June 2023, 5.30pm - 7pm) <p>The Applicant held the following events during their Phase Two consultation, including an online webinar, across a range of locations, days and times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christchurch Hall (Monday 25 November 2024, 3pm - 7pm) - Helsby Community Centre (Tuesday 26 November 2024, 2pm – 6.30pm) - Elton Community Centre (Friday 29 November 2024, 3pm - 7pm) - Frodsham Community Centre (Saturday 30 November 2024, 1.30pm – 5.30pm) - Frodsham Community Centre (Monday 02 December 2024, 2.30pm – 6.30pm) - Community Webinar – Zoom (Wednesday 04 December 2024, 6pm – 7.30pm)

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		<p>These event details were published on the Applicant's dedicated project website, the SoCC Addendum, the Community Consultation Leaflet and Postcard, and Section 47 and 48 notices published in local and national media, press release, and posters at local information points.</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>Members of the Frodsham Solar team will be at these events to answer questions and discuss the proposals in more detail.</p> <p>Project materials setting out the proposals (as they stand at each phase) will be displayed and available to take away.</p>	<p>The events were attended by a range of relevant members of the Applicant's Project team.</p> <p>Attendees were able to take away copies of the Community Consultation Leaflet, Feedback Form, Concept Plan and Site Location Plan.</p> <p>The full PEIR and accompanying NTS was displayed and available to view. Exhibition boards and project maps were displayed around the room and on tables, containing information on the project, containing technical and non-technical information.</p>
	<p>Consultation postcards will be sent to properties within the Consultation Zone, to notify local residents and businesses of the proposal and consultation opportunities, including how to access the project website and communications channels and details of information events.</p>	<p>The Applicant issued a Community Consultation Postcard to all properties (over 11,000 addresses) within the defined Core Consultation Zone) to publicise and encourage responses to both the Phase One and Phase Two consultations.</p> <p>The postcard contained information notifying local residents and businesses of the proposal and consultation opportunities, including how to access the project website, community access points and communications channels and details of information events.</p>
	<p>Consultation leaflets will be produced and made available at the start of each phase of consultation. These leaflets will be available online, by collection from Community Access Points, and available to take away from our information events.</p>	<p>The Applicant published a Community Consultation Leaflet at the start of each phase of consultation. They were available to view online via the project website, by collection from Community Access Points, and available to take away from in-person information events.</p>
	<p>Feedback forms will be made available for community members to respond to the consultation. This also includes those outside the Consultation Zone who wish to provide feedback. These will be available online and in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and by request. Feedback forms will be able to be returned</p>	<p>The Applicant published a feedback form at the start of each phase of consultation. They were available to view online via the project website, by collection from Community Access Points, and available to take away from in-person information events.</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	free of charge using the Frodsham Solar freepost address.	An online version of the feedback form was created for each phase of consultation to enable respondents to fill out their feedback electronically. Feedback forms could be returned free of charge using the Frodsham Solar freepost address.
	A dedicated project website (www.frodshamsolar.co.uk) is live and will host consultation materials. The website will be kept updated for stakeholders to find out more information and provide their feedback. Consultation material will be presented digitally, providing information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.	The Applicant has kept the dedicated project website live throughout the pre-application period, updating the website at the start of each consultation period with information relevant to that consultation period. All consultation materials has been able to review digitally via the website, and these materials were consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.
	Local press adverts will be placed in the Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard to inform local communities of phases of consultation. Adverts will include contact information and information event dates, times and locations. For Phase Two consultation, formal notices will also be placed in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.	Local press adverts were published for both phases of consultation: Phase One Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard: 01 June 2023 Phase Two Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard: 14 November 2024 As well as a Section 47 Notice placed ahead of Phase One consultation on 25 May 2023, the Applicant also placed formal notices for Phase Two consultation. They included: Section 47 Notice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard: 31 October 2024 Section 48 Notice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard: 31 October 2024 and 7 November 2024 Guardian: 31 October 2024 London Gazette: 05 November 2024
	Local information points such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing consultation information for each phase of consultation.	The Applicant issued display posters publicising consultation opportunities to identified public venues ahead of each phase of consultation. They include venues such as Frodsham Community Centre, Helsby Community Centre and Beechwood Community Centre in Runcorn, as well as Frodsham Leisure Centre.
	Parish councils will be provided with digital materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, social media and online community forums.	The Applicant provided parish councils with digital materials, including the Community Consultation Leaflet, at the start of each phase of consultation to allow the organisations to promote the consultation. These parishes councils are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frodsham Town Council Helsby Parish Council Ince Parish Council Elton Parish Council Sutton Weaver Parish Council Alvanley Parish Council

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford Parish Council Hale Parish Council
	We will be promoting our phases of consultation by engaging with local media outlets, including The Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard. This will promote the consultation to a wider audience and further ensure that interested individuals and parties have an opportunity to comment on our proposals.	A media release was sent to local media outlets at the start of each phase of consultation, promoting the consultation to a wider audience.
	Should any changes to our consultation activities be required due to unforeseen events outside of our control, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in Section 6 of this SoCC.	Following the delay for the Phase Two consultation for Frodsham Solar, the Applicant produced a SoCC Addendum, setting out the approach for Phase Two consultation, consistent with the principles set out in the SoCC. Both LPAs were invited to comment on this document on 15 October 2024.
7. Community Access Points	<p>Hard copies of this document and relevant Phase One and Phase Two consultation materials, will be available at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frodsham Library Helsby Library Ellesmere Port Library 	<p>The Community Access Points hosted hard copy consultation materials for both phases of consultation. They included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of the Community Consultation Leaflet for reference and taking away. Copies of the Feedback Form for reference and taking away. A copy of the PEIR NTS for reference only (Phase Two only) <p>The Applicant ensured that all of these Community Access Points also hosted computers with internet access, should that support any interested individual to access the full PEIR.</p>
	USB and hard copies of all documents can be posted on request.	All documents were able to be posted on request, and USBs could be requested. Printed copies were also available on request, with a reasonable charge of up to £500.

Table 6: SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance specific to Phase Two consultation, as set out in the SoCC Addendum published in October 2024

Section	Commitment	Compliance
Our Phase Two Consultation	Our Phase Two consultation will take place over six weeks between Thursday 7 November and Thursday 19 December 2024.	Our Phase Two consultation ran for six weeks between Thursday 7 November and Thursday 19 December 2024.
How will we consult?	The PEIR will be published and available to view online and at information events. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR will be available to view at Community Access Points.	The PEIR was published on 7 November 2024 and available to view online and at information events. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR was available to view at Community Access Points, as well as online and at information events.

4. CONSIDERATION OF FEEDBACK

- 4.1. The Applicant recognises their duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity, in accordance with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.
- 4.2. The Applicant is continuing to analyse and consider responses received as part of their statutory consultation exercises.
- 4.3. The Applicant is preparing a Consultation Report to be submitted as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the 2008 Act.
- 4.4. In doing so, the Applicant's Consultation Report will demonstrate how consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 4.5. To build confidence in this process, the Applicant published a Phase One Consultation Summary Report in August 2024, following the Phase One statutory consultation undertaken from 01 June 2023 – 13 July 2023.
- 4.6. This report provided an overview of the feedback received and how the Applicant was considering this in the development of the Project.
- 4.7. A copy of the Applicant's Phase One Consultation Summary Report is provided as Appendix 1.
- 4.8. Changes arising in response to the Applicant's consideration of consultation feedback include, but are not limited to:
 - 4.8.1. Increasing the height of solar PV panels and Power Conversion Units within the areas of flood plain by 0.5m in response to EA consultation response.
 - 4.8.2. Addition of cycle use on selected permissive paths, enhanced signage and interpretation.
- 4.9. Consideration of how different user groups, including cyclists, could enjoy improved access across the 4.5km of proposed permissive paths across the site.
- 4.10. Introduction of additional measures such as signage, interpretation, seating, cycle parking to enhance user experience across the Site.

- 4.11. Increasing the height of the panels and PCUs in the eastern half of the Site so all areas of the solar farm would remain operational in the event of flooding.
- 4.12. Progressing a dynamic and wide-ranging community benefits package, focusing on Fuel Funding, Community Funding and Skills and Employment.
- 4.13. The Applicant notes that many consultation responses include concerns regarding the efficiency of solar technology, the need for solar generally and in this location, the scale and visual impact of the project, and the relationship between solar farms and potential environmental effects including ground conditions, flood risk and hydrology, and ecology.
- 4.14. While many of these issues cannot be responded to through Project design changes, the Applicant will be seeking to provide reassurance in response to this feedback by summarising and cross-referencing to relevant sections of their DCO application as well as relevant policy and evidence.

March 2025

**APPENDIX 1: CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL LETTER TO THE
APPLICANT REGARDING THE DRAFT ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION
DOCUMENT – MARCH 2025**

Mark Flaherty
Development Manager
Frodsham Solar

info@frodshamsolar.co.uk

Development Management

Planning Service
Cheshire West and Chester Council
The Portal
Wellington Road
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BA

Tel: 07786 198 601

Our ref: 23/01780/SCO

Your ref: EN010153

Please ask for: Paul Friston

Email: [REDACTED]@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Web: cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Date: 3rd March 2025

Dear Mark,

STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008
PRE-APPLICATION PUBLICITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 48 OF THE
PLANNING ACT 2008 AND REGULATION 13 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING
(ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Proposal: Solar energy generation station and associated on-site Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) ("Frodsham Solar") on land at Frodsham Marsh, Frodsham, Cheshire West and Chester

Applicant: Frodsham Solar Limited

Thank you for your e-mail of 17 February 2025 and the accompanying Frodsham Solar Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (February 2025) document.

As a general point, Cheshire West and Chester Council acknowledge the positive and proactive approach taken by the Applicant to pre-application consultation. It has been helpful to have the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation, leading up to the Phase 2 statutory consultation; and it was also appropriate for the programme of statutory consultation period to extend beyond the minimum 28-day period, particularly given the volume of additional material associated with the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (Oct 2024) (PEIR) at this second stage. Indeed, even with the extended period, it has been



Cheshire West
and Chester

challenging to provide the level of detailed response to the consultation that would be preferable (as indicated in CWCC's letter of 18 December 2024 in response to the Section 42 consultation and the PEIR).

With regard to Sections 42 (Duty to consult), 45 (Timetable for consultation), 47 (Duty to consult local community) and 48 (Duty to publicise) of the Planning Act 2008 it is considered that the Applicant has carried out adequate pre-application consultation in accordance with the statutory provision.

Given that this is EIA development, it is noted that in accordance with Regulation 8 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regs) the Applicant sought a screening opinion from the Secretary of State prior to formal consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act.

The Applicant published the Statement of Community Consultation in May 2023 (as required by S47 of the Planning Act 2008 and Reg 12 of the EIA Regs). This followed consultation on a draft SoCC in April/May 2023, with comments on the draft SoCC from CWCC (letter of 5 May 2023), and the Applicant provided CWCC with a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC): Cheshire West and Chester Council Feedback & Response (June 2023). It is noted that CWCC raised points relating to the lack of certain details relating to the project at this early stage of non-statutory consultation, and that this could hinder the quality of the consultation responses.

Whilst such details were not incorporated into the SoCC / Phase One consultation, the Phase 2 consultation with the PEIR provided more detail of the Project as it evolved through the design process, thereby providing consultees with more detail to comment on.

One aspect that has not been advanced during the pre-application stage is the provision of a draft of the Development Consent Order (e.g. in terms of identifying the extent/nature of non-planning consents that may be included, and any use of compulsory purchase powers).

Phase One Community Consultation for Frodsham Solar ran for seven weeks from 1st June to 13 July 2023.

An addendum to the SoCC was published in October 2024 prior to the Phase Two consultation.

Phase Two Community Consultation for Frodsham Solar (including the PEIR) ran for six weeks from 7th November to 19th December 2024.

The Applicant has continued to engage with non-statutory consultation with key stakeholder, as indicated by the focused design review sessions (Jan 2025) referred to at the end of Table 1 of the early AoCM report.

CWCC's case officer and the Applicant's representatives have held regular progress meetings throughout the pre-application consultation period.

Further comments on the Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (February 2025) document follow under each chapter heading:

Chapter 1 – Introduction and Overview

In relation to para 1.10, generally CWCC have no concerns with regards the adequacy of consultation at this stage. The comments in this letter should be referenced.

CWCC have yet to see the details of consultation responses provided to the Applicant and cannot yet comment in terms of how the Applicant has had regard to the relevant responses to publicity and consultation as required by Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008. However, it does appear from the amendments made to date and other comments, that the Applicant is having due regard.

Chapter 2 - Pre-application consultation and engagement

With regard to Table 1 in Chapter 2:

31 Oct 2024 - correction is needed regarding statement that *'Neither Cheshire West and Chester Council nor Halton Borough Council provided feedback on the approach set out within the SoCC addendum'* Cheshire West and Chester Council provided feedback by e-mail on 29th October 2024 to confirm: i) Comments in the CWCC letter of 5 May 2023 continued to apply; and to note the updated parliamentary constituencies (Weaver Vale constituency being replaced with new constituencies, and the south side of the Mersey now mainly being within Runcorn and Helsby constituency).

Chapter 3 Statement of Community Consultation – February 2025

Para 3.17 – correction needed as per comments above i.e. CWCC provided comments by e-mail on 29th October 2024 recommending updating the parliamentary constituency details.

Table 5: SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance, as set out in the SoCC published in May 2023

CWACC made comments on the draft SoCC in the letter of 5 May 2023. It should be noted that Table 5 does not provide a detailed response to CWCC's comments. It may be simplest to just cross this with the *Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC): Cheshire West and Chester Council Feedback & Response (June 2023)* referred to above.

Column 1 of Table 5 jumps from 1. Introduction to 4. Our Public Consultation Process. Section 3 Frodsham Solar has been omitted. CWCC made comments on this section in the letter of 5 May 2023. It is not clear why Column 1 omits sections.

It would be useful to include in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone a list of the consultees (statutory from Column 1 of Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regs), that were consulted, along with a list of the non-statutory consultees.

It would be useful to include/identify a specific response in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone in relation to actions taken in respect of the e-mail from PINS 22 May 2024 relating to The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) Regulations 2024 – Section 42 consultation, and the advice to review the transitional provisions in Reg 4 of the MP Regs 2024, together with the amendments to the APFP Regs, and consider whether any new or different consultation bodies should be included.

Chapter 4 Consideration of Feedback

This section is relatively short, and it is acknowledged that the Applicant is still in the process of considering the responses received through consultation, and that a Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

It may help to expand Chapter 4 with a table of more of the key changes made to the Project as a result of the consultation; especially if there is limited time to publishing a Phase Two Consultation Summary Report (similar to the Phase One summary).

There is still some lack of clarity in terms of the relationship between the Frodsham Solar Project and Frodsham Windfarm and the requirements of the windfarm consent, in terms of how the DCO would interact with the consent, as both projects continue to operate.

More information on draft DCO control documents at an early stage would be welcome.

One of my colleagues in Communities and Engagement is contacting the local councillors to confirm if there are any comments they would wish to make in relation to the consultation carried out, and I will let you know if there is any feedback to report.

I trust that these comments are of some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Paul Friston
Principal Planning Officer

APPENDIX 2: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – MAY 2023



Frodsham Solar

Statement of Community Consultation

May 2023

1. Introduction

We are proposing a new solar development situated north of Frodsham in Cheshire.

The solar project will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system by delivering sustainable, homegrown and low-cost energy to the region. The proposals could also enhance the local environment and biodiversity and provide benefits to local communities. The project is called Frodsham Solar.

This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”), has been prepared in accordance with Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance¹ to explain how we intend to consult the local community.

The approach to consultation set out in this document has been consulted upon with Cheshire West and Chester Council and Halton Borough Council in accordance with Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008. We have had regard to the comments that they have made.

We recognise consultation to be a vital stage in the development of our proposals. We want to receive feedback and work with stakeholders to refine our proposals for Frodsham Solar. This will allow us to develop our plans responsibly and in a manner that supports local community interests.

This SoCC outlines how we will consult during the ‘pre-application stage’ before we submit our Development Consent Order (“DCO”) application for the project to the Planning Inspectorate. We will also be undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the proposals. There is more information on the DCO and EIA process in Sections 8 and 9 of this SoCC and on the Planning Inspectorate’s website².

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418009/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf

²<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-infrastructure-planning-guidance>

2. About Us

The applicant for this project will be Frodsham Solar Ltd., which is part of Peel Cubico Renewables.

Peel Cubico Renewables is a joint venture partnership between natural resources and energy business Peel NRE and global renewable energy company Cubico Sustainable Investments (Cubico).

Peel NRE, part of Peel L&P, is at the heart of the nation’s activity around clean growth and the circular economy – helping the UK achieve net zero by 2050 and supporting regions in their actions to achieve climate emergency targets.

Peel NRE has a strong track record of engaging with local communities and is invested in the North West, with strong ties to its communities.

Cubico is one of the world’s largest privately-owned renewable energy companies.

Cubico has nearly 3 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy projects installed across 12 countries in Europe, the Americas and Australia, with more than 3 GW in construction and development. It brings expertise in financing, route to market, construction and operation.

Our mission is to accelerate change to combat the climate crisis.

Peel Cubico Renewables is dedicated to leading the UK’s renewable energy generation, supporting national net zero carbon targets.



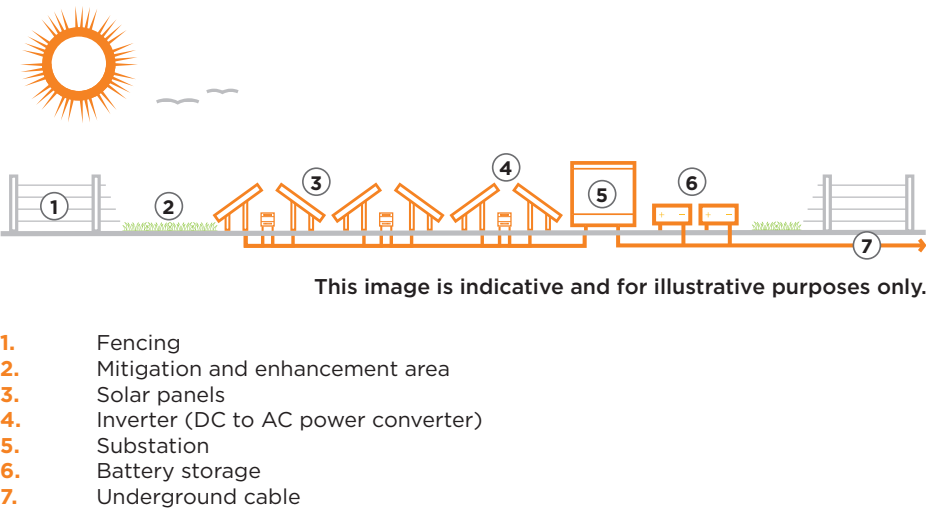
3. Frodsham Solar

The proposals for Frodsham Solar include:

- A ground-mounted solar array (solar panels).
- An anticipated potential output from the solar array of over 50 MW.
- Built infrastructure such as substations, transformers and inverters.
- Electrical connection infrastructure into the existing Frodsham Substation, adjacent to the River Weaver, and to local industrial installations.
- An on-site battery energy storage system (BESS).
- Landscape and ecological Mitigation and enhancement measures, including consideration of new permissive paths during the lifetime of the scheme.
- Other ancillary works including access, fencing, and drainage.

The current proposed site boundary is presented as Figure 2 (on page 6) - this may be refined as the project develops. The proposal is situated on land to the north of the M56, including an area of land beneath the eastern cluster of turbines of Frodsham Wind Farm.

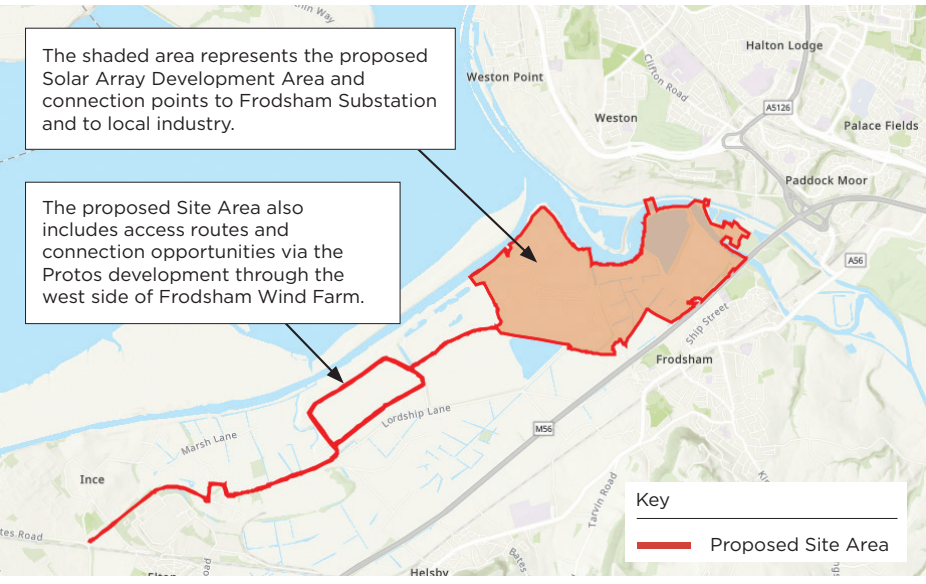
Figure 1: Components of a typical solar project



Frodsham Solar has the potential to:

- Export approximately 100 megawatts (MW) of clean electricity to SP Energy Networks, who are responsible for distributing electricity across Cheshire and Merseyside. For context, 100 MW is equivalent to powering approximately 34,000³ homes.
- Export electricity directly to local industry, in addition to the regional network.
- Bolster UK energy security with the use of a battery energy storage system (BESS) to store electricity and discharge when it is needed.
- Support regional ambitions and commitments, such as the Net Zero North West Industrial Cluster and Invest Net Zero Cheshire.
- Support the Government's vision for the delivery of low-carbon infrastructure to support industrial decarbonisation by 2030 and contribute to the Government's commitment to ensure the UK is net zero by 2050.
- Showcase the level of innovation locally, as seen within the Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone.

Figure 2: Proposed Site Boundary



³Based on Ofgem's estimation that the typical household in Britain uses 2,900 kWh of electricity.

4. Our Public Consultation Process

We are undertaking an iterative consultation process for Frodsham Solar. The feedback and information we receive will help inform the design of the project that we submit to the Planning Inspectorate for approval.

Any feedback on our methods of consultation is encouraged and will be considered by our team. Comments on our community consultation are best provided to us for consideration in the first instance, so that they can be addressed when designing future consultation activities. When we submit our DCO application, Local Planning Authorities will be invited to provide an Adequacy of Consultation Representation.

What will we consult on?

The aim of our pre-application public consultation is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have a chance to understand and influence our proposal. We will seek feedback to help develop our proposal. This will include potential issues such as, but not limited to:

- Temporary impacts during construction, such as traffic and noise.
- Operational impacts, such as upon wildlife, landscape, and views.
- Benefits, such as the opportunity for biodiversity and recreational improvements.

Details to inform responses on these topic areas – such as visual plans, descriptions of design parameters, and proposed mitigation measures – will be presented through the materials and activities described in Section 6.

Our consultation will consist of at least two phases:

- A Phase One community consultation, lasting six weeks, which will be held from Thursday 1 June 2023 to Thursday 13 July 2023.
- A Phase Two community consultation, which will also last longer than the statutory minimum of 28 days, planned for Winter 2023.

This SoCC applies to both phases of consultation.

Phase One consultation

(Thursday 1 June 2023 to Thursday 13 July 2023)

This consultation will introduce our early-stage proposals for Frodsham Solar to the community. We are looking to receive feedback on our concept plan and input based on the community's knowledge of the local area, allowing us to refine our proposals.

The feedback received, together with information from our environmental and technical surveys and discussions with technical stakeholders, will further inform the development of our design.

At the start of Phase One consultation, we will also be submitting our EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who will be running a 42-day consultation, in parallel with our Phase One consultation. PINS' consultation will involve technical stakeholders, local planning authorities and parish councils to gather feedback on the Applicant's proposals for how it intends to carry out its EIA, to form their Scoping Opinion. This is further outlined in Section 9 of this SoCC.

Phase Two consultation

(anticipated to be Winter 2023)

This statutory consultation will allow us to update the local community and stakeholders on our proposal for Frodsham Solar, as well as those land interests we have identified through the land referencing process. We will consult on our more developed proposals together with the results from the ongoing environmental and technical surveys that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR").

More specific details of Phase Two consultation will be publicised through the appropriate channels listed in Section 6. We will consider feedback we receive from Phase One consultation on the consultation process when designing our Phase Two consultation.

Ongoing engagement

Our free to use communication lines will remain open throughout the pre-application consultation period, so that engagement with stakeholders can continue outside of defined phases of consultation. The project website will also be kept updated with relevant project information and materials. This includes any changes to the project that may or may not require a formal targeted consultation period. We will discuss the details of any further consultations that may be needed with the Local Planning Authorities.

During the pre-application phase we will share a high-level document summarising the responses we have received during the first phase of consultation. This document will be made publicly available on the project website and provided in hard copy by request. Key stakeholders, such as relevant local planning authorities and parish councils, and anyone who has registered to be kept informed will be notified of the document being published.

Consultation reporting

As part of the DCO application to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, planned for Spring 2024, we will publish a Consultation Report that:

- Describes our consultation process, as well as the ongoing engagement with stakeholders and land interests that will take place throughout the pre-application process.
- Explains how we have adhered to legal requirements.
- Details how we have worked with Local Planning Authorities to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in this SoCC.
- Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received.
- Responds to the feedback we have received, including explaining how we have had regard to feedback and how it has influenced our proposals.

Examination

Additionally, anybody can formally comment on our proposals for Frodsham Solar when the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate will invite the public's views on the proposal and those who wish to will be able to register and submit their views for consideration during the examination. Guidance on the process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice>

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Throughout the pre-application consultation period, all stakeholder personal details will be stored in compliance with the GDPR by Counter Context, acting on behalf of the Frodsham Solar project team, and will not be shared with any third parties.

5. Who Will We Consult?

Our consultation process is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, our proposals for Frodsham Solar.

We are seeking to actively engage with the widest possible range of individuals and groups. We want our consultation to be accessible for everyone to respond, regardless of their personal circumstances.

The local community

Figure 3 shows a Consultation Zone, which centres on the proposed site and extends to nearby towns, villages and settlements considering existing infrastructure and boundaries. The zone comprises over 11,000 addresses. Properties within the Consultation Zone will directly receive a consultation postcard (set out in Section 6) to notify them of upcoming consultation from us in the post. Information events will be held at locations within the Consultation Zone, and relevant organisations, such as parish councils and community groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.

Other interested stakeholders

We recognise that there may be some interested individuals or parties who are not within the Consultation Zone. We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to view our proposals and have their say. We will publicise consultation opportunities to communities beyond the Consultation Zone by advertising in local media (as described in Section 6) and maintaining a register of interested individuals. Informative consultation materials will be published online and available to view and either be collected or sent to parties via our contact details, as explained in Section 6.

As well as our two phases of community consultation, we will be engaging with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees on Frodsham Solar throughout the consultation exercises and beyond, including:

- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land included within the DCO application.
- MPs, Local Planning Authorities and Parish Councils.
- Statutory stakeholders, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.
- Local interest, community and environmental groups

Town and Parish Councils within the Consultation Zone who we will engage with include:

- Frodsham Town Council
- Helsby Parish Council
- Ince Parish Council
- Elton Parish Council
- Sutton Weaver Parish Council
- Alvanley Parish Council
- Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford Parish Council
- Hale Parish Council

Seldom Heard groups

We have developed our consultation with the intention of being accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of 'gateway organisations' representing potentially seldom heard groups in the consultation area. These organisations will be contacted ahead of both phases of consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members. These identified groups are listed in Table 1.

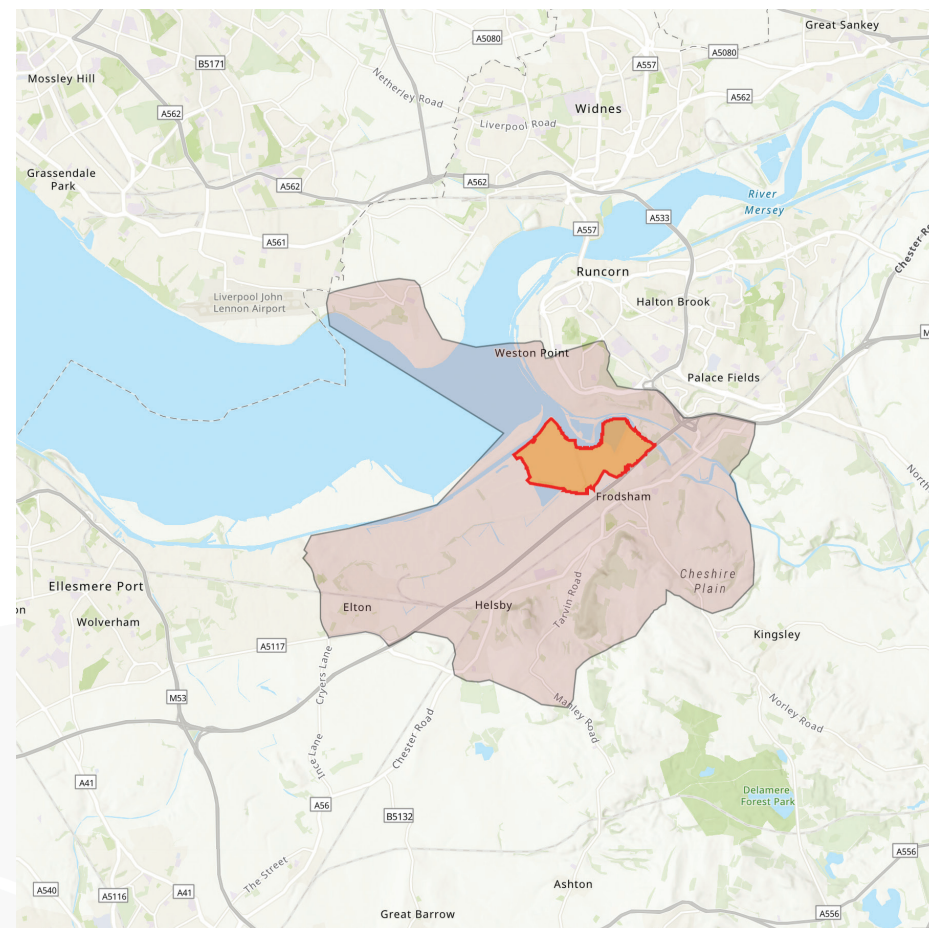
Ongoing engagement

Anyone is welcome to get in touch with us at any point between now and the submission of our application. Our contact details are listed in Section 11 of this SoCC and will remain open throughout the pre-application phase. Through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of our consultation team to ask questions and provide feedback.

Table 1: Gateway organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Cheshire Community Action | • Frodsham Manor House Primary School |
| • Age UK Cheshire | • Frodsham CE Primary School |
| • Age UK Mid Mersey | • British Deaf Association |
| • Cheshire Change Hub | • Healthbox |
| • Frodsham WI | • Healthwatch Halton |
| • MIND Halton | • Healthwatch Cheshire West |
| • Bee Friends Frodsham | • iMap Centre |
| • Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race & Equality Centre | • Deafness Support Network |
| • Cheshire West Communities Together | • Making Space |
| • The Traveller Movement | • The Port Men in Sheds |
| • Friends, Families and Travellers | • Cheshire Autism Practical Support |
| • Leonard Cheshire | • Halton and St Helens Voluntary and Community Action |
| • Scouts Cheshire | • Halton Speak Out (Brookvale Community Centre) |
| • Frodsham Primary Academy School | • Vibe UK |
| | • Halton Youth Cabinet |
| | • Elton Primary School and Nursery |

Figure 3: Frodsham Solar Consultation Zone



Comprises of over 11,000 addresses within the Cheshire West and Chester and Halton Borough authority areas, including every address within the parish of Frodsham.

6. How Will We Consult?

The consultation activities described in this section of the SoCC ensure **inclusive, meaningful and open consultation**. The activities include a range of methods to ensure our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.

Our Phase One consultation, planned to take place between Thursday 1 June 2023 and Thursday 13 July 2023, and our Phase Two consultation, planned to take place in Winter 2023, will be carried out in the following ways:

Meetings and events

In-person information events will be held at locations within the Consultation Zone (see Figure 3). They will be advertised in consultation materials, across local media, and by issuing publicity materials to identified public venues (referred to as local information points). We have organised in-person information events across a range of days and times.

Location	Date & Time
Helsby Community Centre Lower Robin Hood Lane, Frodsham, WA6 0BW	Saturday 17th June 12pm – 4pm
Christchurch Hall Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn, WA7 4EU	Tuesday 20th June 3pm – 7pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Wednesday 21st June 2pm – 7pm
Elton Community Centre School Lane, Elton, Chester, CH2 4PU	Thursday 22nd June 11am – 4pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Friday 23rd June 2.30pm – 7pm
Online Community Webinar Zoom	Monday 26th June 5.30pm – 7pm

Members of the Frodsham Solar team will be at these events to answer questions and discuss the proposals in more detail. Project materials setting out the proposals (as they stand at each phase) will be displayed and available to take away.

A Webinar will be held for any member of the public to join via internet or telephone during Phase One consultation and will be considered at Phase Two. Participants will be invited to submit questions. Members of the Frodsham Solar project team will respond to the questions put forward during the webinar whilst the webinar is carried out. A recording of the webinar presentation will be made available on the project website.

Meetings and briefing sessions may be arranged with local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups during and in-between the two phases of community consultation.

Literature

Consultation postcards will be sent to properties within the Consultation Zone, to notify local residents and businesses of the proposal and consultation opportunities, including how to access the project website and communications channels and details of information events.

Consultation leaflets will be produced and made available at the start of each phase of consultation. These leaflets will be available online, by collection from Community Access Points, and available to take away from our information events.

These leaflets will publicise the Phase One and Phase Two consultation opportunities and summarise the information being consulted on. This will include the details of the consultation period and the activities being undertaken, such as dates, times and locations of information events.

Feedback forms will be made available for community members to respond to the consultation. This also includes those outside the Consultation Zone who wish to provide feedback. These will be available online and in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and by request. Feedback forms will be able to be returned free of charge using the Frodsham Solar FREEPOST address (**FREEPOST FS PCR CONSULTATION**).

Communication Channels

As well as through the feedback form, written feedback can be made to the following project communication channels during consultation periods:

Email: info@frodshamsolar.co.uk

Freepost Address: FREEPOST FS PCR CONSULTATION

During consultation periods, questions and requests for more information can be made to the communication channels above, as well as through calling the project’s freephone information line on 0808 175 4004 (open 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday. A voicemail service will operate for out of office hours).

Our project website and online information

A dedicated project website (www.frodshamsolar.co.uk) is live and will host consultation materials. The website will be kept updated for stakeholders to find out more information and provide their feedback.

Consultation material will be presented digitally, providing information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.

Advertising and local notices

- Local press adverts will be placed in the Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard to inform local communities of phases of consultation. Adverts will include contact information and information event dates, times and locations. For Phase Two consultation, formal notices will also be placed in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008.
- Local information points such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing consultation information for each phase of consultation.

Parish councils will be provided with digital materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, social media and online community forums.

Local media engagement

We will be promoting our phases of consultation by engaging with local media outlets, including The Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard. This will promote the consultation to a wider audience and further ensure that interested individuals and parties have an opportunity to comment on our proposals.

Should any changes to our consultation activities be required due to unforeseen events outside of our control, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in Section 6 of this SoCC.

7. Community Access Points

Hard copies of this document and relevant Phase One and Phase Two consultation materials, will be available at the following locations:

Location	Date & Time
Frodsham Library Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX	Mon – Fri: 9am – 6pm Sat: 9:30am – 1pm
Helsby Library Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, WA6 0BW	Mon and Fri: 9.30am – 5pm Tues and Weds: 9.30am – 7pm Saturday: 9.30am - 1pm
Ellesmere Port Library Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG	Mon, Thurs and Fri: 9am – 7pm Tues and Weds: 9am – 5pm Sat: 9am – 1pm

Due to varying reasons, some public buildings may be accessible by appointment only, or opening times may vary. Please check with venues for up-to-date information.

All documents are available on our project website (www.frodshamsolar.co.uk) or USB and hard copies can be posted on request (fees may apply).

8. The Planning Process

Frodsham Solar is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) as it has a proposed generating capacity of over 50 MW. As an NSIP we must apply for a DCO.

The DCO application will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, the agency responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs. If accepted, it will then be examined by an independent Examining Authority, who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (“SoS”). The SoS will then review this before deciding whether to grant a DCO.

For more information on this process, or for advice on how to respond to our pre-application consultation, stakeholders can view the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 8 at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8.0.pdf>

Pre-application

Frodsham Solar must consult with the community and statutory consultees (such as the host Local Planning Authorities) in compliance with the Planning Act 2008. To demonstrate this to the Planning Inspectorate, we will submit a Consultation Report alongside the DCO application, containing details of our method for consulting, the feedback submitted in response to the consultation, and how this has influenced our proposals.



Acceptance

The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, including whether our consultation has been adequate.



Pre-Examination

Stakeholders and the public will be notified that the application has been accepted and will be invited by the project to register as an interested party and will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put their case forward. Inspectors will hold a preliminary meeting and set the timetable for examination.



Examination

Stakeholders and the public can send their comments in writing and can request to speak at a public hearing. The Planning Inspectorate has six months to carry out the examination.



Decision

A recommendation to the Secretary of State will be issued by the Examining Authority within three months. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to issue a decision on the proposal.



Post-decision

Once a decision has been issued by the Secretary of State, there is a six-week period for legal challenge on the decision.

9. Environmental Information

We will undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) for Frodsham Solar. The scope and methodology for this assessment will be informed by feedback from relevant regulatory and environmental bodies.

A Scoping Report and PEIR (explained below) will be consulted on as part of the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared.

We intend to coordinate the timing of community consultation phases to align with the publication of the Scoping Report and the PEIR. This will allow community members to consider and provide feedback to us directly on relevant EIA information in parallel to statutory consultees. All comments will be considered.

Scoping Report
<p>Our Scoping Report is planned to be published in parallel with the Phase One consultation and will outline the processes we will undertake to assess any potential impacts to the existing environment.</p> <p>Feedback on this from statutory consultees, such as Local Planning Authorities, will be provided in a Scoping Opinion, which will be published by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Both of these documents will be available to view on the Planning Inspectorate’s website.</p>
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”)
<p>The PEIR will build upon the findings from the scoping documents and the feedback received through the Phase One consultation and engagement with stakeholders.</p> <p>It will incorporate findings of the surveys and preliminary environmental assessments that have been carried out to date, including assessing cumulative impacts. This will enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely potential impacts that Frodsham Solar may have on the local environment. In our Phase Two consultation, we will seek feedback on the findings of the PEIR.</p>
Environmental Statement (“ES”)
<p>The ES will advance the content of the PEIR and continue to incorporate the responses from the Phase Two consultation, stakeholder engagement and results of the surveys undertaken. It will also describe any changes to the project and any mitigation measures that need to be implemented.</p> <p>The ES will form part of the DCO application for submission.</p>

10. Indicative Consultation Timeline

Early Summer 2023: Publication of Statement of Community Consultation.	Early Summer 2023: Public communication of proposals and opening of communications channels.
Summer 2023: Phase One consultation on initial proposals.	Summer 2023: EIA Scoping Report and Opinion.
Autumn 2023: Feedback analysis, interim reporting and ongoing engagement.	Winter 2023: Phase two consultation on more detailed proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).
Spring 2024: DCO Application & PINS Acceptance decision.	Summer 2024: Spring 2025: PINS Examination.
Autumn 2025: Secretary of State Decision.	2026: Construction
2028: Frodsham Solar becomes operational.	All future dates are indicative and subject to change.

11. Contact Us

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Frodsham Solar using any of the methods below.



Email: info@frodshamsolar.co.uk



Freephone information line: 0808 175 4004



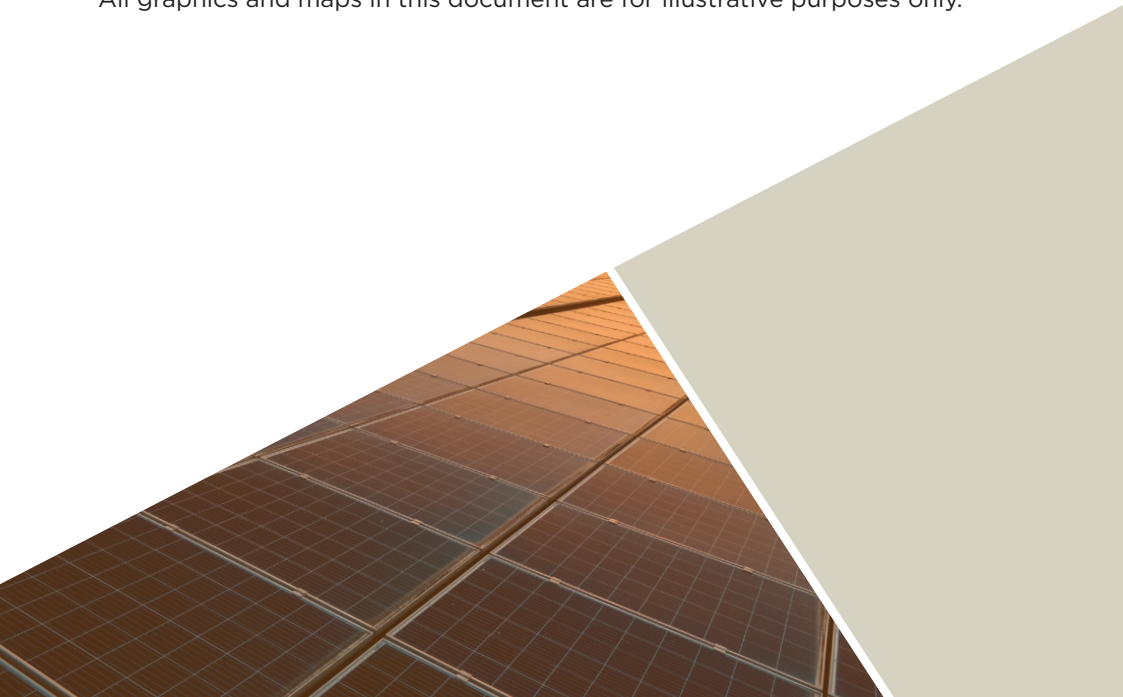
Freepost: FS PCR CONSULTATION



Website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk

Should anybody require any documents in an alternative format, such as translated language, large print, audio or braille, then please contact us at the details provided.

All graphics and maps in this document are for illustrative purposes only.



**APPENDIX 3: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ADDENDUM –
OCTOBER 2024**

Frodsham Solar: Addendum to Statement of Community Consultation

Introduction

On 25 May 2023, Frodsham Solar Ltd. published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for Frodsham Solar. This document remains available to view and download from the project website: www.frodshamsolar.co.uk.

The published SoCC describes how consultation will be undertaken during the 'pre-application stage, prior to the submission of a Development Consent Order ("DCO") application for the project.

The approach to consultation set out in this document was consulted upon with Cheshire West and Chester Council and Halton Borough Council in accordance with Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

The SoCC sets out an iterative approach to pre-application consultation, comprising:

- A Phase One consultation introducing early-stage proposals for Frodsham Solar and inviting feedback on a concept plan. This first phase of consultation was undertaken between 1 June 2023 and 13 July 2023 consistent with the details set out in the SoCC.
- A Phase Two consultation on more developed proposals for Frodsham Solar together with the results from environmental and technical surveys. The indicative timeline presented in the SoCC had anticipated this phase of consultation to take place in Winter 2023. However, various factors in developing the proposals following the close of Phase One consultation meant an appropriate level of detail was not available to consult upon in Winter 2023.

Instead, Phase Two consultation will be undertaken between **7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024**.

This addendum sets out the details of the upcoming Phase Two consultation, consistent with the principles established in the published SoCC.

The Applicant

The applicant for this project will be Frodsham Solar Ltd., which was introduced last year as part of a joint venture known as Peel Cubico Renewables.

In January 2024, Cubico Sustainable Investments (Cubico) acquired Peel NRE's 50% stake in Peel Cubico Renewables Ltd. This includes the joint venture's solar development pipeline, meaning that Frodsham Solar is now a Cubico only project and Frodsham Solar Ltd. is wholly owned by Cubico.

The acquisition also includes the transfer of the North-West based Peel NRE renewables development team into the Cubico business, ensuring that those that know and have the experience of developing renewable energy in this area remain on the project.

It represents a significant step in Cubico's aspiration to establish itself as a prominent developer, owner, and operator of renewable energy assets within the country, aligning with the UK's pursuit of its own ambitious net zero targets.

The Project

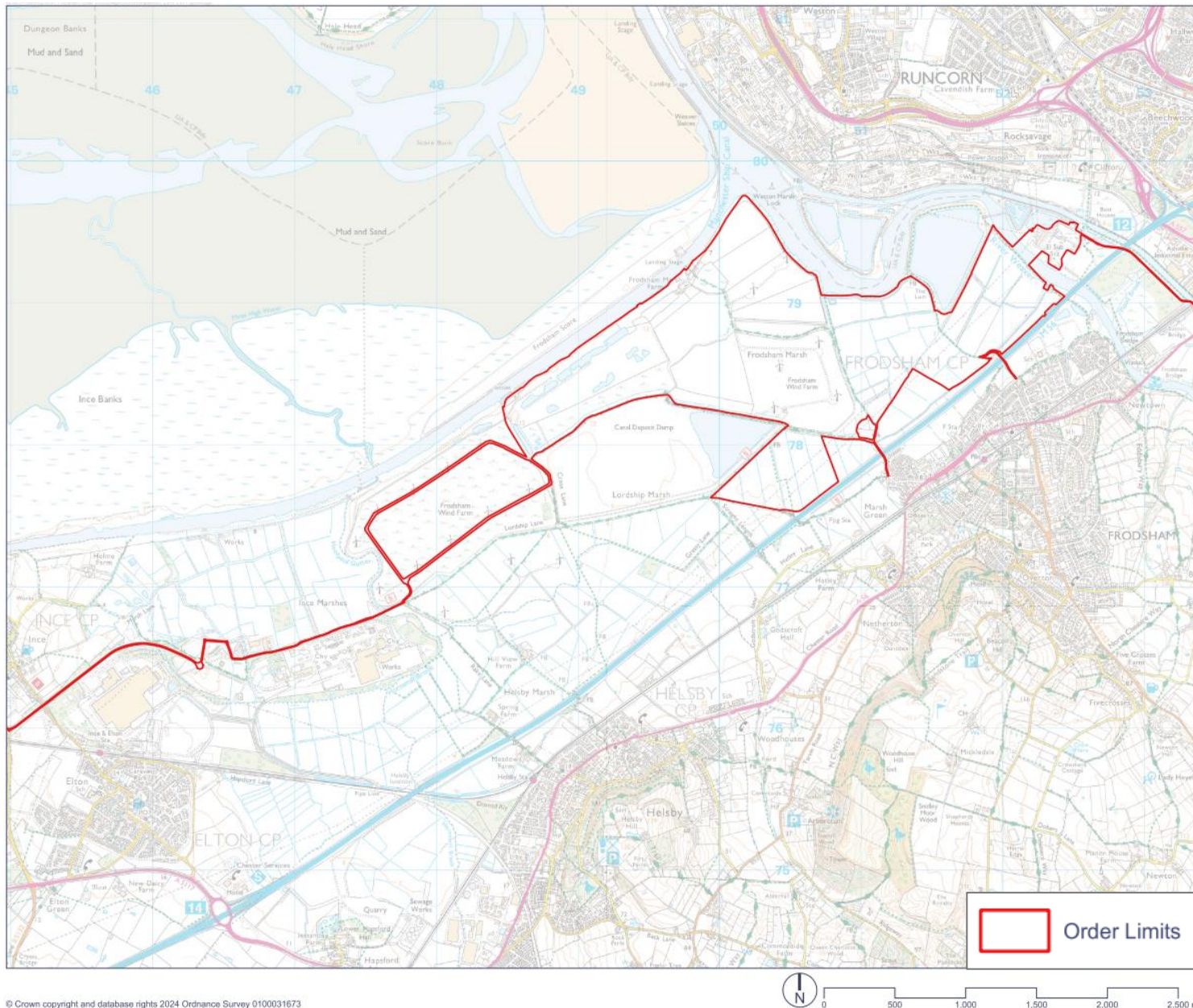
The proposal for Frodsham Solar remains consistent with Section 3 of the SoCC.

The proposal is situated on land to the north of the M56, including an area of land beneath the eastern cluster of turbines of Frodsham Wind Farm, and includes:

- A ground-mounted solar array (solar panels).
- An anticipated potential output from the solar array of over 50 MW.
- Built infrastructure such as substations, transformers and inverters.
- Electrical connection infrastructure into the existing Frodsham Substation, adjacent to the River Weaver, and to local industrial installations.
- An on-site battery energy storage system (BESS).
- Landscape and ecological Mitigation and enhancement measures, including consideration of new permissive paths during the lifetime of the scheme.
- Other ancillary works including access, fencing, and drainage

The proposed site boundary has evolved since the publication of the SoCC, in response to further assessment, feedback received and ongoing design development. The updated proposed site boundary is presented as Figure 1 overleaf.

Figure 1: Proposed Site Boundary



Our Phase Two Consultation

Our Phase Two consultation will take place over six weeks between Thursday 7 November and Thursday 19 December 2024.

This section includes details of our upcoming Phase Two consultation and explains how this will be undertaken consistently with the principles and commitments set out in the published SoCC.

Our public consultation process

As described in Section 4 of the SoCC, our Phase Two consultation will allow us to update the local community and stakeholders on our proposal for Frodsham Solar. Consultation will be undertaken in parallel with the local community, land interests we have identified through the land referencing process, and technical and prescribed consultees.

We will consult on our more developed proposals together with the results from the ongoing environmental and technical surveys that have been carried out to date, which will be published in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”).

Our Phase Two consultation will build on our Phase One consultation to seek feedback on potential issues such as, but not limited to management and mitigation of temporary impacts during construction, operational impacts, our environmental masterplan proposals and benefits.

Details to inform responses on these topic areas – such as visual plans, descriptions of design parameters and principles, and proposed mitigation measures – will be presented through consultation materials including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a Community Consultation Leaflet.

Our Phase Two consultation will be held over a six week period, consistent with the commitment in the SoCC to exceed the statutory minimum of 28 days.

Who Will We Consult?

As described in Section 5 of the SoCC, our Phase Two consultation is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, our proposal for Frodsham Solar.

We will proactively notify the local community in writing of our Phase Two consultation and their opportunities to take part. This will be done by issuing a consultation postcard to all properties within the Consultation Zone pictured as Figure 3 in the published SoCC, and as Figure 2 below. This comprises over 11,000 addresses within the Cheshire West and Chester and Halton Borough authority areas, including every address within the civil parish of Frodsham.

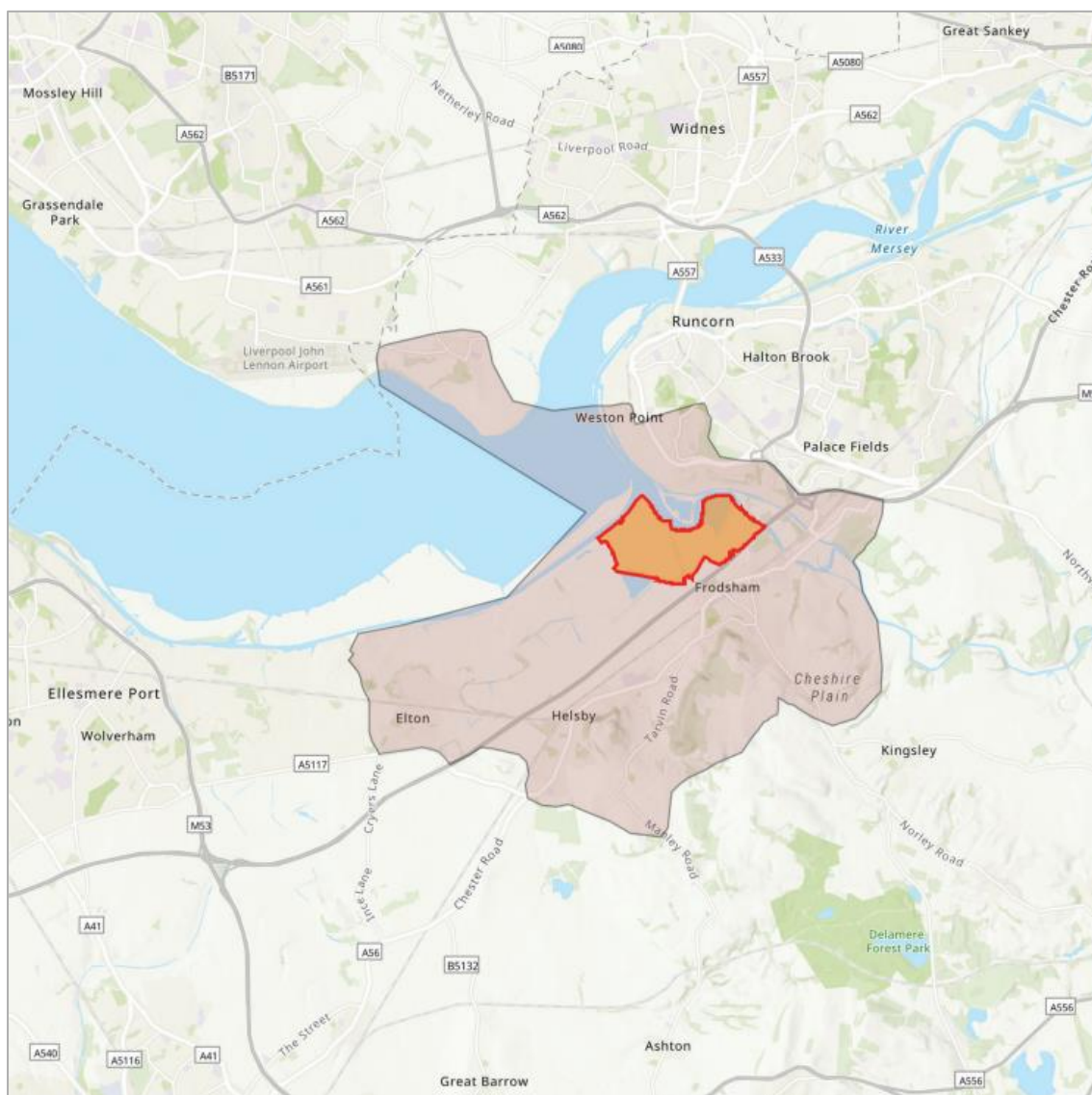
Relevant organisations and representative stakeholders within the Consultation Zone, such as host town and parish councils, host local authority councillors, the

Member of Parliament for Runcorn and Helsby, and identified community groups, will be notified of the upcoming Phase Two consultation opportunities by email.

Consultation opportunities will be publicised to communities and interested parties beyond the Consultation Zone by advertising in local media and contacting our register of interested individuals¹.

The identified 'gateway organisations' representing potentially seldom heard groups in the Consultation Zone listed in Table 1 of the SoCC will be contacted ahead of our Phase Two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members and those they represent.

Figure 2: Frodsham Solar Consultation Zone (as presented in SoCC)



¹ Respondents to the Phase One consultation were provided an option to sign up to receive updates by email or post. Anyone interested in the proposals has also had opportunities to register for updates by contacting our range of free-to-use communications channels.



How Will We Consult?

As described in Section 6 of the SoCC, our Phase Two consultation will include a range of methods to ensure the consultation is accessible.

Information events

In-person information events will be held at locations within the Consultation Zone. A webinar event will also be held for any member of the public to join via internet or telephone. These events will be advertised in consultation materials, across local media, and by issuing publicity materials to identified public venues (referred to as local information points) as well as at Community Access Points. We have arranged the following schedule of information events across a range of locations, days and times. This approach is consistent with the Phase One consultation event details provided in the SoCC.

Location	Date & Time
Christchurch Hall Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn, WA7 4EU	Monday 25 November 2024 3pm - 7pm
Helsby Community Centre Lower Robin Hood Lane, Frodsham, WA6 0BW	Tuesday 26 November 2024 2pm – 6.30pm
Elton Community Centre School Lane, Elton, Chester, CH2 4PU	Friday 29 November 2024 3pm - 7pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Saturday 30 November 2024 1.30pm – 5.30pm
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Monday 2 December 2024 2.30pm – 6.30pm
Online Community Webinar via Zoom (please visit our website or contact us for joining instructions)	Wednesday 4 December 2024 6pm – 7.30pm

Literature

As described in Section 6 of the SoCC, a range of materials will be published to promote consultation opportunities and facilitate responses.

A Consultation Postcard will be sent to properties within the Consultation Zone. This will include details of the Phase Two consultation and how to take part.

A Community Consultation Leaflet will be available free-of-charge to view and download online, collect from information events and Community Access Points, and by request from our contact channels. The Community Consultation Leaflet will provide a summary of our updated proposal for Frodsham Solar and how to take part in the consultation.

The PEIR will be published and available to view online and at information events. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR will be available to view at Community

Access Points. A full copy of the PEIR will be available free-of-charge by USB, but a reasonable charge up to £500 may apply to providing printed copies of the PEIR.

The PEIR will include details of the proposal for Frodsham Solar, including the results of environmental assessments undertaken to date and associated mitigation measures.

Feedback forms will be made available free-of-charge for community members to respond to the consultation. These forms will be available online and in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and by request to the contact details below. Feedback forms will be able to be returned free of charge using the Frodsham Solar FREEPOST address (FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR).

Consultation materials can also be made available by request in alternative formats, such as large print, translated language, audio or braille, by contacting us using the details below.

Communication channels

Feedback Forms and any other written feedback can be made to the following project communication channels during the Phase Two consultation period:

- Email: info@frodshamsolar.co.uk
- Freepost Address: FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR

Questions and requests for more information can be made to the communication channels above, as well as through calling the project freephone information line on 0808 175 4004 (open 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday. A voicemail service will operate for out of office hours).

Project website and online information

The dedicated project website (www.frodshamsolar.co.uk) remains live. The website will be updated for the start of the Phase Two consultation to include relevant information on the proposal. This will involve hosting Phase Two consultation materials within the Document Library section of the website. Consultation material will be presented digitally, providing information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.

The website will also host an online version of the feedback form, for comments to be submitted online.

Advertising, notices and media

As described in Section 6 of the SoCC, Adverts will be placed in the Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard to publicise the Phase Two consultation opportunities to local communities.

Notices will also be placed in these local newspapers, as well as a national newspaper and the London Gazette, in compliance with Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

Local information points such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing details of how to take part in the Phase Two consultation.

We will be promoting the Phase Two consultation opportunities through a press release issued to regional publications.

Privacy and data protection

The responses and representations we receive will be considered and will form the basis of a Consultation Report, and therefore may become public. Personal details will be held securely and solely for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, DCO process and further development of the project.

Outside of these purposes we may be required to provide personal details if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. Otherwise, personal details will not be disclosed to any third parties. For further details please see our Privacy Notice at www.frodshamsolar.co.uk/privacy-policy. A printed copy of the Privacy Notice can be provided upon request to our contact channels.

Community Access Points

Hard copies of this document and Phase Two consultation materials will be available at the following locations:

Location	Date & Time
Frodsham Library Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX	Monday to Friday: 9am – 6pm Saturday: 9:30am – 1pm
Helsby Library Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, WA6 0BW	Monday and Friday: 9.30am – 5pm Tuesday and Wednesday: 9.30am – 7pm Saturday: 9.30am - 1pm
Ellesmere Port Library Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG	Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9am – 7pm Tuesday and Wednesday: 9am – 5pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm

Phase Two consultation materials hosted at these locations will include:

- Copies of this document for reference and taking away.
- Copies of the Community Consultation Leaflet for reference and taking away.
- Copies of the Feedback Form for reference and taking away.
- A copy of the PEIR NTS for reference only.

All of these Community Access Points also host computers with internet access, should that support any interested individual to access the full PEIR.

APPENDIX 4: SECTION 42 CONSULTTEE LIST

Table 7: Prescribed statutory bodies under Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms & Procedure) Regulations 2009, pursuant to Section 3 of those Regulations.

Schedule 1 description	Organisational body or bodies
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
The National Health Service Commissioning Board and the relevant clinical commissioning group	NHS England
The relevant Integrated Care Board	NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Historic England
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Cheshire Fire and Rescue
The relevant police authority	Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner
The relevant parish council, or, where the application relates to land Wales or Scotland the relevant community council - i.e. the relevant 'host' parishes	Ince Parish Council
	Frodsham Town Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment agency
The Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) and Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs)	Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority and Executive (Merseytravel).
The relevant Highways Authority	Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC)
The relevant Highways Authority	Halton Borough Council
The relevant strategic highways company	National Highways
The Canal and River Trust	The Canal and River Trust
United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	Public Health England
Trinity House	Trinity House

Table 8: Statutory undertakers for the purposes of Section 127 of the Planning Act 2008

Schedule 1 description	Organisational body or bodies
Special Health Authorities	NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA)
	NHS Blood and Transplant (NHS B&T)
	NHS Litigation Authority (known operationally as NHS Resolution)
	NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHS CFA)
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The Forestry Commission	The Forestry Commission
The Office for Nuclear Regulation (the ONR)	The Office for Nuclear Regulation (the ONR)
The relevant NHS Trust	Northwest Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Railways	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
	Highways England Historical Railways Estate
Canal or Inland Navigation Authorities	Association of Inland Navigation Authorities (AINA)
Dock and Harbour authority	Peel Ports
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	United Utilities

Schedule 1 description	Organisational body or bodies
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Last Mile Gas Ltd
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	Northern Gas Networks Limited
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
	Wales and West Utilities Ltd
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Networks Ltd
	ESP Pipelines Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Leep Gas Networks Limited
	Murphy Gas Networks limited
	Mua Gas Limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited

Schedule 1 description	Organisational body or bodies
	Squire Energy Limited
	National Grid Gas Plc
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	Eclipse Power Network Limited
	Energy Assets Networks Limited
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Indigo Power Limited
	Last Mile Electricity Ltd
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Mua Electricity Limited
	Optimal Power Networks Limited
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited

Schedule 1 description	Organisational body or bodies
	SP Manweb Plc
	Squire Energy Metering Ltd
The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited

Table 9: s43 Planning Act 2008 local authorities (for the purposes of Section 42(1)(b))

Category	Organisation
Local Authorities (A-D)	Warrington Borough Council
	Wrexham County Borough Council
	St Helens Council
	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cheshire East Council
	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Halton Borough Council
	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Shropshire Council
	Liverpool City Council
	Flintshire County Council

Table 10: List of gateway organisations that may represent seldom heard groups consulted

Organisational body or bodies
Cheshire Community Action
Age UK Cheshire
Age UK Mid Mersey
Elton WI
MIND Halton
Bee Friends Frodsham
Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Race & Equality Centre
The Traveller Movement
Friends, Families and Travellers
Leonard Cheshire
Healthbox
Healthwatch Halton
Healthwatch Cheshire West
iMap Centre
Deafness Support Network
Making Space
The Port Men in Sheds
Cheshire Autism Practical Support
Halton and St Helens Voluntary and Community Action
Vibe UK
Halton Youth Cabinet
Frodsham Primary Academy School
Frodsham Manor House Primary School
Frodsham CE Primary School
Elton Primary School and Nursery
Weston Point Community Primary School
Changing Lives Together
Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society
Cheshire Constabulary
Older People Active Lives (OPAL)
Frodsham Youth Association
Helsby Community Sports Club
Weaver Vale Housing Trust
Cheshire West Specialist Learning Disability Service

Table 11: List of non-prescribed additions consulted under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 in November 2024

Schedule 1 description	Organisational body or bodies
Landowner representatives	National Farmers Union
	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
	Chartered Association of Agricultural Valuers (CAAV)
Wildlife and heritage groups	RSPB
	Cheshire Wildlife Trust
	National Trust
Recreation	Ramblers
Others from PINS	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
	Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
	Cycle North Cheshire
	Wetland Bird Surveys
Neighbouring Parishes (to be treated as S42)	Helsby Parish Council
	Elton Parish Council
	Sutton Weaver Parish Council
	Alvanley Parish Council
	Dunham-on-the-hill and Hapsford Parish Council
	Hale Parish Council

Table 12: List of additional bodies consulted under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 in March 2025

Schedule 1 description	Organisational body or bodies
Relevant Highways Authority	Warrington Borough Council
	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cheshire East Council
	Halton Borough Council
	Shropshire Council
	Liverpool City Council
	Flintshire County Council
Relevant police authority	North Wales Police
	West Mercia Police
	Staffordshire Police
	Derbyshire Constabulary
	Greater Manchester Police
	Merseyside Police
Relevant Ambulance Service	West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust
	Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Relevant fire and rescue authority	Merseyside Fire and Rescue
	North Wales Fire and Rescue
	Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue
	Shropshire Fire and Rescue
	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue
	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue