



Frodsham Solar Consultation Report

May 2025

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**Planning Act 2008; and Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(q)**



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0 Glossary

Table 0.1: Document glossary and list of abbreviations

Term or Abbreviation	Definition
APFP Regulations	Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure Regulations
Applicant	Frodsham Solar Limited
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CAPs	Community Access Points (identified public venues that agreed to host Project consultation materials)
CCZ	Core Consultation Zone including over 11,000 addresses in the local area
CSR	Consultation Summary Report
CWCC	Cheshire West and Chester Council
DCLG Guidance	Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 Guidance on the pre-application process (2015)
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
Guidance	Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure

Term or Abbreviation	Definition
	Projects ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024)
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Phase One Consultation	The first phase of community consultation that ran from 1 June 2023 to 13 July 2023
Phase Two Consultation	The second phase of consultation that ran from 7 November 2024 to 19 December 2024.
Proposed Development	Frodsham Solar
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
Proposed Development communication channels	<p>The Applicant's range of free-to-use contact channels, which remained open throughout the consultation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freephone number (0808 175 4004); • Freepost address (Phase One: FREEPOST FS PCR CONSULTATION, Phase Two: FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR); and • Email address (info@frodshamsolar.co.uk)

Term or Abbreviation	Definition
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
The 2008 Act	The 2008 Planning Act

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Frodsham Solar Limited (the Applicant) is proposing to build a new solar energy generation station and associated on-site energy storage, located on land at Frodsham Marsh, Frodsham, Cheshire West and Chester (the Proposed Development).
- 1.1.2 The Applicant has undertaken an open and meaningful pre-application consultation process with a wide range of consultees. This Consultation Report seeks to evidence the consultation and engagement that has taken place throughout the pre-application period and demonstrate how this has complied with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) and influenced the final design of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development comprises a new solar energy generating station and an associated on-site Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The Proposed Development also includes the associated infrastructure for connection to the local electricity distribution network, as well as a private wire electricity connection that would enable local businesses to utilise the renewable energy generated by the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.4 The Site is located approximately 500 m to the north of the centre of Frodsham Town Centre within the administrative area of Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaCC), which is the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The Proposed Development location is shown on Environmental Statement (ES) Vol 3 Figure 1-1 Site Location [EN010153/DR/6.3].
- 1.1.5 In the initial proposals, the Proposed Development also fell within the boundary of Halton Borough Council due to a proposed private connection to the INEOS Inovyn site. That particular private wire connection was removed in the developed proposals, thereby removing the Proposed Development from the administrative area of Halton Borough Council.
- 1.1.6 The expected maximum area of land potentially required for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development, which includes land required for permanent and temporary purposes, is shown on **ES Vol 3 Figure 1-1 Site Location [EN010153/DR/6.3]**. This is referred to as the Order Limits.
- 1.1.7 The design for the Proposed Development would enable the generation of approximately 147 megawatts (MW) of electricity, as well as the storage of approximately 100 MW of electricity in a BESS. The precise generating capacity and storage capacity will be subject to detailed design, but it should be noted that at present the Grid connection offer from the District Network Operator (DNO) is for 100 MW export and 50 MW import. As noted above, the

Proposed Development would also be capable of exporting electricity directly to local businesses.

- 1.1.8 A more detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided within **ES Volume 1 Chapter 2: The Proposed Development [EN010153/DR/6.1]**.

1.2 The Applicant's approach to consultation

- 1.2.1 The Applicant recognises that consultation is a vital tool in the development of project design. They are committed to continuing to provide opportunities for interested parties to learn about the Proposed Development and share their views. The Applicant intends to work collaboratively with local people and organisations to deliver the Proposed Development sensitively and in cohesion with the local environment.
- 1.2.2 Throughout the pre-application process, the Applicant has welcomed feedback on the Proposed Development from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is presented in this Consultation Report. The consideration of all feedback received is explained in Chapters 9 and 10 of this report.

1.3 The purpose and structure of this Consultation Report

- 1.3.1 This Consultation Report accompanies the Development Consent Order (DCO) application by the Applicant to the Secretary of State under Section 37 of the 2008 Act. The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate and maintain, and decommission the Proposed Development.
- 1.3.2 This report has been prepared in accordance with Sections 37(3)(c) and 37(7) of the 2008 Act and details the consultation undertaken under Sections 42, 47, 48 and 49 of the 2008 Act, and associated legislation and guidance, including the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (published 30 April 2024). This includes how consultation responses have informed the Proposed Development and been responded to by the Applicant.
- 1.3.3 Table 1.1 presents the structure of this Consultation Report. The document has been structured through consideration of the chronological order of consultation activities and the relevant Sections of the 2008 Act.

Table 1.1: Structure and explanation of Consultation Report Sections

Report section	Overview
1. Introduction	Introduces the Applicant and Proposed Development, provides an overview of the pre-application consultation undertaken, and sets out the structure and information presented in the Consultation Report.
2. Legislation, Guidance and Advice	Sets out the requirements of the 2008 Act and accompanying guidance, which the Applicant's consultation has complied with.
3. The introduction of the Proposed Development to consultees (April – May 2023)	A summary of how the Applicant introduced the Proposed Development to consultees ahead of commencing non-statutory consultation.
4. Consultation under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations')	Describes how the Applicant has consulted according to the EIA Regulations.
5. Preparation for Consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act	Sets out how the Applicant prepared for consultation pursuant to Section 47 including the development and publication of the SoCC, and a subsequent addendum to the SoCC.
6. Consultation Under Section 47 of the 2008 Act <i>(Phase One Consultation held between 1 June 2023 – 13 July 2023)</i> <i>(Phase Two Consultation held between 7 November 2024 – 19 December 2024)</i>	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted with the community in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act and the SoCC.

Report section	Overview
<p>7. Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the 2008 Act</p> <p><i>(As part of Phase Two Consultation held between 7 November 2024 – 19 December 2024)</i></p>	<p>Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted on the PEIR with prescribed consultees and those with an interest in the land in accordance with Section 42, Section 44 and Section 46 of the 2008 Act.</p>
<p>8. Statutory Consultation Under Section 48 of the 2008 Act</p> <p><i>(As part of Phase Two Consultation held between 7 November 2024 – 19 December 2024)</i></p>	<p>Describes the development and publication of the Section 48 notice and Section 48 consultation.</p>
<p>9. Section 47 Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made</p>	<p>A summary of the responses received during Phase One and Phase Two consultation, presented by theme or EIA topic. The Applicant details how it has had regard to those responses in accordance with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.</p>
<p>10. Section 42 Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made</p>	<p>A summary of the responses received to the Section 42 consultation, presented by theme or EIA topic. The Applicant details how it has had regard to those responses in accordance with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.</p>
<p>11. Conclusion on the Applicant's Regard to Consultation Responses</p>	<p>A summary of how the Applicant's consideration of feedback has informed the refinement of the Proposed Development and the evidence presented within their DCO application.</p>
<p>12. Conclusion</p>	<p>The Applicant's concluding remarks on the pre-application consultation undertaken.</p>

1.4 Pre-application consultation overview

1.4.1 In accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development prior to submitting the DCO application to the Secretary of State. The following consultees were consulted:

- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a) of the 2008 Act).
- Local Authorities (in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) of the 2008 Act and as set out in Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act).
- Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act and as set out in Section 44 of the 2008 Act).
- People living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development who may be affected both directly and indirectly (in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act); and
- Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Proposed Development (in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act).

1.4.2 The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined phases of consultation during the pre-application period. This has comprised:

- A Phase One consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 1 June 2023 and 13 July 2023. This phase of consultation was undertaken in accordance with a SoCC approved pursuant to the process set out under section 47 of the 2008 Act.
- A Phase Two consultation on more detailed proposals, including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), held for six weeks between 7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024. This phase of was held in accordance with the statement as agreed under section 47 of the 2008 Act and under Sections 42 and 48 of the 2008 Act; and
- Additional consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act.

1.4.3 The Applicant has also engaged with Local Planning Authorities, local councillors, political stakeholders and local interest groups regarding design and community benefit proposals. Details of these meetings are set out in Table 6.2 of this document. Furthermore, the Applicant also engaged in Design Workshops following the close of Phase Two consultation. These workshops were held with local representatives to inform project design, and details of these meetings are set out in Table 6.3 of this document.

1.4.4 Responses to both phases of consultation, including how the Applicant has considered these comments, are described in Sections 9 and 10 of this report, and provided in greater detail in , **Appendix 9: Phase Two Section 47**

Applicant Response: [EN010153/DR/5.2] and Appendix 10: Section 42

Applicant Response: [EN010153/DR/5.2]. It is worth noting that, where pertinent and relevant to specific topics, key comments and responses to these – including how they informed the Environmental Impact Assessment – have also been addressed in specific chapters of the **Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.1]**.

- 1.4.5 Prior to submitting an application for a DCO, the Applicant prepared a written statement in response to the Government guidance ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ (April 2024) regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. A copy of the Proposed Development’s Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Document is provided in **Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.
- 1.4.6 The Applicant discussed the preparation of this Statement of Compliance with Cheshire West and Chester Council, as the host local authority for the Proposed Development, prior to its submission to the Planning Inspectorate on 25 March 2025.
- 1.4.7 Table 1.2 summarises, in chronological order, the pre-application stages and consultation activities that have taken place up to the point of the Application submission.

Table 1.2: Pre-application stages and consultation activities undertaken.

Date	Activity Undertaken
May 2023	<p>Introduction of the Proposed Development and ongoing engagement and consultation with local authorities, and political stakeholders</p> <p>Prior to the start of Phase One consultation in May 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 Proposed Development and discuss the intention to consult on a draft Statement of Community Consultation. 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</p>

Date	Activity Undertaken
	hosting an online webinar the day before public launch of the Proposed Development on 24 May 2023.
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 5 April and 5 May 2023. At that time, both Cheshire West and Chester Council and Halton Borough Council were consulted because part of the draft Order Limits were inside the administrative boundary for Halton Borough Council.</p>
25 May 2023	<p>Public launch and publication of SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act</p> <p>On 25 May 2023, the final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act, with the notice placed in the Chester Standard and Chester Chronicle.</p> <p>The Applicant also proactively publicised the Proposed Development by issuing a press release to local media publications and making the Proposed Development's website and communications channels publicly available.</p> <p>No feedback was received at this stage.</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 Proposed Development pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
1 June – 13 July 2023	<p>Phase One Consultation</p> <p>The Applicant held a six-week community consultation on early-stage proposals for the Proposed Development, which was undertaken in accordance with the SoCC.</p>

Date	Activity Undertaken
	<p>This was communicated via a consultation postcard that was sent to the Core Consultation Zone (as described in Section 6 of this report and shown in Figure 6.1) of over 11,000 addresses, as well as through 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"> • The community consultation postcard referred to above; • Advertising the events across local media; • Publishing Notices in the Chester Standard and the Chester Chronicle on 25 May 2023; • Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display; • Providing details of the events on the Proposed Development's 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 consultations regarding project design</p> <p>The Applicant undertook ongoing engagement with Cheshire West and Chester Council, Frodsham Town Council, Canal and River Trust, Weaver Navigation, and National Highways and other statutory stakeholders. Engagement was also</p>

Date	Activity Undertaken
	undertaken with interest groups such as the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB.
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 Proposed Development and the Phase Two Consultation.</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 Proposed Development's website.
31 October 2024	<p>Publication of SoCC Addendum and second Section 47 Notice</p> <p>Given the time that had passed since the publication of the SoCC and the Phase One Consultation, the Applicant prepared an Addendum to the Statement of Community Consultation to provide details of the upcoming Phase Two Consultation, consistent with the principles established in the previously 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. Halton Borough Council did not provide feedback on the approach set out within the SoCC Addendum. Cheshire West and Chester Council provided one comment on the approach, which is presented in Table 5.3.</p> <p>The Addendum was published on 31 October 2024 on the Proposed Development website and provided to the CAP site locations stated in the SoCC. The availability of the SoCC Addendum was publicised via a further Section 47 Notice.</p>

Date	Activity Undertaken
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 in writing via the Planning Inspectorate, under Section 46 of the 2008 Act, on 5 November 2024, that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on more detailed proposals including the PEIR, to commence on 7 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 Proposed Development; 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, including the PEIR and PEIR NTS, could be inspected free of charge).
07 November 2024 – 19 December 2024	<p>Publication of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (and Non-Technical Summary) and Phase Two Community Consultation</p> <p>The Applicant published a PEIR on 7 November 2024 to be consulted on as part of the Statutory Consultation (Phase Two Consultation) with the prescribed consultees under section 42 of the 2008 Act, land interests under section 44 of the 2008 Act, and the wider community, requesting responses by 19 December 2024 (providing a 43-day consultation response period).</p> <p>Section 42 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of statutory consultation on or before 7 November by written letter and/or email, depending on the availability of contact details to the Applicant. The deadline for</p>

Date	Activity Undertaken
	<p>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 Proposed Development; 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 the Proposed Development's website; in hard copy form at the community information events; and on request by USB or printed (with the latter at a cost of up to £500). Details of how to access the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided via:</p> <p>1.4.8 The Proposed Development website;</p> <p>1.4.9 The community consultation leaflet; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section 48 notice. <p>The Applicant held a six-week community consultation on more detailed proposals for the Proposed Development, including the PEIR, in accordance with the SoCC and SoCC Addendum.</p> <p>During Phase Two community 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

Date	Activity Undertaken
	<p>Zone as defined within the SoCC (as described in Section 6 of this report and shown in Figure 6.1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing two rounds of Section 48 notices in relevant newspapers and erecting Section 48 notices around the Proposed Development site; • Providing Section 42 (including section 44) consultees a Section 42 letter, Section 48 Notice and Site Location Plan, inviting bodies to be consulted; • 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 Proposed Development website; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed via email and post. <p>The Applicant invited feedback from the community via a paper feedback form, an online feedback form, and feedback to the Proposed Development communication channels over the stated 43-day response period.</p>
10 January and 22 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 Proposed Development. The meetings held were with the following groups:</p> <p>Meeting 1 - Frodsham Ward Councillors; Helsby Ward Cllr; Frodsham Town Council.</p>

Date	Activity Undertaken
	<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 – CWCC Case Officer, Landscape Officer, Biodiversity Officer and Footpaths Officer.</p> <p>More information about the outcomes of these sessions is set out in Table 6.3 below.</p>
25 March – 13 May 2025	<p>Further ongoing Consultation</p> <p>In March 2025, 23 additional consultees were identified under Section 42. On a precautionary basis following updated guidance from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024, they were contacted to be consulted about the Proposed Development on 25 March 2025, and notified of a deadline of 25 April 2025 by which to provide a response should they wish to (exceeding the minimum 28-day consultation period).</p> <p>In April 2025, two further consultees were identified for further engagement following an adjustment to the Order limits and further diligent inquiry. The additional consultees can be identified in Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]. They were contacted to be consulted about the Proposed Development on 14 April 2025 and notified of a deadline of 13 May 2025 to respond to this additional engagement, exceeding the minimum 28-day consultation period.</p>

2 Legislation, guidance and advice

2.1 Consultation Report

2.1.1 This Consultation Report is submitted with the Application in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the 2008 Act.

2.1.2 Relevant responses are defined in Section 49(3) of the 2008 Act as responses received to consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act, by the deadline published. The Applicant has also considered late responses which were received after stated consultation deadlines.

2.1.3 Pre-application consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act has taken place with:

- Prescribed bodies (statutory consultees), being those listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ("APFP Regulations") and those specified by the Planning Inspectorate in the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations;
- Additional bodies in line with updated guidance from PINS and the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024, published May 2024;
- Non-statutory bodies treated as prescribed by the Applicant, including local representative groups, initiatives and member organisations;
- Local authorities, in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act; and
- Persons with an interest in land or persons who would or might be eligible to make a relevant claim, in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the 2008 Act.

2.1.4 Pre-application consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act has taken place with:

- The local community i.e. those living within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Any interested members of the community were welcome to take part in consultation activities. To proactively promote consultation opportunities, the Applicant defined a Core Consultation Zone (as described in Section 6 of this report and shown in Figure 6.1);
- Local elected representatives including members of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Halton Borough Council; and

- MPs for Runcorn and Helsby, Ellesmere Port and Bromborough, and Tatton.

2.1.5 Pre-applicant consultation has also taken place in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act through publicity of the Proposed Development, as described in Section 8 of this report.

2.2 Relevant legislation and guidance

2.2.1 The Applicant has considered and complied with the following legislation and guidance when undertaking the pre-application consultation and when compiling the consultation report:

- Planning Act 2008;
- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) Regulations 2017;
- The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (updated January 2025);
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (updated March 2025);
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024); and
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus') (updated December 2024).

2.2.2 A table setting out how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance is presented in **Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN010153/DR/5.2]** of this Consultation Report.

2.3 Planning Act 2008 Section 50: Guidance about pre-application procedure

2.3.1 The Applicant notes that it conducted the first phase of its pre-application consultation when the former Section 50 guidance, the 'DCLG Guidance' (Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 Guidance on the pre-application process (2015)), was in force. The Applicant is aware that updated statutory guidance, the Guidance, was issued in April 2024 under Section 50 of the 2008 Act.

2.3.2 The Government's general guidance "Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning Guidance" (April 2024) includes transitional arrangements to provide

for where guidance is revised and applicants have commenced their statutory pre-application consultation. The “Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning Guidance” (April 2024) confirms that “it is not the intention for revisions to guidance to compromise the preparation or progress of applications which are already well underway.”

- 2.3.3 **Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN010153/DR/5.2]** sets out how the Applicant carried out its consultation under the DCLG Guidance for the time it was in force, and how it has since reviewed the updated Guidance and ensured compliance with its requirements throughout all periods of consultation.
- 2.3.4 For example, the Applicant prepared and issued a written statement regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone under the Guidance.
- 2.3.5 The Applicant considers its approach, as set out in **Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN010153/DR/5.2]**, is satisfactory and robustly outlines how the Applicant has managed both section 50 guidance documents whilst these were, respectively, in force.

3 The introduction of the Proposed Development to consultees (March – May 2023)

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 In May 2023, the Applicant communicated their intention to develop proposals for the Proposed Development to key stakeholders, and subsequently the local community.
- 3.1.2 This introduction to the Proposed Development marked the start of ongoing engagement with consultees and the local community leading up to the formal consultation on more developed proposals.
- 3.1.3 Ongoing engagement has enabled two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees, providing effective communication about project updates and allowing the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback on the iterative design of the Proposed Development.

3.2 Stakeholder introductions to the Proposed Development (March - May 2023)

- 3.2.1 The Applicant contacted officers and political leaders from local authorities based on the administrative boundaries for the Proposed Development in February 2023. These local authorities were Cheshire West and Chester Council, and Halton Borough Council, and Liverpool City Region and St Helens Council.
- 3.2.2 The purpose of this initial contact was to introduce the local authorities to the Proposed Development and arrange introductory meetings between themselves and the Applicant. This communication resulted in the following meetings being held, prior to Phase One Consultation:

Table 3.1: Meetings held by the Applicant with stakeholder prior to Phase One consultation

Stakeholder Organisation	Date/Location	Notes/Individual attendees
Halton Borough Council	6 March 2023	<p>Cllr Mike Wharton – Leader of Halton Borough Council</p> <p>Stephen Young – Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council</p> <p>Project Introduction</p>

Cheshire West and Chester Council	16 March 2023	<p>Cllr Louise Gittins – Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Andrew Lewis – Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester</p> <p>Rob Charnley – Head of Planning</p> <p>George Ablett – Energy Sector Specialist</p> <p>Will Pearson – Climate Change Manager</p> <p>Project Introduction</p>
Liverpool City Region and St Helens Council	27 March 2023	<p>Cllr David Baines – Leader of St Helens Council and LCR Portfolio Holder for Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy</p> <p>Jonathan Edwards – Director of Operations at St Helens MBC</p> <p>Martin Land – Project Director, Mersey Tidal</p> <p>Project Introduction</p>
Cheshire West and Chester Council Officers	19 May 2023	<p>Nick Smith – Interim Head of Planning and Place-making</p> <p>Paul Friston – Principal Planning Officer</p> <p>Steven Holmes – Principal Planning Officer, Team Leader</p> <p>Pam Bradley – Senior Manager, Communities and Engagement: Rural</p>

		Michelle Spark – Council’s legal advisor, Brabners Project Introduction
MP for Weaver Vale	19 May 2023	Mike Amesbury – Member of Parliament for Weaver Vale Project Introduction
Cheshire West and Chester Councillors	24 May 2023	Michael Garvey – Labour Frodsham Councillor Chris Copeman – Green Helsby Councillor Lynn Gibbon – Conservative councillor for Marbury, Deputy Conservative Leader Gina Lewis – Labour councillor for Winsford Over and Verin, Planning Committee Chair Keith Millar – Labour councillor for Neston, on planning committee John Roach – Green leader Alex Tate – on planning committee, Labour councillor for Lache Peter Wheeler – Labour councillor for Ledsham and Manor Tom Cooper – Conservative councillor for Tarvin and Kelsall Project Introduction
Halton Borough Council, Cheshire West and	24 May 2023	Michael Garvey – Labour Frodsham Councillor

<p>Chester Council, Parish Councillors</p>		<p>Gina Lewis – Labour councillor for Winsford Over and Verin, Planning Committee Chair</p> <p>John Roach – Green leader</p> <p>Sarah Temple – Protos Community Forum Chair, Helsby Parish Council</p> <p>Mike Ryan – Halton Borough Councillor</p> <p>Katie Kendrick – Cheshire West and Chester Councillor</p> <p>Rob Nicklin – Helsby Parish Councillor</p> <p>Michael Branigan – Helsby Parish Councillor</p> <p>Claire Green – Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford Parish Councillor</p> <p>Paul Friston – Principal Planning Officer at Cheshire West and Chester</p> <p>Project Introduction</p>
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3.2.3 The Applicant contacted the Members of Parliament for whom the Proposed Development would be sited in their constituency, that being the MPs for Weaver Vale and Halton, by email on 25 May 2023 and 1 June 2023. This communication introduced the Proposed Development, the Applicant's intention to shortly hold a phase of community consultation with their constituents, and to invite the MPs to meet with the Applicant to discuss the Proposed Development in more detail.

3.2.4 The Applicant notes that following the Boundary Commission's recommendations being published in late June 2023, and the boundaries being formally introduced into UK law on 15 November 2023 through article 2 and Schedule 1 the Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023, and the Proposed Development's boundary changing to exclude crossing the Weaver Navigation, the Proposed Development became solely located within the new

parliamentary constituency of Runcorn and Helsby. However, the Applicant continued to notify Halton Borough Council, and the MP for Widnes and Halewood, for completeness.

- 3.2.5 On 24 May 2023, 9No. Ward and Parish councillors, as well as the Principal Planning Officer from Cheshire West and Chester Council, attended an introductory briefing webinar hosted by the Applicant. Project Public Launch (25 May 2023)
- 3.2.6 On 25 May 2023, the Proposed Development was launched. The launch included communication with stakeholders, introducing the proposals as well as publicising the Proposed Development website (www.frodshamsolar.co.uk) and the Communications Channels that had been launched, including a dedicated phonenumber, freepost, and email address. The Applicant also publicised the opportunity to sign up to be kept informed.
- 3.2.7 No feedback regarding the proposals was received by the Applicant during this period.

4 Consultation and engagement under EIA regulations

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process under which a development proposal is assessed for its likely significant environmental effects as part of an application for consent, and the environmental information provided is considered by the Secretary of State in their decision. The submission of the findings of the EIA in an Environmental Statement (ES) allows the body deciding the application to fully understand the environmental impact of a proposal when it makes a decision.
- 4.1.2 The Applicant has dovetailed key steps in the EIA process with the two phases of community consultation carried out. The Scoping Request for the Proposed Development was submitted on 30 May 2023, the day before the start of Phase One consultation. The PEIR was published for consultation as part of the Phase Two consultation on 07 November 2024, pursuant to Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations. This is detailed further in the relevant chapters of the **Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.1]**.

4.2 EIA Scoping phase

- 4.2.1 The Applicant submitted a Scoping Request for the Proposed Development to the Secretary of State on 30 May 2023, and in this request notified the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that the Applicant would provide an ES in respect of the Proposed Development.
- 4.2.2 Whilst it is noted that the community was not formally consulted as part of the EIA scoping process, the Applicant coordinated the timing of community consultation phases to align with the publication of the Scoping Report and the PEIR. This was to allow community members to consider and provide feedback to the Applicant on relevant EIA information in parallel to statutory consultees. All comments received were considered.
- 4.2.3 The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, consulted with the relevant consultation bodies under the EIA Regulations to seek comments on the scope of the proposed EIA. A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 10 July 2023.
- 4.2.4 Appended to the Scoping Opinion, the Planning Inspectorate provided an updated list of consultation bodies to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.
- 4.2.5 The responses received to the Scoping Opinion and how the Applicant has responded are detailed in each chapter of the **Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.1]**.

4.3 Engagement for EIA

- 4.3.1 Prior to and following the pre-application consultation under Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a series of discussions and meetings were held with technical consultees regarding the Proposed Development, as part of the Applicant's ongoing engagement and to inform the approach to environmental assessments.
- 4.3.2 This approach maintained a two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees on project updates and enabled the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the Proposed Development proposals.
- 4.3.3 Following the adoption of the Scoping Opinion on 30 May 2023, the Applicant continued engagement with several technical consultees to discuss the findings of site surveys and assessments undertaken as part of the EIA and project design, prior to and following publication of the PEIR.
- 4.3.4 Relevant chapters of the **Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.1]** include a section on consultation, which details the engagement and meetings held with stakeholders and consultees throughout the pre-application phase of the Proposed Development.
- 4.3.5 This engagement process has enabled many of the issues raised by consultees to be comprehensively addressed within the EIA and, where necessary, to guide the mitigation measures that have been embedded into the project. This dialogue has also allowed the Applicant to concentrate on the key issues most relevant to the consenting process, with the **Programme Document [EN010153/DR/1.6]** identifying the Main Issues and Key Risks as the pre-application process has evolved. The Applicant has prepared a **Potential Main Issues for Examination document [EN010153/DR/5.9]**, which outlines the areas where discussion with project stakeholders has been focused, as well as the Applicant's perspective on the likelihood of these issues being resolved prior to or during the Examination.

4.4 Pre-application consultation under the EIA Regulations

- 4.4.1 In accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the notice under Section 48(1) of the 2008 Act was sent to consultation bodies and other persons notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations on 7 November 2024. The consultation documents provided to all consultation bodies and other persons notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations were comprised of:
- A covering letter (provided in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**) which publicised the consultation opportunities, including an offer of a USB device containing the full PEIR

and associated consultation documents, as well as a link to where these documents were available on the Proposed Development website;

- A site plan showing the location of the Proposed Development (provided in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**; and
- A hard copy of the notice publicised in accordance with 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) (provided in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).

4.4.2 In addition, both the PEIR and non-technical summary (NTS), which is a summary of the EIA matters reported on in the PEIR, were available to all attendees at the Phase Two consultation information events and on the Proposed Development website, as detailed in the SoCC.

5 Preparation for consultation activities under section 47 of the 2008 Act

5.1 Statutory requirements and guidance

- 5.1.1 Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act states that before preparing the Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC'), the Applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) in regard to the content of the SoCC.

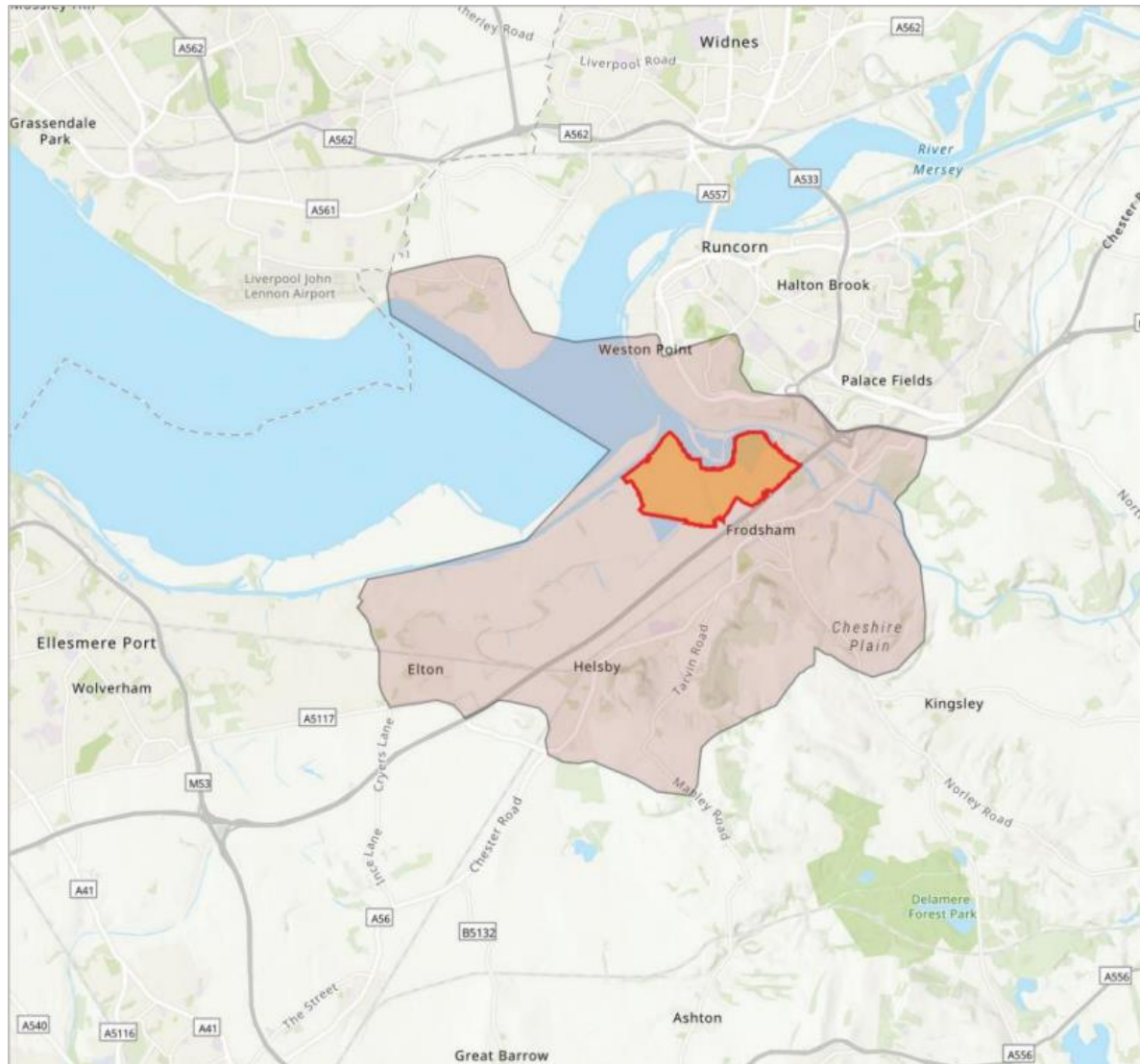
5.2 Development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- 5.2.1 In accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act, a draft SoCC was prepared, consulted on with host local authorities, finalised and published ahead of commencing consultation on the Proposed Development. The host local authorities at the time were identified as Cheshire West & Chester Council and Halton Borough Council.
- 5.2.2 The SoCC was consulted on and published prior to the first phase of community consultation. The approach and principles set out in the SoCC applied to all subsequent phases of consultation, including Phase One and Phase Two community consultations.
- 5.2.3 Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulation states that under Section 47 of the 2008 Act, the SoCC needs to state whether the proposal is EIA development and how preliminary environmental information will be consulted on. The PEIR and a PEIR NTS were made available for community consultees to comment on as part of the Phase Two Section 47 consultation.

5.3 Section 47 community consultation area

- 5.3.1 Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in 'vicinity' of the land to which the Proposed Development relates.
- 5.3.2 A Core Consultation Zone was identified for the Proposed Development and described in the draft SoCC for the local authorities to comment on. The Core Consultation Zone, as presented in the SoCC, is included as Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Frodsham Solar Core Consultation Zone, as presented in SoCC.



5.3.3 The Core Consultation Zone for the Proposed Development was identified by the following methodology:

5.3.4 An initial distance of 2km from the edge of the proposed solar development area, and 500m from the proposed cable route, was considered and refined dependent on how the Core Consultation Zone interacted and bisected property interests.

5.3.5 The Core Consultation Zone extended beyond 2km in certain areas, for instance to incorporate the entire village of Kidlington so as to not bisect the village. It has been reduced in other areas where there are no property interests within a 2km distance from the boundary of the Proposed Development.



5.3.6 Throughout the core consultation area, which included over 11,000 local homes and business properties at the time of the Phase One and Phase Two consultations, the following consultation activities took place:

- Direct mailings of Phase One and Phase Two community consultation postcards,
- Hosting a series of in-person community information events across a range of dates, times and venues;
- Displaying hard copy Project information, including the PEIR NTS, across three CAPs;
- Issuing posters to 17 identified local information points to publicise consultation opportunities; and
- Placing site notices across the Proposed Development area to publicise the Proposed Development and consultation opportunities.

5.3.7 The Applicant recognises that individuals or parties outside of the Core Consultation Zone may still have an interest in the Proposed Development. The Applicant therefore accepted feedback from any interested parties outside of the Core Consultation Zone.

5.3.8 In addition to the targeted activities within the Core Consultation Zone, to further publicise consultation opportunities the Applicant also:

- Displayed consultation notices in regional and national newspapers;
- Displayed consultation adverts in regional newspapers;
- Issued a press release publishing the consultation opportunities to regional and trade press;
- Hosted project information and all consultation materials on the Proposed Development website;
- Issued project updates to a register of email addresses for individuals who had registered to be kept informed; and
- Erected site notices on site under Section 48 to publicise the consultation (included in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**)

5.4 Consultation on the draft SoCC and responses

5.4.1 The Applicant formally provided a draft SoCC to host local authorities for consultation on 5 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.

- 5.4.2 The Applicant stated a response deadline of 5 May 2023. This provided a consultation period of 30 days, therefore exceeding the requirement set in Section 47(3) to provide a period of 28 days.
- 5.4.3 Cheshire West and Chester Council and Halton Borough Council provided comments on the draft SoCC.
- 5.4.4 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.
- 5.4.5 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 9 June 2023.
- 5.4.6 The feedback submitted to the consultation on the draft SoCC, and how this was considered by the Applicant, is described in Table 5.1 and Table 5.2. It is consistent with what was shared with the LPAs in June 2023 but has been updated following the completion of Phase Two Consultation.

Table 5.1: Applicant consideration of feedback received to the draft SoCC from Cheshire West and Chester Council (Comments provided 25 May 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 5 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 May 2023) before finalising the SoCC. Briefings were offered to councillors at Cheshire West and Chester Council, with two briefing meetings held on 24 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 May 2023, prior to the publication of the SoCC and	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
	commencement of formal consultation.	
1. Introduction		
No Comments	Noted.	
2. About Us		
No Comments	Noted.	
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 motorway, 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 was 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>		

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
Further details of the proposed construction aspects of the scheme would assist e.g. likely duration, access routes for construction.		
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?		
A summary of potential / key impacts may assist with focussing consultation feedback.		
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.		
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.	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.	The Applicant intends 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

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
		comments will be considered.
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 Proposed Development.	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.

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
<p>It would assist the process if the concept plan were accompanied by supporting documentation including information such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of site constraints • Details of the essential project parameters (e.g. minimum requirements) • Details of the Proposed Development to date (similar to information often provided in a design and access statement, e.g. as to how the Proposed Development / 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 	<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>Reference is made to submitting the EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in parallel with your Phase One consultation, and the 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 an 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</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This sentence has been removed from Section 4, and additional clarification has been added to Section 9.</p>	<p>Section 9: 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)
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).		
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>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"> • Temporary impacts during 	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
	<p><i>construction, such as traffic and noise.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Operational impacts, such as upon wildlife, landscape, and views.</i> <i>Benefits, such as the opportunity for biodiversity and recreational improvements.</i> <p>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.</p>	
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 Proposed Development might be modified or mitigated if it is to be consented.	<p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Additional text has been</p>	During the pre-application phase the Applicant will share a high-level

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
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.	added to Section 4 to clarify this.	document summarising the responses the Applicant has received during the first phase of consultation, and how this feedback is being considered. 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.
Following the Phase 2 consultation, provision should be made to offer opportunity to the Local Authorities and Parish	Noted. The Applicant intends to continue working with local	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
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>authorities throughout and beyond phases of community consultation. This may involve ongoing engagement and exploring Statements of Common Ground.</p> <p>However, the Applicant is not in a position to commit to sharing all responses to consultation prior to submitting our Consultation Report. The Applicant acknowledges the important role of the Examination Phase of the DCO process on this matter.</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.	An additional subsection (Ongoing engagement) has been included within Section 4 (Our public consultation process) to explain this.	<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. The Applicant will</p>

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
		discuss the details of any further consultations that may be needed with the local planning authorities.
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>Noted. Additional text has been included within Section 4 (<i>Our consultation process</i>) to explain this.</p> <p>The SoCC, alongside other communications materials such as the Proposed Development website, will also refer to the Planning Inspectorate's website where information is available in their FAQs.</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 the Applicant submits the DCO application, Local Planning Authorities will be invited to provide an Adequacy of Consultation Representation.
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>).	<p>General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)</p> <p>Throughout the pre-application consultation period, all stakeholder personal details will be stored in</p>

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
		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	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.	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
<p>(regulation 14) consultation ran from 24 October to 4 December 2022.</p> <p>Helsby – neighbourhood plan made 8 June 2016</p> <p>Ince Parish – at Examination (publicity stage (regulation 16) ran from 30 January - 14 March 2023)</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Our team has now engaged with the MMO to confirm with them any need or request for consultation with them.</p> <p>At Phase Two consultation, the Proposed Development included the MMO notwithstanding that the Proposed Development does not involve works in the marine environment.</p>	
<p>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>	<p>Noted and thank you.</p> <p>Community organisations and representatives within this list are included within the Proposed Development 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>The Applicant notes 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</p>	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
	<p>statutory Phase Two consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant has not 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 organisations 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 thank you.	
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>The Applicant does not intend to establish a standalone social media profile for the Proposed Development, 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 through their existing social media channels.</p>	
Press adverts using Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard is considered appropriate. Frodsham Life as an on-line	Noted. Adverts and notices have been placed in the Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard.	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
newspaper may provide an appropriate source of further publicity.	Frodsham Life will be added to media distribution list for press releases.	
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 consultation, 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, the Applicant 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</p>	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
	<p>press releases, adverts, mailouts and online updates.</p> <p>For Phase One consultation, information event details were publicised from 25 May 2023. The first information event is arranged for Saturday 17 June (over three weeks later).</p>	
<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>The Applicant has agreed to adding a recording of the webinar presentation and have added text to Section 6 (How will we consult?) to confirm this.</p> <p>The Applicant will consider updating the FAQs published on the Proposed Development 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</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>	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
Proposed Development 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>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 23 June 2023, and a subsequent community webinar is scheduled for 26 June 2023, ahead of the response deadline of 13 July 2023.</p> <p>Key stakeholders and consultees will be notified in advance of consultation phases commencing.</p>	
In conducting the consultation, the SoCC should reference / adopt appropriate standards of accessibility in relation to accessing the various materials and events to ensure inclusive consultation. The Council has developed protocols in relation to accessibility that should be adopted where practical.	<p>Noted and thanks. Cheshire West and Chester protocols will be considered when undertaking engagement activities.</p> <p>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</p>	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
	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. Alternative venues were considered for Phase Two consultation, but the same venues were proposed for Phase Two consultation as they were adequate, accessible and were consistent with the venues set out in the SoCC.	
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.	The Applicant 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	

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
	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 and Phase 2 consultation phases, should be provided. Arrangements to replace any notices removed during the consultation periods should be put in place.	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 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 Proposed Development area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local existing 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.
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	Noted. Section 9 (Environmental	Additional text for Section 1 (Introduction):

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Text has been added to Section 1 (Introduction) to confirm earlier in the SoCC that the Proposed Development will be subject to EIA.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>This SoCC outlines how the Applicant will consult during the 'pre-application stage' before submitting a Development Consent Order ("DCO") application for the Project to the Planning Inspectorate. The Applicant 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.</p> <p>Additional text for Section 9 (Environmental Information):</p> <p>A Scoping Report and PEIR (explained below) will be consulted on as part of the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared.</p> <p>The Applicant intends to coordinate the</p>

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
		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 thank you.	

Table 5.2: Applicant consideration of feedback received to the draft SoCC from Halton Borough Council (Comments provided 25 May 2023)

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Text (if applicable)
4. Our Public Consultation Process		
No Comments.	Noted.	
5. Who Will We Consult?		
Council agrees with proposed zone of consultation.	Noted.	
6. How Will We Consult?		
The Council would suggest that an event should be held in Runcorn.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>An information event has been arranged to take place at Christchurch Hall, Runcorn on Tuesday 20 June 2023, as part of our Phase One community consultation.</p> <p>The same venue was used at Phase Two consultation, with an event held on Monday 25 November 2024.</p>	
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.	

5.5 Publication of the SoCC

- 5.5.1 On 25 May 2023, the final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act, with the updated text outlined in Tables 5.1 and 5.2.
- 5.5.2 The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's Project website and made available to view and collect from the public venues (Community Access Points) listed in the document and accompanying notice. Evidence of the SoCC being hosted on the Proposed Development website is provided in **Appendix 2: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**
- 5.5.3 Section 47 notices were published in the Chester Standard and the Chester Chronicle on 25 May 2023 to publicise the SoCC and its availability. Copies of the notice are included in **Appendix 2: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.
- 5.5.4 The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed for project updates.

5.6 Development of SoCC Addendum

- 5.6.1 Prior to the Phase Two statutory consultation, and given the amount of time that had passed since the final SoCC was published, a SoCC Addendum was drafted to re-publicise details of how the Applicant intended to carry out the second phase of consultation (including confirmation of details of consultation events), and to explain how the proposed approach was consistent with the principles and commitments set out in the SoCC.
- 5.6.2 The SoCC Addendum was provided to Cheshire West and Chester Council, and Halton Borough Council on 15 October 2024 for comment. One comment was received from the principal planning officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council, as presented in Table 5.3. Halton Borough Council did not provide feedback on the approach set out within the SoCC Addendum.

Table 5.3: Applicant consideration of feedback received to the draft SoCC Addendum from Cheshire West and Chester Council (Comments provided 29 October 2024)

Feedback	Applicant Response	Updated SoCC Addendum Text (if applicable)
2. Pre-application consultation and engagement		
The reference to consulting the Member(s) of Parliament should be updated. Weaver Vale constituency has been replaced with new constituencies.	Updated within the SoCC Addendum, can be seen in Appendix 2: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2] .	Member of Parliament for Runcorn and Helsby, and identified community groups, will be notified of the upcoming Phase Two consultation opportunities by email.

5.7 Publication of the SoCC Addendum

- 5.7.1 The SoCC Addendum was publicised in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act on 31 October 2024.
- 5.7.2 The SoCC Addendum was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's Project website and made available to view and collect from the public venues (Community Access Points) listed in the document and accompanying notice. Evidence of the SoCC Addendum being hosted on the Proposed Development website is provided in **Appendix 2: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**
- 5.7.3 Section 47 notices were published in the Chester Standard and the Chester Chronicle on 31 October 2024 to publicise the SoCC Addendum and its availability. Copies of the notice are included in **Appendix 2: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

5.8 Compliance with the SoCC

- 5.8.1 The Applicant undertook consultation consistent with the commitments established in the published SoCC, in accordance with Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act.
- 5.8.2 Table 5.4 describes how the Applicant has complied with commitments set out within the published SoCC during both consultation phases, as published in 2023.

5.8.3 Table 5.5 adds any additional commitments that were added on in the addendum to the SoCC published in October 2024, where relevant.

Table 5.4: SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance

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 5 April and 5 May 2023. Tables 5.1 and 5.2 of this document show how the Applicant had regard to the comments, which were submitted to the respective local authorities on 9 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 environmental assessment.</p> <p>The Applicant has set out how feedback has been considered and helped to refine the proposals in Section 9 of this document between Phase 1 Consultation and Phase 2 Consultation and is being used in finalising the DCO application post Phase 2 Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant has produced a Consultation Report for the DCO application. Responses from the community and statutory authorities have been responded to in Appendix 9: Phase Two Section 47 Applicant Responses [EN010153/DR/5.2] and Appendix</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		10: Section 42 Applicant Responses [EN010153/DR/5.2].
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 Proposed Development 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 Appendix 4: Phase One Consultation Summary Report [EN010153/DR/5.2], providing an overview of the feedback received during the first phase of consultation, setting out how the Applicant considered the feedback in the preparation for the Phase Two consultation.</p> <p>Chapters 9 and 10 of this document provide a summary of the Section 47 and 42 feedback received respectively across both phases of consultation, including a summary of how the Applicant has considered this feedback.</p>
	The aim of our pre-application public consultation is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have	The Applicant held consultation with community and technical consultees as part of the Phase One Consultation, which ran from 1 June – 13 July 2023.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	a chance to understand and influence our proposal.	<p>A suite of consultation materials was published on 1 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 7 November 2024, alongside a community consultation leaflet, to be consulted on as part of the Phase Two consultation, requesting responses by 19 December 2024 (providing a 43-day consultation response period)</p>
	<p>Our consultation will consist of at least two phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Phase One community consultation, lasting six weeks, which will be held from Thursday 1 June 2023 to Thursday 13 July 2023. 	<p>Phase One Community Consultation ran from Thursday 1 June 2023 to Thursday 13 July 2023.</p> <p>Phase Two consultation ran from Thursday 7 November 2024 to Thursday 19 December 2024 for a period of 43 days, therefore exceeding the statutory minimum of 28 days.</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	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 inform 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 with a list of bodies consulted during the process.
	Our free-to-use communication lines will remain open throughout the preapplication consultation period, so that engagement with stakeholders can continue	<p>The Applicant publicised their range of free-to-use communications channels ahead of their statutory Phase One consultation commencing on 25 May 2023.</p> <p>These channels include a Freephone information line,</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	outside of defined phases of consultation. The Proposed Development website will also be kept updated with relevant project information and materials. This includes any changes to the Proposed Development that may or may not require a formal targeted consultation period.	<p>Freepost address and email address. They have been open during both Phase One and Phase Two and will remain open following submission of the DCO application.</p> <p>The Proposed Development website was launched on 25 May 2023, on the same day as the launch of the communication channels. The website was kept up to date throughout the pre-application period, including with the uploading of new document when available. The website will remain available and kept up to date following the submission of the DCO application.</p> <p>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 Proposed Development website.</p>
	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 Proposed Development website and provided in hard copy by request. Key stakeholders, such as relevant local planning authorities and parish councils, and anyone who	<p>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 being considered by the Applicant, including in the preparation for the Phase Two consultation.</p> <p>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</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	has registered to be kept informed will be notified of the document being published.	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.
	<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 as described in Section 5.3 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>
	Information events will be held at locations within the	During both the Phase One and Phase Two consultations, the

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>Consultation Zone, and relevant organisations, such as parish councils and community groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.</p>	<p>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 (Phase Two only)

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<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. • Local Interest, community and environmental groups. 	<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> <p>The Applicant has held a number of meetings with the stakeholders listed in this document throughout the pre-application phase which are listed in Table 6.2 of this document, and explained in the relevant topic chapters in the Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.1].</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</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 local authorities as part of the SoCC development process. These organisations have been contacted throughout the pre-application</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>'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>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> <p>During Phase One consultation, a request for large print materials was made. The Applicant provided a copy of the Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet and Phase One Consultation Feedback Form in large print.</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</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook a six-week community consultation on preliminary proposals for the Proposed Development between 1 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)

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	One consultation and will be considered at Phase Two.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 2 December 2024, 2.30pm – 6.30pm)

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Webinar – Zoom (Wednesday 4 December 2024, 6pm – 7.30pm) <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. Recordings of the community webinars held can be found on the Proposed Development website.</p>
	<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 Proposed Development, 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 Proposed Development</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>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	website and communications channels and details of information events.	The postcard contained information notifying local residents and businesses of the proposal and consultation opportunities, including how to access the Proposed Development website, community access points 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.	The Applicant published a Community Consultation Leaflet at the start of each phase of consultation. They were available to view online via the Proposed Development website, by collection from Community Access Points, and available to take away from in-person 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 the Community Access points, information events, and by request. Feedback forms will be able to be returned.	<p>The Applicant published a feedback form at the start of each Phase of Consultation. They were available to view online via the Proposed Development website, by collection from Community Access Points, and available to take away from in-person information events.</p> <p>An online version of the feedback form was created for each phase of consultation to enable respondents to fill out their feedback electronically.</p> <p>Feedback forms could be returned free of charge using the Frodsham Solar freepost address.</p>
	A dedicated project website	The Applicant has kept the dedicated project website live

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>(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 materials will be presented digitally, provided information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.</p>	<p>throughout the pre-application period, updating the website at the start of each consultation period with information relevant to that consultation period.</p> <p>All consultation materials have been able to be viewed digitally via the website, and these materials were consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.</p>
	<p>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 2008 Act.</p>	<p>Phase One Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard: 1 June 2023 <p>Phase Two Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard: 14 November 2024 <p>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:</p> <p>Section 47 Notice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard: 31 October 2024 <p>Section 48 Notice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard: 31 October 2024 and 7 November 2024

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardian: 31 October 2024 • London Gazette: 5 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.	<p>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 parish councils are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frodsham Town Council - Helsby Parish Council - Ince Parish Council - Elton Parish Council - Elton Parish Council - Sutton Weaver Parish Council - Alvanley Parish Council - Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford Parish Council - Hale Parish Council

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	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.	Due to the length of time between Phase One and Phase Two consultation, 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. <p>5.8.4 A copy of the PEIR NTS for reference only (Phase Two only)</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		The Applicant ensured that all three Community Access Points also hosted computers with internet access. Should that support any interested individual to access the full PEIR.
	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 5.5: SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance specific to Phase Two consultation, as set out in 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.
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.	The Applicant ensured that the Proposed Development website was live and updated throughout the pre-application phase, including at the start of each defined phase of consultation, and when new information relating to the Proposed Development was published.
Advertising, notices and media	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 2008 Act. Local information points such as village halls,	Notices publicising the SoCC Addendum in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act are available to view in Appendix 5: Phase Two

	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.	Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2] Details regarding the date these notices were published in national and local newspapers can be found in Table 8.1 of this report.
How will we consult?	In-person information events will be held at locations within the Core 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.	The SoCC Addendum sought confirmation of dates, times and locations for information events proposed as part of the Phase Two consultation committed to in the SoCC. These events were detailed in Table 6.5 of this report. All venues used for the in-person information events were within the Core Consultation Zone.

6 Consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 In continuation from Section 5 of this report, this section sets out the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant with the people living in the vicinity of the land ('the community') to which the Proposed Development relates under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.
- 6.1.2 As required under Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act, the Applicant carried out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC. A summary of how the Applicant complied with Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act through commitments placed in the SoCC and SoCC Addendum is detailed in Tables 5.4 and 5.5. This section sets out consultation with the community was undertaken in line with the commitments set out in the SoCC across both Phases of consultation.
- 6.1.3 Phase One (statutory Section 47) community consultation commenced on 1 June 2023 and closed on 13 July 2023. The timing of the community consultation was aligned with the publication of the Scoping Report. The Applicant held five Phase One in-person public information events and one online community event on 26 June 2023.
- 6.1.4 Phase Two (statutory Section 42) Consultation commenced on 7 November 2024, in parallel to the start of Section 42 consultation and Section 48 consultation. The Applicant held five Phase Two in-person public information events between 7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024, and one online community event on 4 December 2024.
- 6.1.5 The Applicant purposely carried out the Section 42 consultation and Phase Two Section 47 consultation in parallel to enable consultation on the PEIR with Section 42 consultees and the community. A consultation period of 43 days was provided for responses to both the PEIR and Phase Two consultation information.

6.2 Undertaking consultation in accordance with the SoCC

- 6.2.1 Consultation, in accordance with the SoCC and under Section 47 of the 2008 Act, was undertaken in two separate phases. This iterative approach to community consultation allowed the Applicant to share information and receive feedback on the emerging proposals for the Proposed Development at an early stage, before refining the plans and undertaking further consultation on more detailed proposals.
- 6.2.2 Phase One Consultation took place between 1 June 2023 and 13 July 2023 inclusive (over 42 days). Phase Two Consultation took place between 7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024.

6.2.3 The Applicant undertook the following consultation activities, as set out in the SoCC:

- Holding a series of in-person and online public information events. The Applicant held five in-person and one online event during each phase of consultation, meaning they held a total of twelve public information events during the pre-application consultation period;
- Offering briefing sessions to local authorities, MPs and parish councils;
- Sending postcards to all properties within the Core Consultation Zone to publicise the Phase One and Phase Two Consultations and share relevant information.
- Community consultation leaflets were also available at the three CAPs identified in the SoCC, public information events, the Proposed Development website, and by request through the Proposed Development communication channels;
- Hosting feedback forms at the CAPs, public events, and the Proposed Development website, and by request. Completed feedback forms could be returned by Freepost, at in-person public events, online, and by email;
- Placing Section 48 notices in local and national newspaper publications;
- Hosting free-to-use Project communication channels (email, Freephone, digital engagement platform, and Freepost) to receive feedback and enquiries throughout the pre-application period;
- Issuing posters publicising consultation opportunities to 17 identified local information points to be displayed across the Core Consultation Zone;
- Hosting hard-copy project information, including the PEIR NTS, at CAPs across the Core Consultation Zone. The CAPs also had free access to computers by which the full PEIR could be accessed electronically. These were publicised through the SoCC, community consultation leaflet, Project website, and Section 48 notices;
- Publishing consultation materials and inviting feedback through the Proposed Development website; and
- Consulting with identified organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups, who were notified of the proposals, consultation activities, and feedback opportunities.

6.3 Community Access Points (CAPs)

6.3.1 The Applicant identified and liaised with three publicly accessible venues across the Core Consultation Zone to act as CAPs. The details of these CAPs were presented in the draft SoCC for consultation with local planning authorities.

6.3.2 The three CAPs are presented in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Community Access Points (CAPs)

Venue	Opening Times
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

6.3.3 CAPs were identified and used to host hard copies of project information throughout the consultation phase. This included:

- The SoCC (included in **Appendix 2: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**); and
- The SoCC Addendum (included in **Appendix 2: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).

1.0.1 During the Phase One Consultation, Phase One consultation materials hosted at the CAPs included:

- Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**); and
- Phase One Feedback Forms (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).
- Following the Phase One Consultation and prior to the Phase Two Consultation, a Phase One Consultation Summary Report (included in **Appendix 4: Phase One Consultation Summary Report [EN010153/DR/5.2]**) was issued to CAPs, and made available on the Proposed Development website.

1.0.2 During the Phase Two consultation, Phase Two Consultation Materials hosted at the CAPs including:

- Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**;
- Phase Two Community Consultation Feedback Form (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**; and
- Project PEIR NTS.

6.3.4 The Applicant liaised with all the CAPs prior to their selection to ensure they had access to the internet and devices were available for free to the public so that the PEIR could be viewed at the public's leisure for no charge.

6.4 Stakeholder briefing meetings and engagement.

6.4.1 In addition to formal Section 42 notifications (see Section 8 of this report), local authorities, councillors, MPs, parish councils and identified community organisations were notified by email at the start of the Phase One Consultation period on 1 June 2023, and at the start of the Phase Two Consultation period on 7 November 2024.

6.4.2 Prior to this, these stakeholders were emailed and invited to be briefed by the team leading the Proposed Development on the initial proposals for Phase One and the updated proposals for Phase Two, ahead of the respective phases starting.

6.4.3 Engagement was also held in between the two phases of consultation. Table 6.2 sets out the meetings that were organised over the course of the pre-application period.

Table 6.2: Key stakeholder meetings associated with the pre-application period.

Stakeholder Organisation	Date/Location	Notes / Individual Attendees
Halton Borough Council	6 March 2023 Virtual	Introducing the Proposed Development to Halton Borough Council leadership (Council leader Mike Wharton and CEO Stephen Young). The conversation included local policy on net zero targets and timing of the community consultations.

Stakeholder Organisation	Date/Location	Notes / Individual Attendees
Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWCC)	16 March 2023 Virtual	Introducing the Proposed Development to Cheshire West and Chester Council leadership (Including Council leader Louise Gittins and relevant planning officers) and answering questions regarding the improvement to local footpaths and other local amenities.
Liverpool City Region (LCR)	27 March 2023 Virtual	Introducing the Proposed Development to council leadership (Cllr David Baines, Leader of St Helens Council and LCR Portfolio Holder for Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy, and relevant LCR officers) and answering questions on topics such as other projects in the vicinity and employment opportunities.
Mike Amesbury MP	19 May 2023	Host MP for Runcorn and Helsby (Weaver Vale at the date of meeting) Discussing the Proposed Development's alignment with government policy and how other projects in the area have been received by local residents.
Cheshire West And Chester Council Planning Officers	19 May 2023 Virtual	Project Introduction to more council officers and further discussion on ecology and public access.
Cheshire Fire and Rescue	23 May 2023 Virtual	Meeting to discuss the requirements of the Fire Chiefs' Guidance (FCG).
Cheshire West And Chester Council Councillors	24 May 2023 Virtual	Meeting with wider Councillors from host authority on the land being used, organisations that should be consulted,

Stakeholder Organisation	Date/Location	Notes / Individual Attendees
		and the wider costs and logistics of the Proposed Development.
Pre-consultation Councillor Webinar Cheshire West and Chester Councillors Halton Borough Councillors	24 May 2023 Virtual	Further introducing the Proposed Development prior to the first phase of consultation and answering questions relating to the education and employment opportunities of the Proposed Development.
Frodsham Town Council	14 August 2024 Frodsham Town Council	Meeting to provide a project update, recap on issues raised at Phase One consultation, and look ahead to Phase Two consultation. Cllr Lucy Sumner raised questions regarding contaminated land.
Mike Amesbury MP	20 August 2024 In person	Update on proposals prior to Phase Two consultation commencing.
Local resident and Frodsham Town Councillor	18 September 2024 In person	Addressing concerns and queries with a local town councillor

6.4.4 Following Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant held design workshops with key local stakeholders to help inform the finalisation of the design for the Application. This reflects the good practice advocated by the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note on Good Design. Details of these workshops and how they helped to inform the Application, is set out in Table 6.3.

6.4.5 Meeting notes of four of the five meetings below, excluding the meeting with Cheshire Fire and Rescue on 17 March 2025, can be viewed in **Appendix 8: Ongoing Engagement Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

Table 6.3: Design Workshops held following statutory consultation and how the Applicant has considered the feedback received.

Stakeholder Organisation	Date/Location	Notes / Individual Attendees	Actions Taken
Meeting with local council representatives. Members of Frodsham Town Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council	10 January 2025 In-person Frodsham Library	Potential for educational and recreational opportunities discussed alongside community benefit proposals.	Measures included in the Environmental Masterplan to provide education interpretation across the site, and seating areas where groups from schools or community groups can congregate.
Wildlife and Birders Cheshire Wildlife Trust BTO Wetland Bird Survey Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society	10 January 2025 In-person Frodsham Library	Discussing the importance of viewpoints, walking routes and screening mitigation.	The plans discussed already included measures such as screening. However, additional points were discussed such as using topography for local screening, and ensuring dogs were kept on leads in sensitive areas of the site.
Access interest groups Festival of Walks Cycling North Cheshire	10 January 2025 In-person Frodsham Library	Discussing public access routes in the area alongside potential improvements to existing cycle and walking routes. Offering practical advice on any aspect of the draft	The access proposals have been more clearly evidenced in the application documentation, specifically within the Design Approach Document (DAD) [EN010153/DR/5.8] . Paths catering for different user groups have been

Ramblers' Association Frodsham Town Council		proposals relating to active travel to help maximise accessibility.	added, including paths which are 'access for all', as shown in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.13] . A full response from the Applicant was submitted to the attendees of the meeting, and can be viewed in Appendix 8: Ongoing Engagement Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]
Cheshire West And Chester Council Officers Planning, landscape and ecology officers	22 January 2025 The Portal Ellesmere Port	Discussing new footpaths, bird mitigation areas and viewpoints.	Points similar to those raised by the above groups have been integrated into the proposals. The Applicant has focussed on recognising the potential challenges between increased access and impact on wildlife in developing its proposals.
Cheshire Fire and Rescue (FSR) Cubico Battery safety and testing consultant	17 March 2025 Cubico Offices Manchester	Discussing safety procedures and site specifications with the local fire and rescue department.	The FRS confirmed their agreement to the principles being applied outline design of the proposed BESS, including with respect to multiple access points and battery unit spacing. These principles and others (reflecting best practice) have been integrated into the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.8]

6.5 Section 47 public information events

- 6.5.1 During the Phase One consultation period, the Applicant held a series of public information events, both in-person and online. These events took place during the consultation period across a range of times, days and venues between the period of between 1 June 2023 and 13 July 2023.
- 6.5.2 During the Phase Two statutory consultation period, the Applicant held a series of public information events, both in-person and online. These events took place during the consultation period across a range of times, days and venues between the period of between 7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024.
- 6.5.3 The details of the Phase One consultation events, including the attendance numbers recorded by the Applicant, are presented in Table 6.4.

Table 6.4: Public information events held during Phase One consultation.

Venue	Date & Time	No. attendees
Helsby Community Centre Lower Robin Hood Lane, Frodsham, WA6 0BW	Saturday 17 June 2023 12pm – 4pm	38
Christchurch Hall Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn, WA7 4EU	Tuesday 20 June 2023 3pm - 7pm	5
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Wednesday 21 June 2023 2pm – 7pm	93
Elton Community Centre School Lane, Elton, Chester, CH2 4PU	Thursday 22 June 2023 11am – 4pm	13

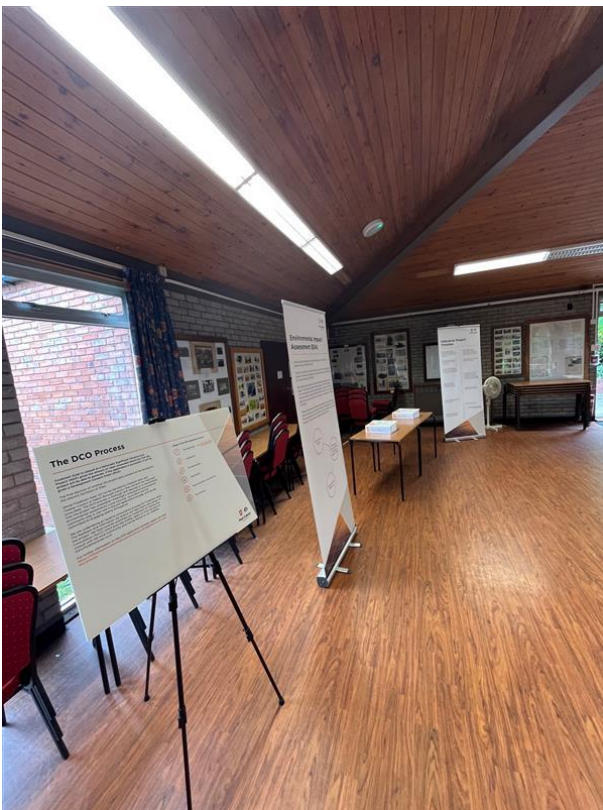
Venue	Date & Time	No. attendees
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Friday 23 June 2023 2.30pm – 7pm	68
Online Community Webinar Held via Zoom.	Monday 26 June 2023 5.30pm – 7pm	13
TOTAL		230

6.5.4 The following information was available at the Phase One public information events:

- Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN0101053/DR/5.2]**);
- Phase One Community Consultation Feedback Form (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**); and
- Phase One information display boards (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).

Figure 6.2: Photographs of materials available at public information events during the Phase One consultation





6.5.5 The details of the Phase Two consultation events, including the attendance numbers recorded by the Applicant, are presented in Table 6.5.

Table 6.5: Public information events held during Phase Two Consultation.

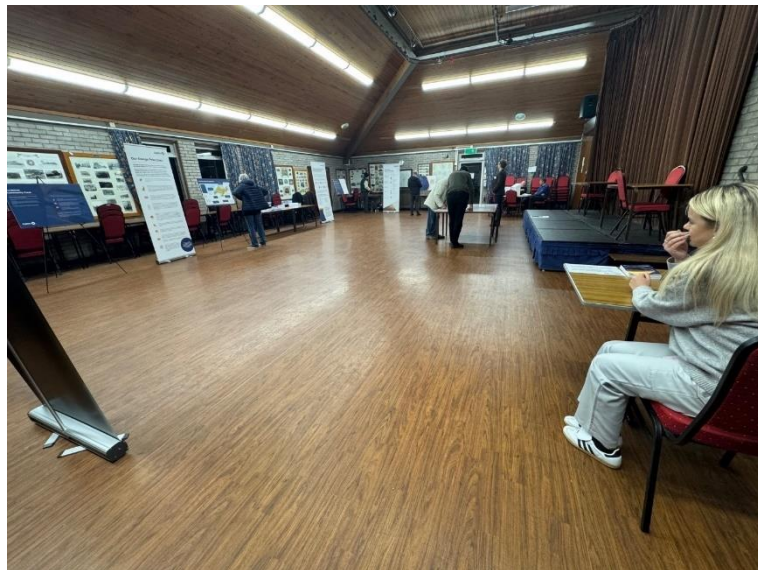
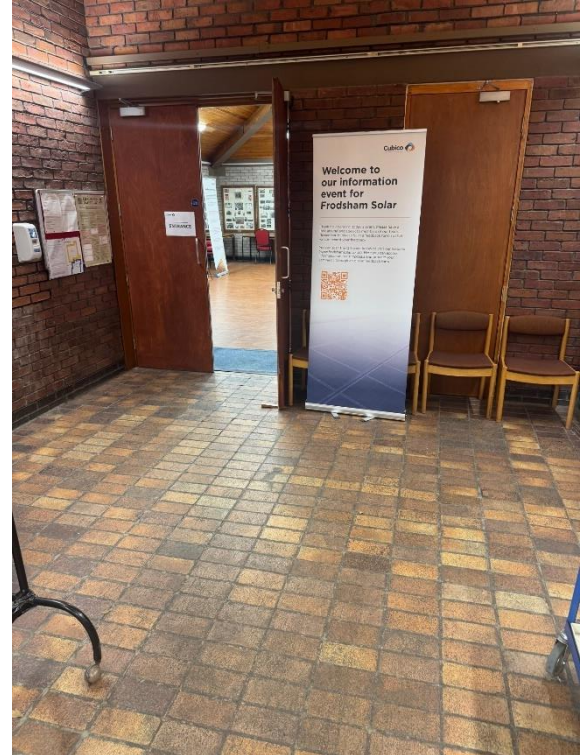
Venue	Date & Time	No. attendees
Christchurch Hall Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn, WA7 4EU	Monday 25 November 2024 3pm - 7pm	7
Helsby Community Centre Lower Robin Hood Lane, Frodsham, WA6 0BW	Tuesday 26 November 2024 2.30pm – 6.30pm	41
Elton Community Centre School Lane, Elton, Chester, CH2 4PU	Friday 29 November 2024 3pm – 7pm	3
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Saturday 30 November 2024 1.30pm – 5.30pm	33
Frodsham Community Centre Fluin Lane, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Monday 2 December 2024 2.30pm – 6.30pm	36
Online Community Webinar Held via Zoom	Wednesday 4 December 2024 6pm – 7.30pm	7
Total		127

6.5.6 The following Project information was available at the Phase Two public information events:

- Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Phase Two Community Consultation Feedback Form (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Phase Two information display boards (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Project PEIR and associated figures and appendices; and
- Project PEIR NTS.

6.5.7 Representatives from the Applicant team across the relevant disciplines were present to discuss the Proposed Development with members of the local community attending the events.

Figure 6.3: Photographs of materials available at public information events during Phase Two consultation



6.6 Proposed Development Website

6.6.1 The Applicant published the Proposed Development website on 25 May 2023. It has remained live and has been kept updated throughout the pre-application phase, including at the start of each phase of consultation and when new information relating to the Proposed Development has been available to publish.

6.6.2 The following materials were free to view and download from the Proposed Development website for the start of the Phase One consultation:

- SoCC (included in **Appendix 2: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Phase One Feedback Form (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Site Location Plan (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Concept Plans (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Illustrative Masterplan (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Phase One event display boards (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Section 47 Notice (included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**); and
- Section 48 Notice (included in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).

1.0.3 The following materials were free to view and download from the Proposed Development website for the start of the Phase Two consultation:

- SoCC Addendum (included in **Appendix 2: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);

- Phase Two Feedback Form (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Site Location Plan (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Concept Plans (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Illustrative Masterplan (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Visualisations included in the PEIR and presented clearly and separately at the consultation events so as to be readily available.
- Phase Two event display boards (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Section 47 Notice (included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Section 48 Notice (included in Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]);
- Project PEIR chapters, figures and appendices; and
- PEIR NTS.

6.7 Consultation publicity

6.7.1 The Phase One consultation opportunities, including public information events, Project website, Project communications channels, CAPs and response deadline were publicised in the following ways:

- A Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet, which was issued to all properties within the Core Consultation Zone, available at CAPs, and available on the Proposed Development website (a copy of the Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet is provided in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Posters publicising the consultation opportunities were issued to 17 local information points to display across the consultation area (a copy of the poster is included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Section 48 notices were placed in regional newspapers on successive weeks and in national newspapers, as listed in Table 8.1. (A copy of the Section 48 notice is included in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);

- Section 48 notices were also erected around the Proposed Development area (see **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]** for display locations);
- The Proposed Development website, which was updated to publicise the consultation opportunities and make available consultation materials, including the Section 48 notice and Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet; and
- A press release was issued to the regional and trade media. (A copy of the press release and the two publications it was issued to is included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).

6.7.2 The Phase Two consultation opportunities, including public information events, Project website, Project communications channels, CAPs and response deadline were publicised in the following ways:

- A Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet, which was issued to all properties within the Core Consultation Zone, available at CAPs, and available on the Proposed Development website (A copy of the Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet is included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Posters publicising the consultation opportunities were issued to 28 local information points to display across the consultation area (a copy of the poster is included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Section 48 notices were placed in regional newspapers on successive weeks and in national newspapers, as listed in Table 8.1. A copy of the Section 48 notice is included in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- Section 48 notices were also erected around the Proposed Development area (see **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**) for display locations;
- The Proposed Development website, which was updated to publicise the consultation opportunities and make available consultation materials, including the Section 48 notice and Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet; and
- A press release was issued to the regional and trade media. (A copy of the press release and publications issued to is included in **Appendix 5: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).

6.8 Phase One consultation response

6.8.1 The Applicant received 215 feedback responses to Phase One consultation. The Applicant has had regard to these responses in developing the Application for the Proposed Development. The comments received are summarised in Section 9 of this report, together with how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback when further developing the DCO application.

6.9 Phase Two consultation response

6.9.1 The Applicant received 88 feedback responses to the Phase Two consultation considered as Section 47 community feedback. The Applicant has had regard to these responses in developing the Application for the Proposed Development. The comments received are summarised in Section 9 of this report and presented in detail in **Appendix 9: Phase Two Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010153/DR/5.2]** together with how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback when finalising the DCO application.

6.10 Statement of compliance with consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.

6.10.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with SoCC as agreed under Section 47 of the 2008 Act through the following activities:

- The Applicant consulted on the SoCC and SoCC Addendum with all relevant local authorities as defined within Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act, giving them each at least 28 days to respond (as described in Section 5 of this report);
- The Applicant advertised the SoCC in the publications described in 5.4.2;
- The Applicant commenced Phase One consultation with the community through the publication of its SoCC on 25 May 2023 and in accordance with the SoCC (see Table 5.4 of this report);
- The Applicant commenced Phase Two consultation with the community through the publication of its addendum to the SoCC on 31 October 2024 and in accordance with both the SoCC and the SoCC Addendum. (see Table 5.4 and Table 5.5 of this report);
- The Applicant consulted with the community by reference to a Core Consultation Zone;
- The Applicant notified and offered briefing meetings to elected representatives and key stakeholders;
- The Applicant welcomed 230 members of the public across a series of six Phase One public information events, held in-person and online;
- The Applicant welcomed 130 members of the public across a series of six Phase Two public information events, held in person and online;
- The Applicant purposely ran the Phase Two Section 47 consultation in parallel to Section 42 consultation to invite responses from the community to the PEIR and PEIR NTS;

- A total response period of 42 days was provided for the first Section 47 consultation, in excess of the minimum period of 28 days; and
- A total response period of 42 days was provided for the second Section 47 consultation, in excess of the minimum period of 28 days.

7 Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This section of the Consultation Report details the statutory consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act ('Section 42 consultation') and provides an overview of the consultation activities that took place during the Phase Two consultation, commencing 7 November 2024 and closing on 19 December 2024.

7.2 Statutory requirements and guidance

7.2.1 Section 42 of the 2008 Act requires that the Applicant must consult the following groups of stakeholders about the proposed Application:

- Such persons as may be prescribed;
- Each local authority that is within Section 43; and
- Each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.

7.2.2 In relation to Section 42(1)(a), the Applicant consulted all persons listed as a prescribed consultee under Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations. In addition, the Applicant consulted with the bodies identified by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (c) of the EIA Regulations. These persons are referred to in this Consultation Report as the 'Section 42 consultees' and listed in **Appendix 9: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

7.2.3 In addition to the prescribed consultees, the Applicant included a further 17 non-prescribed organisations as part of the Section 42 Consultation (see **Appendix 6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**, which details those prescribed and non-prescribed consultees). These non-prescribed bodies were identified during the Applicant's stakeholder mapping exercises and in discussion with CWCC. Project information was issued to both prescribed and non-prescribed Phase Two consultees in writing by post and/or email, depending on contact details available to the Applicant.

7.2.4 34 further organisations were identified as representatives of Seldom Heard Groups, a list of which were presented to local planning authorities through consultation on the draft SoCC. These organisations were consulted under Section 42 via email.

7.2.5 In relation to Section 42(1)(b), the local authorities under the definitions set out in Section 43 of the 2008 Act were consulted. Table 7.1 includes a list of relevant local authorities and their classification, as defined by the 2008 Act.

7.2.6 For the purposes of Section 42(1)(d), a person is within Section 44 of the 2008 Act if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person

is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land; is interested in the land or has the power to sell and convey the land; or is entitled to make a relevant claim if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented.

- 7.2.7 The relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the 2008 Act were invited to participate in the Phase Two consultation by letter on 5 November 2024 and by email on 6 November 2024. The list of land interests consulted is provided in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]** and discussed in Section 7.6 below.
- 7.2.8 Following updated guidance from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024, which amended Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant identified 23 additional consultees that were contacted on a precautionary basis. These bodies received a Section 42 covering letter and accompanying site location plan in writing by post and/or email, depending on contact details available to the Applicant. The bodies received these communications on or before 26 March 2025, and were provided at least 29 days, above the statutory minimum requirement, until 23 April 2025 to provide comments. No feedback was received from these organisations to this consultation.
- 7.2.9 Section 45(1) of the 2008 Act states that the Applicant, when consulting a person under Section 42, must provide notification of the deadline for responses to the consultation. Section 45(2) states that such a deadline must not be less than 28 days. The Applicant provided Section 42 consultees a period of 42 days (from 7 November 2024 to 19 December 2024) for consultation responses. This deadline for responses was communicated in a Section 42 covering letter, which is provided in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

7.3 Preliminary environmental information

- 7.3.1 The PEIR and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) were produced as part of the statutory consultation documents for the Phase Two consultation.
- 7.3.2 The PEIR comprised of the information specified in Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations, which has been compiled by the Applicant and is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 7.3.3 A PEIR NTS was also produced, recognising that some Section 42 consultees may wish to view a more concise and less-detailed document.
- 7.3.4 The Applicant notified Section 42 consultees of the statutory consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence by post on 7 November 2024:

- A Section 42 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request;
- A site plan showing the location of the Proposed Development; and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the Proposed Development website, public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).

7.3.5 The Applicant also contacted Section 42 stakeholders by email on 7 November 2024, where contact details were available.

7.3.6 In addition, following consideration of updated guidance from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 following the end of the Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant identified 23 additional consultees that were contacted on a precautionary basis.

7.3.7 The Applicant notified the additional consultees of the statutory consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence by post and email on 26 March 2025:

- A Section 42 covering letter, including a link to the Proposed Development website and consultation materials; and
- A site plan showing the location of the Proposed Development.

7.3.8 The materials in this package are included in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

7.3.9 The Applicant also contacted the additional stakeholders by email on 26 March 2025, where contact details were made available.

7.4 Identifying Section 43 consultees

7.4.1 Section 42(1)(b) of the 2008 Act places a duty for the Applicant to consult each local authority that is within Section 43.

7.4.2 Section 43 defines what a local authority is for the purposes of Section 42 i.e. any local authority in whose area proposed development would be sited and neighbouring authorities sharing a boundary.

7.4.3 Local Authorities are classified by the 2008 Act as “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D” depending on if the development is sited in their area (“B” and “C”) or not (“A” and “D”) and depending on the tier of the local authority.

7.4.4 The Applicant identified and consulted with local authorities identified in accordance with Section 43 of the 2008 Act. These local authorities are listed in Table 7.1 and referred to in this Consultation Report as ‘Section 43 consultees’.

Table 7.1: Relevant local authorities under Section 43 of the 2008 Act

Local authority	Classification under Section 43
B	Cheshire West and Chester Council
A	Warrington Borough Council
A	Wrexham County Borough Council
A	St Helens Council
A	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
A	Cheshire East Council
A	Halton Borough Council
A	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
A	Shropshire Council
A	Liverpool City Council
A	Flintshire County Council
*There are no C or D authorities	

7.4.5 The Applicant notified Section 43 consultees of the statutory consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence on 7 November 2024:

- A Section 42 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (provided in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**)
- A site plan showing the location of the Proposed Development (provided in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**); 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) (provided in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).

7.5 Identifying Section 44 consultees

- 7.5.1 Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act places a duty for the Applicant to consult each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.
- 7.5.2 In accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act, the Applicant undertook "diligent inquiry" through a land referencing process to identify parties within Categories 1, 2 and 3, as defined in sections 42 and 44 of the 2008 Act. These include owners, lessees, tenants and occupiers of the land within the Order limits. Category 2 includes parties that are interested in the land or have the power to sell, convey or release the land within the Order limits.
- 7.5.3 Category 1 includes owners, lessees, tenants and occupiers of the land within the Order limits. Category 2 includes parties that are interested in the land or have the power to sell, convey or release the land within the Order limits. Category 3 includes parties who the Applicant thinks would or might, if the Order sought by the application were made and fully implemented, be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 and/or Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 and/or section 152(3) of the 2008 Act.
- 7.5.4 A professional land referencing firm was employed to undertake diligent inquiry to identify these land interests. The following processes were undertaken as part of the methodology to identify and consult with those with an interest in affected land.
- 7.5.5 Land Registry data was received in the form of a digital shape file (a GIS layer) and digital copies of the Official Copy Registers and Title Plans. All relevant freehold, leasehold, mortgagee, beneficiary, other charges and restrictive covenant information was extracted and stored in a land referencing database.
- 7.5.6 An update to the Land Registry information was carried out prior to the preparation of the **Book of Reference [EN010153/DR/4.3]** as part of the DCO application documentation in April 2025 (also accounting for a small amendment to the Order limits as shown on the plan in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**). As a result of this, the Applicant identified a further two Section 44 consultees. These consultees were informed on 10 April 2025 of a response deadline for 13 May 2025, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days. These consultees received a Section 44 covering letter and accompanying site location plan in writing by post and/or email, depending on contact details available to the Applicant. A list detailing the further two S44 consultees, and the letter sent to them, is available in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.
- 7.5.7 Adopted highways plans were acquired from Cheshire West and Chester Council. Information was also obtained regarding special category land

(including open space, common land, fuel and field garden allotments) and crown land; and any information relating to extant planning permissions. Information was received in a variety of formats and entered into the GIS system as appropriate. Where necessary, further enquiries were made to address any changes, anomalies, or gaps.

- 7.5.8 Statutory undertakers that were believed to have a possible interest in the area were contacted to identify their interests. Information received was entered into the GIS as appropriate and where necessary further enquiries were made to address changes, anomalies or gaps.
- 7.5.9 Any existing information or stakeholder data gained by the Applicant as a result of property negotiation or Section 42 consultation was incorporated accordingly.
- 7.5.10 Consultation and engagement with landowners has been ongoing throughout the development of the proposals. The identification of potentially affected parties has been an ongoing process. This included checking all company addresses at Companies House to ensure the correct address was being used. The registered address was used unless advised differently by the affected party. The results of this engagement process is set out in the **Pre-Application Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker [EN010153/DR/4.4]**.
- 7.5.11 Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs) were issued to all affected parties within the Order land. This included landowners, lessees, occupiers and statutory undertakers potentially affected by the Proposed Development. Telephone numbers and email addresses were provided on the letter which accompanied the LIQs, allowing parties to make contact if they sought further information on the proposals. Parties identified after this date, or whose initial LIQ unsuccessfully delivered, were issued at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 7.5.12 There is unregistered land within the Order Limits. As such, site notices were affixed on or adjacent to the land in order to notify any unregistered interested parties of the Proposed Development. No parties came forward to identify themselves following this process.
- 7.5.13 The Applicant has also carefully considered whether any Category 3 parties need to be identified for the Proposed Development. On the basis of the baseline environment surrounding the Order limits (with there being limited properties), and on the basis of the results of the environmental assessments reported in the **Environmental Statement** (particularly that no likely significant effects arise which would affect the value of properties), and title analysis undertaken in respect of potential section 10/injurious affection claims, no Category 3 parties have been identified.
- 7.5.14 The result of the diligent inquiry process was that the Applicant notified 80 identified Section 44 consultees by letter on 5 November 2024 and by email on 6 November 2024, ahead of the Phase Two consultation commencing on 7 November 2024. These consultees were informed of a response deadline of

19 December 2024, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days. A list of the Section 44 Consultees and a copy of the letter sent to them, is available in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

- 7.5.15 The list of all land interests consulted across the consultation period is presented in the Consultation Report **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**. This appendix details the date on which they were notified of consultation and the deadline provided to them for responding. The combined lists in that Appendix include all interests listed in in the **Book of Reference [EN010153/DR/4.3]**, demonstrating that all parties have been consulted under Section 42(1)(d).
- 7.5.16 This is with the exception of Hover Force Limited whose property interest was identified late in the pre-application process. However, this party received consultation materials pursuant to section 47 as their site fell within the core consultation zone and it is noted this party has responded to the consultation (their response is recorded in Appendix 10 under section 44 interests) setting out their concerns. The Order limits do not include their land, and their interest relates to access rights over a route that is proposed to be used for the Proposed Development. During each phase of the Proposed Development the Applicant will ensure that the requirements of the Proposed Development do not prevent access being available at all times to Hover Force Limited land. As such, the Applicant considers that this party has had a chance to influence the application.

7.6 Duty to notify the planning inspectorate of the proposed application under Section 46 of the 2008 Act

- 7.6.1 Prior to commencing Section 42 consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent for the Proposed Development under Section 46 of the 2008 Act. The notification was sent to the Planning Inspectorate electronically on 5 November 2024. The notification included the following attachments:
- A Section 46 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials on the Proposed Development website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (included in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
 - Example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being for Section 42 consultees and the other one for Section 44 consultees) (included in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
 - A site plan showing the location of the Proposed Development (included in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**); 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) (included in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).

- 7.6.2 The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State acknowledged receipt of the notification on 6 November 2024. A copy of this acknowledgement is included in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

7.7 Undertaking Section 42 consultation

7.7.1 In summary, Section 42 consultees (including those defined under Section 43 and Section 44) were notified of the commencement of the Section 42 consultation in writing on or before 30 November 2023. The following documents were provided to Section 42 consultees:

- A relevant covering letter, explaining why the consultee had been contacted and including a link to the consultation materials on the Proposed Development website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (**Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**);
- A site plan showing the location of the Proposed Development (included in **Appendix 6: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**); and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the Proposed Development website, public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge, including the PEIR) (included in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**).

7.7.2 With the Section 42 consultation period commencing on 7 November 2024 and ending on 19 December 2024, this provided a response period of 42 days (therefore exceeding the minimum 28-day statutory period set out in Section 45(2) of the 2008 Act).

7.7.3 In total, 19 responses were received from Section 42 consultees, including landowners and those with land interests, in respect of the Phase Two consultation. An overview of the Section 42 feedback and the Applicant's response to this is provided in Section 13 of this report, with a more detailed record of Section 42 feedback provided as **Appendix 10: Section 42 Applicant Response [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

7.8 Statement of compliance with formal consultation under Section 42

7.8.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Sections 42, 44, 45 and 46 of the 2008 Act by undertaking the following activities:

- The Applicant consulted with such persons as may be prescribed (Sections 42(1)(a) – (d)) and relevant to the Proposed Development, including landowners under Section 44;
- Notification of the Proposed Development under Section 46 was provided to the Secretary of State on 5 November 2024, before the start of the consultation period; and
- The total response period provided for the Section 42 consultation exceeded the statutory period of 28 days.

- 7.8.2 These activities are set out in more detail in **Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN010153/DR/5.2]**, which also considers how the Applicant has complied with the DCLG Guidance and the Guidance.

8 Publication under Section 48 of the 2008 Act

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 This section details how the Applicant has complied with Section 48 of the 2008 Act (duty to publicise).
- 8.1.2 The Applicant previously publicised the Phase One consultation through adverts and media releases included in **Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]** and set out in Chapter 6 of this report.

8.2 Statutory requirements and guidance

- 8.2.1 Section 48 of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to publicise the proposed Application in the prescribed manner. A deadline for the receipt of comments to the publicity must also be provided.
- 8.2.2 Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations sets out what the publicity under Section 48 of the 2008 Act should entail, which is for the publication of a notice for two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers, once in a national newspaper, and once in the London Gazette. It was determined by the Applicant that it was not required to place a notice within Fishing News or Lloyds List, as the Proposed Development does not include any offshore development.
- 8.2.3 Regulation 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 notes that where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under section 48(1), send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c). The Applicant complied with this requirement, as can be seen in the cover letter to those bodies in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.
- 8.2.4 For the Proposed Development, Section 48 publicity took place as part of the Phase Two consultation activities. The consultation process provided the same response times for the Section 42, 47 and 48 consultations.
- 8.2.5 Evidence of compliance with the relevant legislation is provided in **Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

8.3 Publication of notice

- 8.3.1 The Section 48 notice (included in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**) publicising the Proposed Development and

advertising the intention to apply for a DCO was placed in the publications listed in Table 8.1

8.3.2 Phase Two consultees identified were provided with a copy of the Section 48 notice as described in Section 4.

8.3.3 Copies of the notices as placed in the newspapers are provided in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**

Table 8.1: Publication of schedule of Section 48 notice

Publication	First Insertion	Second Insertion
The Guardian	31 October 2024	
London Gazette	04 November 2024	
Chester Chronicle	31 October 2024	7 November 2024
Cheshire Standard	31 October 2024	7 November 2024

8.3.4 Section 48 notice contained the required information under Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations.

8.3.5 The Applicant erected Section 48 notices around the Proposed Development area. The notice and map of locations for these notices are shown in **Appendix 7: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010153/DR/5.2]**. The Applicant checked the locations of the Section 48 notices weekly during the consultation period, replacing any that had been removed or damaged.

8.4 Statement of compliance with Section 48

8.4.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Section 48 of the 2008 Act by undertaking the following activities:

- The Applicant publicised the Proposed Development in appropriate newspapers in the prescribed manner, as listed in Table 8.1;
- The Applicant publicised Section 48 notices at the start of Phase Two consultation, notifying consultees of the PEIR and where the consultation documents could be reviewed; and
- The Applicant placed Section 48 notices around the Proposed Development site area.

9 Section 47 consultations: responses received, issues raised and changes made

9.1 Overview

- 9.1.1 During the Phase One consultation, the Applicant received 215 pieces of feedback. This comprised 122 digital feedback forms and 74 hard copy feedback forms, and 19 written responses received by email or Freepost.
- 9.1.2 During the Phase Two consultation, the Applicant received 88 pieces of feedback. This comprised 66 digital feedback forms and 16 hard copy feedback forms, and 6 written responses received by email or Freepost.
- 9.1.3 The Phase One and Phase Two feedback forms (both the paper copy and digital version) included a mixture of closed and open-ended questions to encourage responses regarding the respondent's interest in the Proposed Development, the proposals, community benefits, and the consultation process.
- 9.1.4 Responses provided through the feedback form (online and paper) therefore included responses to closed (multiple choice) questions and open-ended responses.
- 9.1.5 The quantitative data from the Phase One closed questions is presented in Section 9.2, with the quantitative data from the Phase Two closed questions is presented in Section 9.3.
- 9.1.6 The qualitative data from the open-ended responses to both phases of consultation has been considered alongside written feedback received through email and Freepost and is summarised in Table 9.3 and Table 9.4. The Applicant responded to the feedback received following the Phase One Consultation, which is summarised and available to view in **Appendix 4: Phase One Consultation Summary Report [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.
- 9.1.7 Responses to the Phase Two Section 47 Consultation are presented in full in **Appendix 9: Phase Two Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010153/DR/5.2]** along with the Applicant's response to this feedback.

9.2 Quantitative analysis of responses received as part of Phase One consultation.

9.2.1 Table 9.1 presents a summary of the quantitative data gathered by the Applicant through their feedback form. The results are presented visually in Figures 9.1 to 9.4.

Table 9.1: Summary of quantitative data from Phase One consultation

Question number	Feedback Question	Analysis of response data
1.	How would you describe your interest in Frodsham Solar?	<p>249 responses were received on this question. As one respondent could submit multiple answers, the number of responses exceeded the number of respondents.</p> <p>61% of the responses described their interest as being a local resident.</p> <p>Other respondents identified as being regular visitors (14.5%), members of a local interest group (10%), local representatives (4.8%), members of a statutory organisation (1.2%), local business owners (1.6%), landowners (1%), or 'Other' (6%).</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 9.1.</p>
2.	As a principle do you agree there is a need to install solar infrastructure?	<p>191 Respondents answered this question.</p> <p>A majority (78%) of respondents indicated they agreed that there is a need to install solar infrastructure.</p> <p>9.4% of respondents did not agree there is a need to install solar infrastructure.</p> <p>12.6% of respondents did not feel they understand enough about the need to install solar infrastructure.</p>

Question number	Feedback Question	Analysis of response data
		These results are presented in Figure 9.2.
3.	What are your views on Frodsham Solar?	<p>190 Respondents answered this question.</p> <p>27.9% of respondents supported the proposals, with 22.1% of respondents wanting to see changes before supporting the proposals, and 25.3% of respondents needing to see more detailed proposals to come to a judgement.</p> <p>Finally, 22.6% of the respondents did not support the proposals, and 2.1% stating that they have no opinion on the Proposed Development.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 9.3.</p>
4.	Which aspects of the Proposed Development are most important to you?	<p>Respondents were able to select multiple topics to this question.</p> <p>Local ecology and biodiversity was the most selected topic, with 81% of respondents selecting it.</p> <p>This was followed by recreation and amenity (60%), landscape and visual (57%), energy storage (40%), traffic access and construction (38%), land use and agriculture (34%), hydrology and flood risk (27%), archaeology and local heritage (24%), supply chain and employment (20%), and finally 7% selecting 'other'.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 9.4</p>

Figure 9.1: How would you describe your interest in Frodsham Solar?

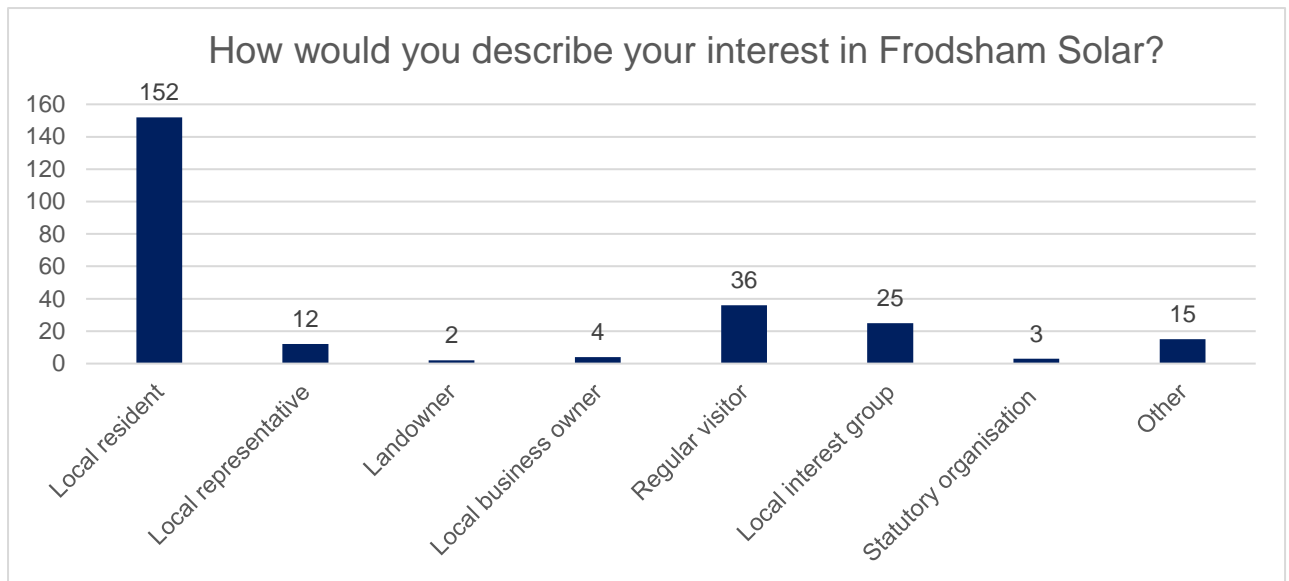


Figure 9.2: As a principle, do you agree there is need to install solar infrastructure?

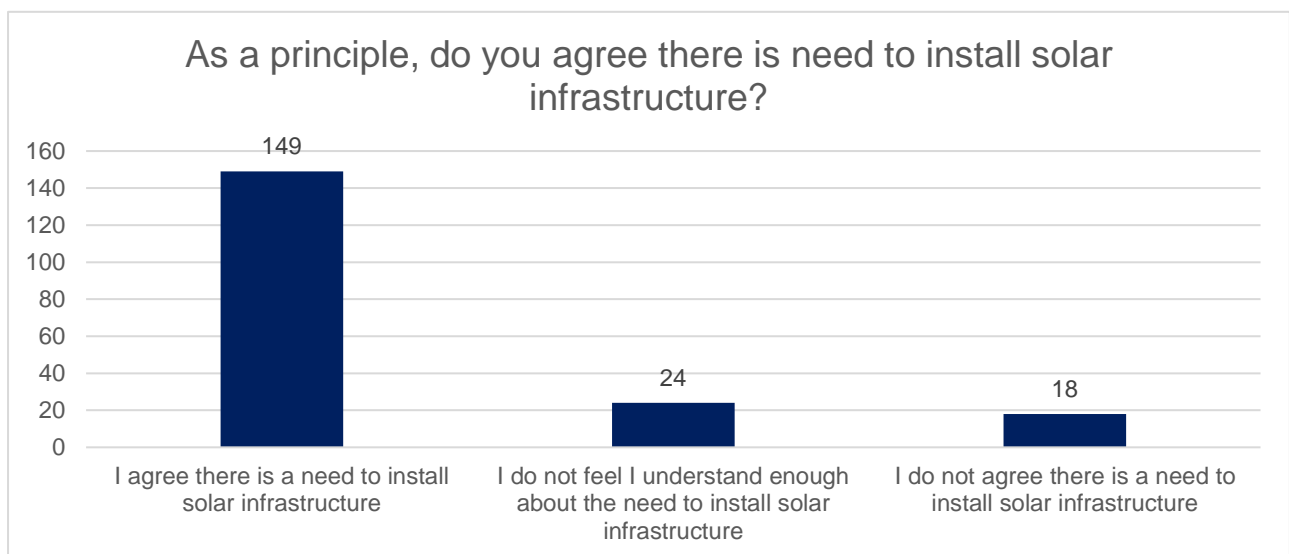


Figure 9.3: What are your views on our initial proposals for Frodsham Solar?

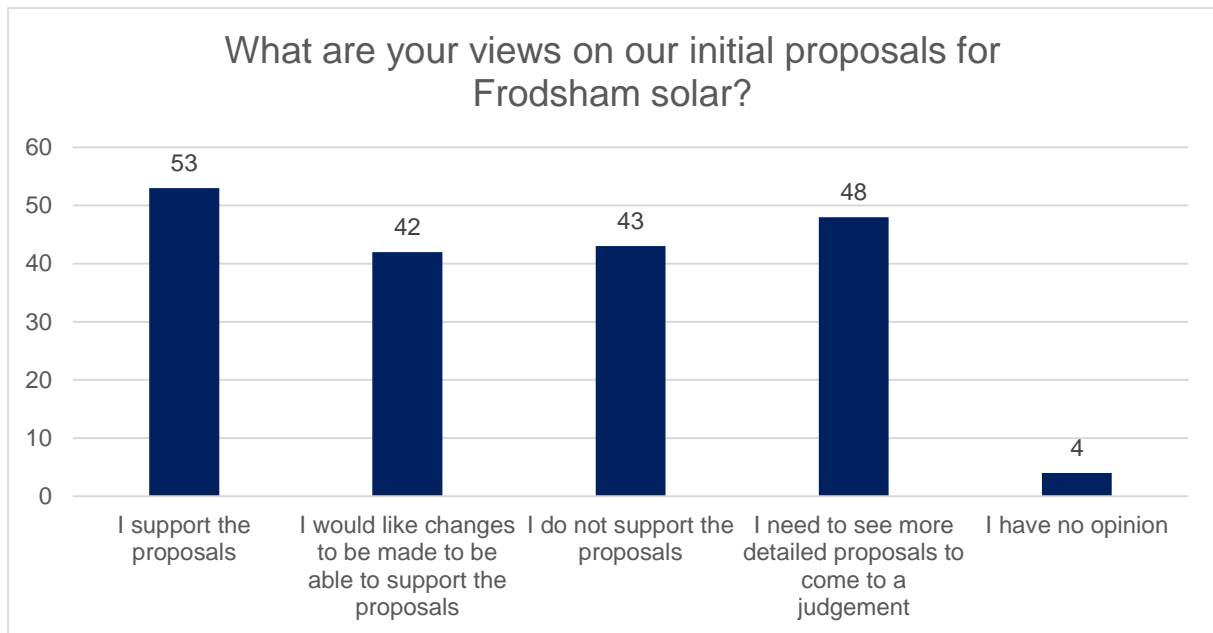
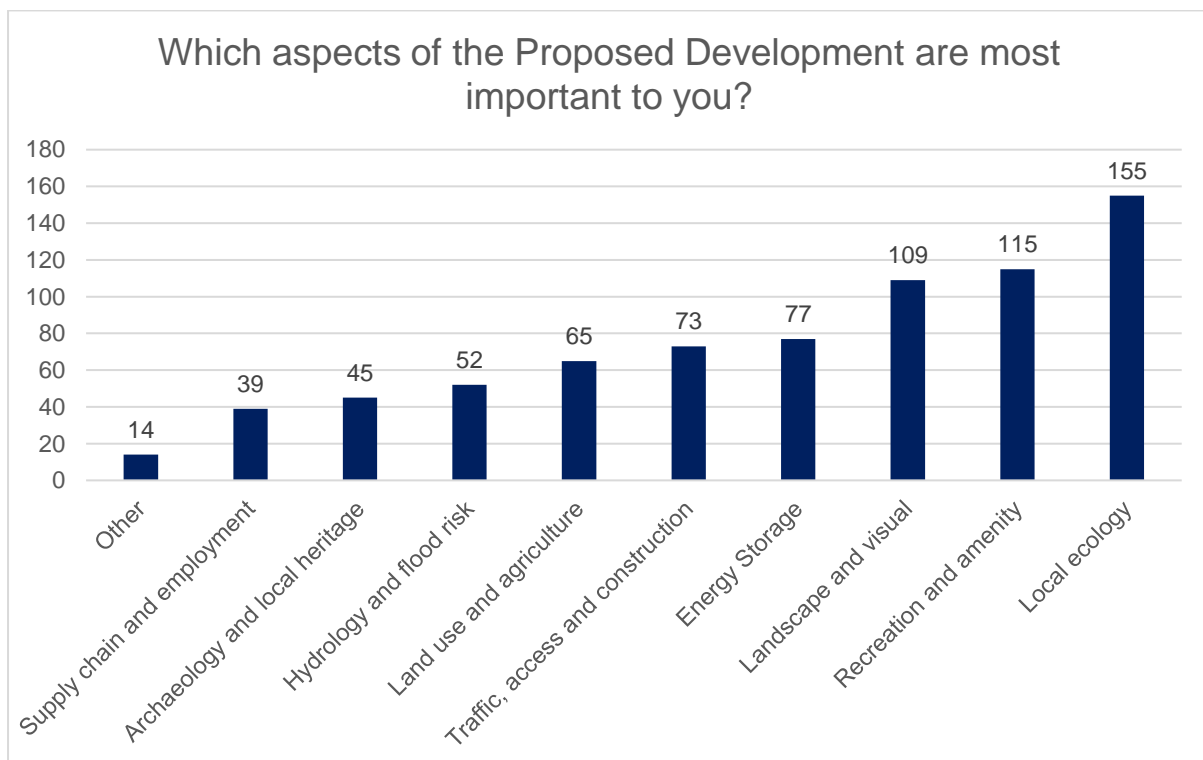


Figure 9.4: Which aspects of the Proposed Development are most important to you?



9.3 Quantitative analysis of responses received as part of Phase Two consultation.

9.3.1 Table 9.2 presents a summary of the quantitative data gathered by the Applicant through their feedback form. The results are presented visually in Figures 9.7 to 9.10.

Table 9.2: Summary of quantitative data from Phase Two consultation

Question number	Feedback question	Analysis of response data
1.	How would you describe your interest in Frodsham Solar?	<p>102 responses were received to this question. As one respondent could submit multiple answers, the number of responses exceeded the number of respondents.</p> <p>The majority (69.5%) described their interest as being a local resident.</p> <p>Other respondents identified as being regular visitors (15.9%), members of local interest groups (17.1%), or 'other' (5%).</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 9.7.</p>
2.	As a principle do you agree there is a need to install solar infrastructure?	<p>78 Respondents answered this question.</p> <p>A strong majority (70.5%) of respondents indicated they agreed that there is a need to install solar infrastructure.</p> <p>17.9% of respondents did not agree there is a need to install solar infrastructure.</p> <p>11.5% of respondents did not feel they understand enough about the need to install solar infrastructure.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 9.8.</p>
3.	What are your views on Frodsham Solar?	<p>76 Respondents answered this question.</p> <p>40.8% of respondents supported the proposals, with 30.3% of respondents wanting to see changes before supporting the proposals.</p>

Question number	Feedback question	Analysis of response data
		<p>Finally, 28.9% of the respondents did not support the proposals.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 9.9.</p>
4.	Which aspects of the Proposed Development are most important to you?	<p>Respondents were able to select multiple topics to this question.</p> <p>Local ecology and biodiversity was the most selected topic. 67.1% of respondents indicated that it was an aspect most important to them.</p> <p>This was followed by Landscape and Visual (57.3%), and climate change (42.7%).</p> <p>Land use and agriculture (32.9%) was next, followed by Construction and Decommissioning (29.3%), Traffic and Transport (29.3%), Water resources and flood risk (25.6%), Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (20.7%), Battery Storage (20.7%), Noise and Vibration (19.5%), and Socioeconomics (15.9%).</p> <p>Furthermore, 15.9% of respondents selected 'Other' of the options.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 9.10.</p>

Figure 9.7: How would you describe your interest in Frodsham Solar?

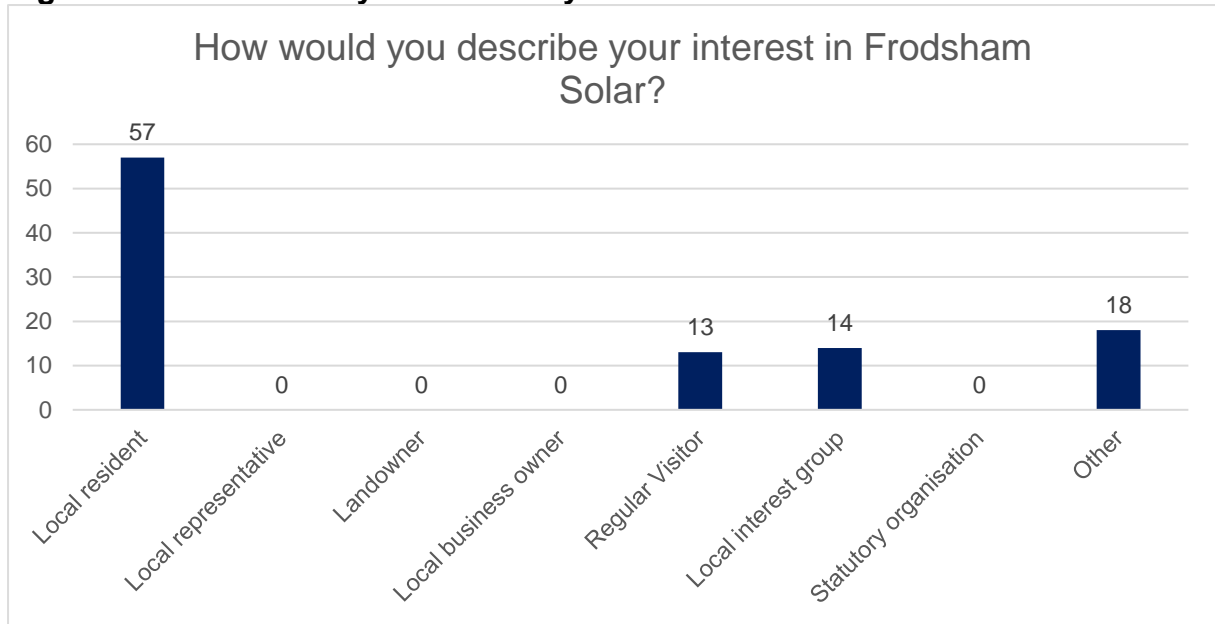


Figure 9.8: What is your view of installing ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?

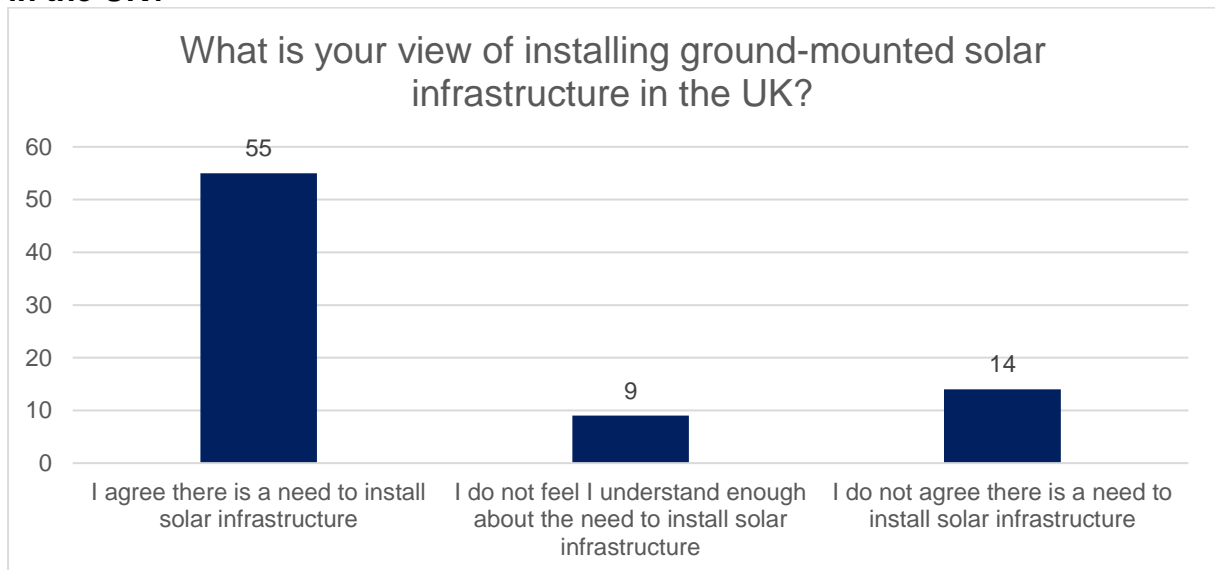


Figure 9.9: Based on our updated proposals, what are your views on Frodsham Solar?

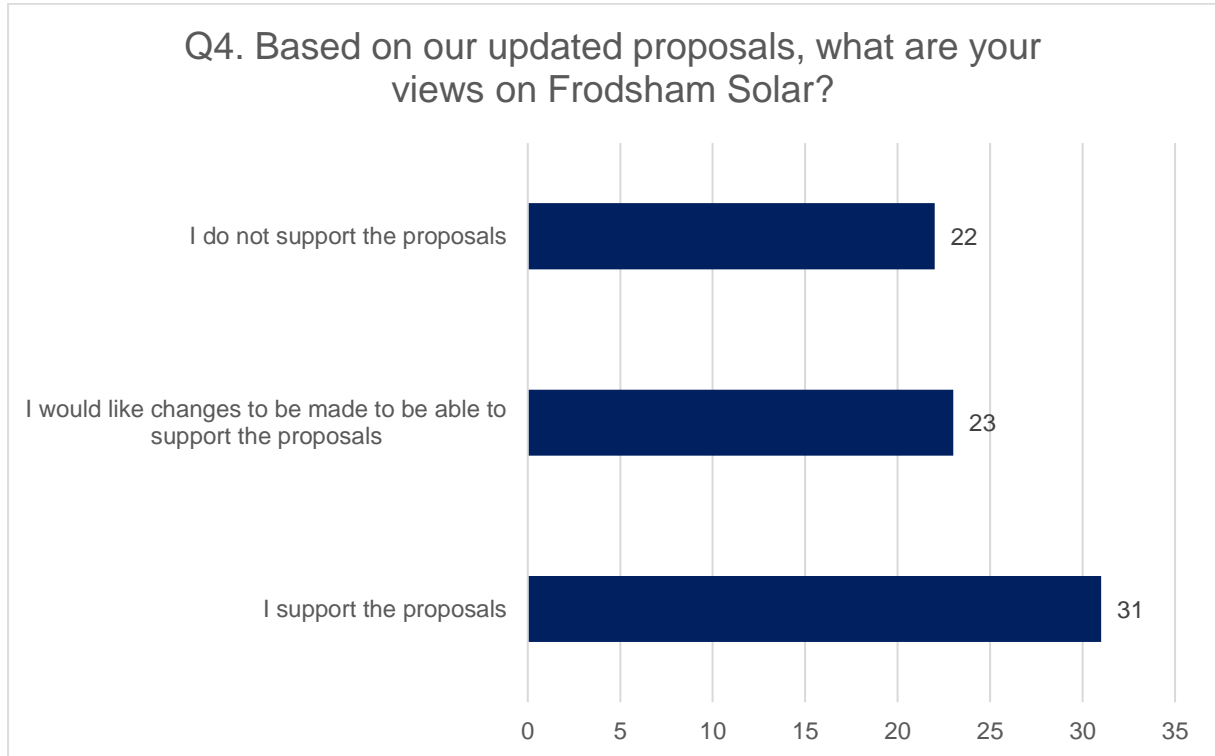
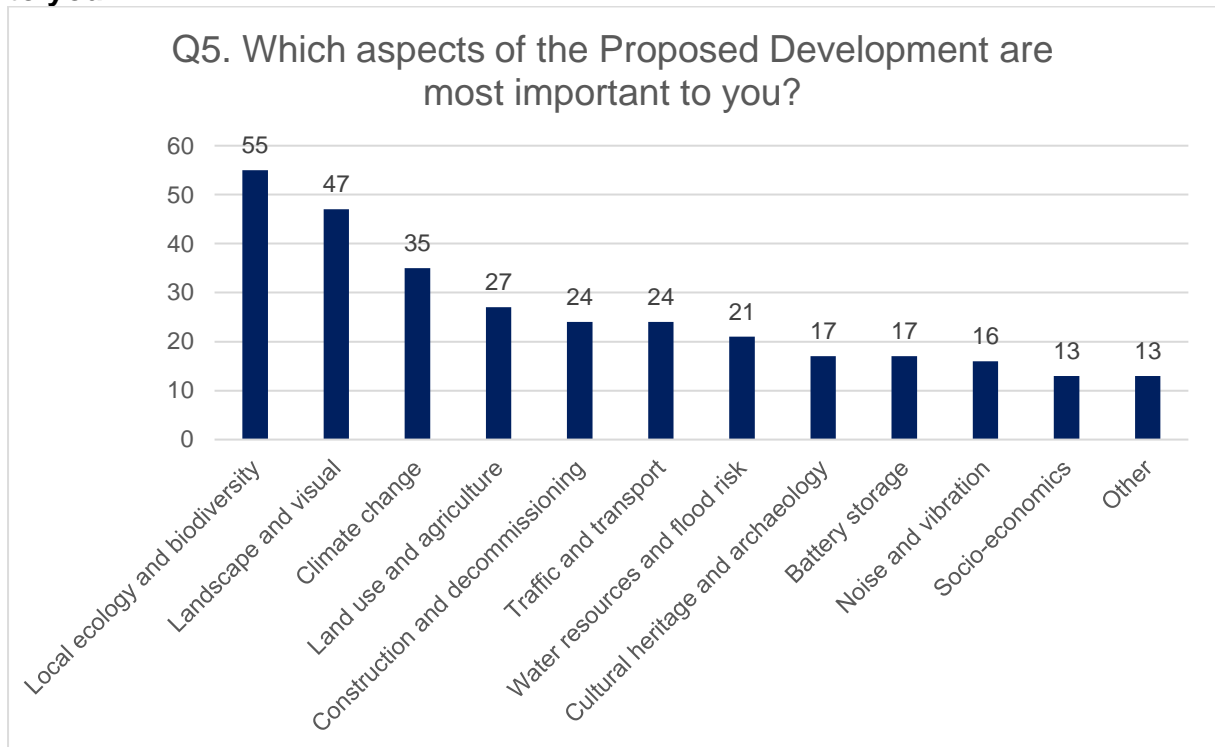


Figure 9.10: Which aspects of the Proposed Development are most important to you?



9.4 Qualitative analysis of responses received during Section 47 consultation.

- 9.4.1 Table 9.3 presents a summary of the qualitative data from the written responses received by the Applicant to the Phase One consultation. Table 9.4 presents a summary of the qualitative data from the written responses received by the Applicant to the Phase Two consultation.
- 9.4.2 Table 9.3 summarises key themes of feedback received to Phase One Consultation in June - July 2023, and how this was considered by the Applicant ahead of undertaking further consultation in November 2024. Table 9.4 summarises the key themes from Phase Two Consultation in November - December 2024, and how this was considered when preparing the Application.
- 9.4.3 A detailed record of all comments received during the Phase Two Section 47 Consultation and the Applicant's response to these comments is provided as, and **Appendix 9: Phase Two Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010153/DR/5.2]**.

Table 9.3: Summary of qualitative feedback received during Phase One consultation including how the Applicant has had regard to this feedback.

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>Ecology and Biodiversity</p> <p>Feedback demonstrated a concern that installing a solar farm may cause impacts to ecology and biodiversity.</p> <p>Respondents cited a high level of ecology and biodiversity in the area and commented that the Proposed Development could reduce this.</p> <p>Feedback included comments on potential impacts to habitat, food supply, safety, and species, as well as the importance of wildlife corridors.</p> <p>A particular theme emerged around birdlife, including wading birds, wildfowl, geese, and marsh harriers.</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern regarding the impact on hedgerows</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises that the site is currently home to various forms of wildlife and is adjacent to the Mersey Estuary SSSI, SPA (Special Protection Area) and Ramsar site.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to there being more biodiversity across the site during the life of the Proposed Development compared to today. This is referred to as a 'Biodiversity Net Gain'.</p> <p>Following the Phase One Consultation – which also aligned with the submission of the Applicant's Scoping Report to PINS – the Applicant undertook surveys of existing wildlife and ecology across the site. This helped the Applicant to understand the existing presence of birds and other wildlife in the area and assess the potential effect that installing</p>

<p>across the site, alongside requests for more hedgerows, wildflowers, and trees to be planted.</p>	<p>the Proposed Development may have and consider this in the design of the Proposed Development and the technical assessments undertaken.</p> <p>The Applicant shared these emerging assessments for information and further feedback as part of the Phase Two Consultation. This included publishing an Illustrative Environmental Masterplan for the site and a PEIR with chapters covering Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology.</p> <p>The Proposed Development design largely retains important ecological features within the site, such as woodland, hedgerows, tree lines and ditches.</p> <p>The Illustrative Environmental Masterplan for the Proposed Development included substantial mitigation and improvement areas for birds (covering approximately 60 hectares), nearly 15km of tree and hedgerow planting, and the creation of botanically diverse grasslands to support biodiversity. This is reflected in the updated masterplan submitted with the DCO application.</p> <p>The PEIR set out the Applicant's aim to deliver a minimum increase of 10% in habitat and hedgerow units and no net loss in watercourse units, and included a preliminary assessment to demonstrate that this would be achievable. The Biodiversity Net Gain report [EN010153/DR/7.12] quantifies the BNG position at the point of submission of the DCO application.</p>
<p>Recreation and Amenity</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises this concern and in its Phase Two Consultation, sought to provide reassurance that existing public rights of way will remain</p>

<p>Concerns were raised regarding public access to the site and potential impacts to existing footpaths, trails, and routes.</p> <p>Feedback included requests for more or improved footpaths and cycle paths on site.</p> <p>Respondents also asked for more open spaces and recreational opportunities near the site. The specific areas most often mentioned were Ince, Frodsham, Helsby, Hapsford, Elton and Ellesmere Port.</p>	<p>open during the operation of Proposed Development. The Applicant also communicated that it would seek to maintain access throughout the construction period where this is safe to do so, with any necessary closures kept as short as possible. This is ultimately reflected in the Management Plans submitted with the DCO application, including the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.9].</p> <p>The Applicant is grateful to respondents for suggestions of new footpaths and cycle path routes. The updated proposals for the Proposed Development shared by the Applicant as part of the Phase Two consultation included plans for 4.5 km of new permissive paths across the site. The final application proposals are set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.13].</p> <p>The PEIR included (and the ES includes) a chapter on Tourism and Recreation, which included mitigation measures such as a proposed 10 meter Public Right of Way buffer and the provision of an outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan with the DCO application.</p>
<p>Landscape and Visual</p> <p>Feedback included a concern that views of the Proposed Development could affect the landscape character of Frodsham and the surrounding area.</p> <p>Building on this, some respondents commented that the area currently has a rural character, but the Proposed Development could change this to a more industrial feel after construction.</p>	<p>The Applicant has seen in both the feedback received and through knowledge of the site area that landscape and visual impact are a key matter of interest for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The fact the Site is relatively open at present is one of the reasons it provides an opportunity for the development of a solar farm. Its proximity to other large scale industrial developments and the</p>

<p>Specific viewpoints from the Sandstone Trail, Frodsham / Overton Hill and Helsby Hill were cited, including a focus on the viewpoint from the Frodsham War Memorial on Frodsham Hill as a place from where the site is particularly visible.</p> <p>Feedback also included questions regarding the potential impact of glint and glare from solar panels on drivers on the M56. Glint and glare concerns were also noted in relation to the towns and villages of Frodsham, Helsby and Dunham-on-the-Hill.</p>	<p>M56 is also a factor considered to make it a suitable site for development.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that existing trees and hedges on site would help to reduce the visual change from site users at ground level. However, the Applicant acknowledges that from some elevated viewpoints, such as Frodsham Hill, much of the Proposed Development will be visible.</p> <p>The updated proposals shared by the Applicant for Phase Two consultation included mitigation measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retaining existing planting and features that provide screening; • containing the development within established field boundaries to retain the existing landscape pattern; • providing generous development-free buffers alongside existing landscape features, including public rights of way; • retaining open vistas, such as across looking across Frodsham Marshes and the wider estuary, and towards Frodsham Hill and Helsby Hill, where feasible; • using antireflective material on Solar PV Modules, and re-orienting the PV modules immediately north of the M56, to limit glint and glare effects; • planting of new trees and hedgerows that is consistent with the landscape to provide further screening and reduce glint and glare effects.
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	<p>These measures were set out in the PEIR, which included a chapter on Landscape and Visual Amenity, and a commitment to provide an outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan as part of the ES.</p> <p>The Applicant also developed a series of visualisations and photomontages to help communicate how the Proposed Development may look, which were available to view and comment on during the Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>These have been developed further in the assessments undertaken in the ES.</p>
<p>Traffic, Access, and Construction</p> <p>Respondents stated concerns that construction could increase the level of traffic, congestion, and pollution on roads across the site. Within this feedback, respondents specifically cited St Hilda's Drive and Ship Street, Marsh Lane (in both Frodsham and Elton), and the villages of Elton and Ince.</p> <p>Respondents raised concerns about the impact of construction traffic on Public Rights of Way.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises this concern and has sought to provide reassurance that roads through towns and villages such as Frodsham, Helsby, Elton and Ince would not be used for construction traffic. Instead, the M56 and the existing roads through the Protos site and the existing wind farm would be utilised.</p> <p>In their communications following the Phase One Consultation, and in the PEIR which was published at the start of the Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant explained that the construction access route would be from the west, leading from Pool Lane roundabout. The access to the SPEN Frodsham Substation would be via the A56 Chester Road, where a dedicated private access road leads to the substation complex. No construction traffic would be permitted to route through Frodsham, Helsby, Ince or Elton.</p> <p>The Applicant also provided a Transport assessment as part of the PEIR. This set out an assessment of the impacts of traffic on the operational highway network for further feedback and</p>

	<p>comment. At this PEIR stage, and ultimately in the Transport Assessment submitted with the DCO application [EN010153/DR/7.3], no likely significant effects are identified to arise.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.4], provided with the DCO Application sets out measures to mitigate against impacts to the highway network in the vicinity of the Site.</p>
<p>Land Use, Agriculture and Ground Conditions</p> <p>Respondents expressed that the land is not as productive as agricultural land, and that it could be better utilised.</p> <p>Some respondents considered the proposed land to already be redundant, with the Proposed Development being a good use of underutilised land.</p> <p>Respondents also stated that the land still has ecological value despite its agricultural land grading.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised that, following decommissioning of the solar farm, the land may not be returned to its original use and instead become brownfield land.</p>	<p>The Applicant's initial assessments have found that none of the site is classed as Best and Most Versatile.</p> <p>Soil surveys have been carried out as part of the assessments to understand the nature of the soil and the land on site and will inform how the solar farm is designed to mitigate any impacts to the ground. These assessments were presented for information and feedback through the PEIR as part of the Phase Two Consultation, and are also reported on in the ES (see Chapter 10: Ground Conditions).</p> <p>An Outline Soils Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.10] has also been produced to manage impacts to soils.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land will not be considered as brownfield land, as the Applicant will be required to restore the land (save where new planting has been proposed). Further detail is set out in the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.7].</p> <p>Consideration of the Site's use as ecological habitat has been accounted for in the ES assessments – see</p>

	Chapter 7: Terrestrial Ecology and Chapter 8: Ornithology.
<p>Hydrology and Flood Risk</p> <p>Respondents commented that the site area is prone to flooding, specifically the lower ground near the Marshes in the eastern half of the site.</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern about the potential contamination entering the water from disturbing the land.</p>	<p>In response to this feedback the Applicant has been keen to provide reassurance that solar farms do not typically increase flood risk on site, as the panels are raised above the ground and limited hard standing is involved.</p> <p>The Applicant committed to a Flood Risk Assessment and presented emerging assessments and mitigation for information and feedback at the Phase Two Consultation through Chapter 9 of the PEIR. This has been submitted with the DCO application, alongside a Drainage Strategy.</p> <p>Through the measures in the Management Plans submitted with the DCO application, contamination risks will be suitably managed.</p>
<p>Site Selection and Alternatives</p> <p>Respondents suggested that the location of the site is appropriate to build a solar farm. Some respondents also commented that the proximity to existing industrial sites will help support an area that uses high levels of energy.</p> <p>Respondents also stated that the location is not appropriate. Respondents cited proximity to residential homes and the Marshes, and existing infrastructure in and around the site.</p> <p>Respondents suggested alternatives including brownfield sites and rooftop solar.</p>	<p>The Applicant appreciates the support that some residents have provided regarding where this project is being located.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises that the proposed application site offers several significant (and in many cases unique) technical, commercial and environmental benefits.</p> <p>These benefits broadly relate to the availability of grid capacity in the nearby SPEN Frodsham Substation, land ownership, the land characteristics and soil quality, the prevalent character of the surrounding existing landscape which is heavily influenced by major industrial land uses and infrastructure, and the opportunity to provide direct electricity supply to these existing industrial land uses.</p>

	<p>Appendix 3-1: Alternative Sites Assessment [EN010153/DR/6.2] and ES Chapter 3: Alternatives sets out the Applicant's explanation of why the Site is a suitable location, and why brownfield sites and rooftop solar are not a reasonable alternative to the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>Community Benefits</p> <p>Respondents contributed many ideas for investments for schools, local charities, and community organisations. Some respondents have requested for more detail to be provided about how community benefits could be delivered. Some residents have requested that those living near to the Proposed Development receive financial compensation.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is committed to delivering a community benefits contribution that is tailored to benefit the local community as much as possible.</p> <p>As part of the second phase of consultation, the Applicant provided updated plans for the creation and implementation of a Community Benefit Fund. The Applicant continues to be committed to the delivery of this and will continue to discuss further with relevant stakeholders.</p>

Table 9.4: Summary of qualitative feedback received during Phase Two consultation including how the Applicant has had regard to this feedback.

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>Ecology and Biodiversity</p> <p>Respondents raised significant concerns about the potential impact on local ecology, biodiversity, and ecosystems, from construction through to the Proposed Development's operation.</p> <p>Specific issues included the adequacy of planned wildlife corridors and planting schemes to support species such as foxes, hares, stoats, and birds, with calls for larger, more effective habitats.</p> <p>The perceived loss of natural habitats, particularly reedbeds and wetlands, was highlighted as a concern, alongside questions about whether the proposed biodiversity net gain would be achieved.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the ecological impacts of the Proposed Development, which has been informed by site-specific surveys over multiple years to understand the extent to which the Site is used by nature. The assessment is reported within ES Vol 1 Chapter 7: Terrestrial Ecology [EN010153/DR/6.1] and ES Vol 1 Chapter 8: Ornithology [EN010153/DR/6.1].</p> <p>The wildlife corridors through the Site would support a range of species as part of the ecological mitigation and enhancement proposals across the Site. These corridors are shown illustratively on ES Vol 3 Figure 2-3: Illustrative Environmental Masterplan [EN010153/DR/6.3].</p> <p>The Applicant has also ensured that notable species groups – including birds, bats, water vole, otter, great crested newt, badger, reptiles, and invertebrates – have all been considered, with mitigation tailored to each.</p>
<p>Ornithology</p> <p>Respondents voiced concern regarding issues including the impact on local and migratory birds, citing the area's international importance for bird migration highlighted as a reason the Proposed Development may be inappropriate.</p> <p>Doubts were raised about the effectiveness of the skylark mitigation</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges concern regarding the potential impact on birds.</p> <p>The Environmental Statement confirms that there are no significant residual impacts on birds resulting from the Proposed Development. This conclusion is based on the implementation of the avoidance and mitigation hierarchy, as outlined in Section 8.7 of ES Vol 1 Chapter 8: Ornithology [EN010153/DR/6.1].</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>area and whether birds could differentiate between mitigation zones.</p> <p>Respondents stressed the need for ongoing maintenance of these areas and criticised past failures, such as the loss of a wading bird roosting site near the Mersey due to poor enforcement.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised about habitat loss for breeding and wintering birds, with calls for expanded mitigation areas and careful management of public access to avoid further disturbance. The importance of maintaining footpaths for bird monitoring and delivering promised habitat improvements was emphasised.</p>	<p>Additionally, the construction programme has been designed to be phased to minimise potential displacement impacts. Habitat enhancement measures, including the creation of 64 ha of wetland and grassland within the North Bank Bird Mitigation Area and 28 ha within the Skylark Mitigation Area, will compensate for any habitat loss resulting from the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>Landscape and Visual</p> <p>Respondents voiced concern about the potential visual impact on the landscape, primarily as a result of the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Respondents particularly voiced concern about the visual impacts when walking through the marshes, and residents living nearby.</p> <p>Respondents also voiced concern about the mitigation strategies proposed, including those presented in the long-term visualisations, such as the specific type of hedgerows used to mitigate the specific height of the solar panels.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges specific concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on landscape.</p> <p>As such, ES Vol 1 Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010153/DR/6.1] includes an assessment from elevated positions including at Frodsham Hill and Helsby Hill and concludes that visual effects would not be significant. Mitigation measures such as planting for screening would not be effective given the change in elevation.</p> <p>Regarding mitigation strategies, the Applicant has reported on the suitability of mitigation measures, including the seasonal effect of any proposed planting in ES Vol 1 Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010153/DR/6.1].</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>Traffic, Transport and Access</p> <p>Respondents commented on the potential traffic issues emerging from construction traffic.</p> <p>Some respondents mentioned specific roads used for access, such as Moorditch Lane.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes concern regarding the impacts of construction traffic on regular traffic in the area.</p> <p>The impacts of construction traffic are assessed in the Transport Assessment [EN010153/DR/7.3]. The assessment concludes that there would be no significant residual adverse traffic effects, with residual impacts on traffic flows, road safety, and amenity assessed as negligible to minor adverse.</p>
<p>Soils & Agriculture</p> <p>Respondents voiced concern about the use of agricultural land, and the classification of land.</p>	<p>ES Vol 2 Appendix 3-1: Alternative Site Assessment [EN010153/DR/6.2] provides justification as to why there are no alternative sites or areas that offer a realistic prospect of delivering the same infrastructure capacity within the same timescales as that proposed by the Applicant. Accordingly, the use of agricultural land is justified.</p>
<p>Hydrology, Flooding and Drainage</p> <p>Respondents commented on the potential impact on the land underneath as a result of runoff, especially considering the wet nature of the land.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises concerns regarding flooding and will ensure that the solar arrays are spaced to allow natural rainwater infiltration, minimizing runoff (ES Vol 1 Appendix 9-1: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy) [EN010153/DR/6.2]. The BESS compound will provide for impermeable liners and containment measures to prevent contamination.</p> <p>The interaction between the Proposed Development and the risk of flooding, including how this has been mitigated, is described in ES Vol 1 Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water [EN010153/DR/6.1].</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>Public Rights of Way</p> <p>Respondents noted support for the proposed footpaths, but largely requested more details on the specific plans/uses of the access routes (i.e. cycle paths, bridleways, gates etc).</p> <p>Respondents also made suggestions for the footpaths in terms of width, maintenance, and preexisting ground conditions.</p>	<p>The Applicant would like to thank respondents for their support and suggestions for the proposed Public Rights of Way.</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to delivering a series of permissive paths across the site. This is described within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.13].</p> <p>The delivery of these paths is secured via the requirements set out in Schedule 2 of the Draft Development Consent Order [EN010153/DR/3.1].</p>
<p>Community Benefits and Impact</p> <p>Respondents made suggestions for where the proposed community benefit fund should be allocated.</p> <p>Some respondents believe the size of the community benefit fund is too small.</p>	<p>The Applicant would like to thank all respondents for providing background information and suggestions on the potential options for Frodsham Solar's Community Benefit Fund.</p> <p>If consented, the solar farm could be fully built and operational by 2030. At that point, the Proposed Development starts generating the revenue that will support the funding of Community Benefits.</p> <p>In advance of that, the Applicant intends to engage a third-party organisation which specialises in the management of community funds. It is expected that the organisation will launch a dedicated consultation on the types of initiatives that the Proposed Development should support. The feedback received to date will feed into that analysis.</p> <p>The Applicant encourages respondents, interested groups, and all residents to engage on the subject further when the</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
	<p>Proposed Development is more advanced.</p>
<p>Socioeconomics, Tourism and Recreation</p> <p>Respondents suggested supporting educational activities, working with local businesses as suppliers and commented on the relative cost of solar energy.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is fully aligned with the Government's vision of a modernised, resilient power system as outlined in the British Energy Security Strategy and the Energy Security Plan.</p> <p>By delivering secure, low-cost renewable power, the Proposed Development will strengthen energy independence and protect consumers and businesses from future energy price shocks.</p> <p>The Applicant's DCO application includes an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010153/DR/7.11], which sets out measures as to how the Proposed Development could support the regional economy. The detail of this plan would be developed and agreed post consent.</p>
<p>Noise and Vibration</p> <p>Respondent commented on the potential impact of noise from the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and commits to delivering a low level of noise during construction and operation.</p> <p>A noise assessment has been undertaken within ES Vol 2 Appendix 4-1 Noise Impact Assessment [EN010153/DR/6.2]. The assessment concludes there would be no significant impacts at residential properties.</p> <p>The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.5] includes a requirement for the contractor to prepare a Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP) and describes a series of</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
	measures that would be used to minimise construction noise effects.
<p>Consultation and Engagement</p> <p>Respondents voiced concern about the consultation process, including the need for an independent adjudicator, and the length of and the difficulty digesting the PEIR.</p>	<p>The Applicant is grateful for all those who engaged with its pre-application consultation process. The details of this consultation are set out in this Consultation Report [EN010153/DR/5.1], and Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN010153/DR/5.2] details compliance with relevant legislation and guidance.</p> <p>The Applicant has sought to engage a range of consultees and recognises that there will be a varying level of detail and information that is suitable for them.</p> <p>With this in mind, a non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR was produced and made available as part of the Phase Two Consultation materials. This NTS included a summary of EIA matters and was available to all attendees at the Phase Two Consultation information events, on the Proposed Development website, and at Community Access Point sites as detailed in the SoCC. It remains accessible on the Proposed Development website.</p> <p>The Applicant also produced a Community Consultation Leaflet at both phases of consultation to allow anyone interested in the Proposed Development to read a community-facing document about the Proposed Development, including annotated concept plans and summaries of key information. The Applicant's free-to-use communications channels were available throughout the pre-application consultation for any questions to be submitted.</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>Glint and Glare</p> <p>Respondents stated concern regarding the impact of glare from the site, specifically onto the nearby M56.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognised concerns regarding the potential Glint and Glare impact of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>During the preliminary design phase an iterative approach was taken to modelling glint and glare impacts to avoid impacts where possible and, where not possible, to reduce impacts to an acceptable level.</p> <p>The initial modelling identified potential impacts on road users of the M56, and so following consultation with National Highways, the azimuth angles and tilt angles of panels in the eastern extent of the Proposed Development have been changed to avoid or reduce the worst impacts.</p> <p>ES Vol 2 Appendix 4-3: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010153/DR/6.2] concludes that after implementing the above design and mitigation measures, the residual glint and glare impacts would be low for all relevant receptors.</p>
<p>Site Selection and Alternatives</p> <p>Respondents stated that there are too many developments occurring in the area.</p> <p>Respondents also questioned the suitability of the site.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes these comments. Each chapter of the Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.1] provides an inter project assessment of the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in combination with other consented or emerging developments.</p> <p>Appendix 3-1: Alternative Sites Assessment of the Environmental Statement the Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.2] explains why the Order limits is a suitable site for the Proposed Development.</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>Construction and Decommissioning</p> <p>Respondents commented on the potential impacts of construction on the local environment. Respondents also stated concern for the public rights of way and access throughout construction.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The impacts of the construction and decommissioning phases have been considered as part of the assessment of environmental effects provided in the Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.1 / 6.2 / 6.3].</p> <p>With the implementation of the measures in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.5] and the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.9], no significant effects are expected to arise to residential receptors or users of public rights of way.</p>
<p>Climate Change and Energy Need</p> <p>Respondents voiced concern regarding the viability of solar in achieving the UK's Net Zero targets.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is technically feasible and commercially viable and will deliver substantial public benefits.</p> <p>The need for the Proposed Development is well established, as set out in Section 2.0 of the Planning Statement [EN010153/DR/5.6].</p> <p>The Proposed Development will provide a timely and tangible boost to the UK's renewable capacity at the scale and speed required to help meet the country's net zero objectives.</p>

10 Section 42 Phase Two consultation: responses received, issues raised, and changes made.

10.1 Overview

- 10.1.1 Across the Section 42 consultation undertaken – as described in Section 7 of this report – the Applicant received responses from 18 No. Section 42 consultees. This includes four responses from consultees considered under Section 44.
- 10.1.2 A detailed record of all comments received from Section 42 consultees, and the Applicant's response to all of those comments, is provided as **Appendix 10: Section 42 Applicant Response [EN010153/DR/5.2]**. The Applicant's response to the comments of the consultation bodies to the Scoping Report and on-going engagement is set out in each topic chapter of the **Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.1]**.
- 10.1.3 National Highways provided a feedback response within Phase Two consultation, and then provided a further response as a land interest to the consultation under Section 44 between April and May 2025. This response is set out and responded to within Appendix 10: Section 42 Applicant Response [EN010153/DR/5.2].

Table 10.1: Summary of Section 42 consultation feedback, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback.

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>Ecology and Biodiversity</p> <p>Consultees provided comments about the impact of the Proposed Development on the ecology and biodiversity of the site.</p> <p>Additional comments were made on particular species including badgers, water voles, and wider species of reptiles and amphibians in relation to the potential for the Proposed Development to cause ecological impact.</p> <p>Responses included comments on Biodiversity Net Gain and how this could be achieved.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the feedback on this topic and appreciates the importance of protecting local ecology and biodiversity.</p> <p>The assessment in the ES have been informed by a large range of surveys over a number of years, as recorded in Chapter 7: Terrestrial Ecology and Chapter 8: Ornithology.</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to undertaking up-to-date terrestrial ecological surveys immediately prior to commencement of construction. These surveys will record the presence of any protected or notable species—such as badgers, water voles, reptiles and amphibians—and will inform the design and timing of any required protection or</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
	<p>mitigation measures to ensure full compliance with prevailing wildlife legislation and planning policy. This is detailed in Section 7.7 ES Vol 1 Chapter 7: Terrestrial Ecology [EN010153/DR/6.1] and is secured within the oCEMP [EN010153/DR/7.5] through Requirements of the draft DCO [EN010153/DR/3.1].</p> <p>The Proposed Development will secure no net loss of watercourses, and will deliver a minimum 10% net gain in habitat and hedgerow units through a combination of retained veteran trees, new native woodland and scrub planting, enhanced hedgerows, wetland scrapes and ponds, and species-rich grassland. These enhancements are quantified and demonstrated in the Biodiversity Net Gain report [EN010153/DR/7.12] and are secured via the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.13] to ensure a lasting positive legacy for biodiversity.</p>
<p>Ornithology</p> <p>Consultees stated that the proposed mitigation strategy could be too narrowly focused on SPA qualifying species and fails to account for other important county-level birds whose populations may shift over time.</p> <p>They emphasised the need for comprehensive monitoring, clearer justification of baseline, and adaptive management to ensure habitat functionality and bird usage are properly supported. Concerns were also raised about survey coverage, phasing of construction, and the need for more</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns regarding bird life in and around the site area.</p> <p>Potential effects on non-SPA species are considered in the ES, and this includes breeding ground-nesting species, such as skylark and lapwing, and non-SPA wintering birds (see Section 8.8 (ES Vol 1 Chapter 8: Ornithology [EN010153/DR/6.1])). Effects on species like skylark are considered at the county level (see Section 8.8 (ES Vol 1 Chapter 8: Ornithology [EN010153/DR/6.1])). As such the assemblage is fully considered.</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>frequent and robust monitoring to secure long-term ecological integrity.</p>	<p>Through the adoption of incorporated mitigation and enhancement measures effects on most breeding species (including non-ground nesting) can be negated as detailed in Section 8.7 (ES Vol 1 Chapter 8: Ornithology [EN010153/DR/6.1]).</p>
<p>Traffic, Transport, and Access</p> <p>Consultees highlighted the strategic importance of the M56 and raised queries about the impact of traffic arising from the Proposed Development on the motorway, alongside preexisting traffic issues occurring in and around Frodsham and Runcorn.</p> <p>The importance of the Sutton Swing bridge to the northeast of the site was also identified.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns regarding certain roads and bridges in the area.</p> <p>A detailed Transport Assessment [EN010153/DR/7.3] has been undertaken, which defines the proposed construction traffic routes and volumes for the project. This assessment identifies the strategic and local roads that construction vehicles will use and evaluates the impact on those routes.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged proactively with National Highways regarding the motorway network. In response to feedback about the M56 and surrounding roads, additional traffic analysis was completed and the methodology agreed upon with National Highways. The results of this further analysis are included in the updated Transport Assessment to ensure any potential impacts on the strategic road network are properly addressed.</p> <p>The proposed construction traffic access strategy avoids taking any traffic through Frodsham, Helsby, Ince or Elton. No impacts to the Sutton Swing Bridge are considered to arise from the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>Public Rights of Way</p> <p>Consultees expressed interest in relation to the anticipated users of the permissive paths, asking what design</p>	<p>The Applicant has refined the public access proposals by specifying the anticipated users of each new permissive path and incorporating appropriate design measures for those</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>measures were being committed to across the site.</p>	<p>users. In practice, this means the design of paths across the site will take into account whether they will be used by walkers, cyclists, horse riders, etc., and features (such as surfacing, width, gates or signage) will be tailored accordingly to ensure safe and accessible use.</p> <p>The Design Approach Document [EN010153/DR/5.8], Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.9] and ES Vol 1 Chapter 2: Proposed Development [EN010153/DR/6.1] illustrate how public routes will be enhanced or created, including provisions for surfacing improvements and connectivity, while ensuring the network of public rights of way and permissive paths is integrated with the solar development.</p>
<p>Project Description and DCO Process</p> <p>Consultees stated that critical utility infrastructure must be protected through clear construction management plans, asset protection agreements, and inclusion of detailed crossing schedules and protective provisions within the DCO.</p> <p>They raised concerns about potential adverse impacts on existing statutory undertaker networks, landscape character, and neighbouring infrastructure projects, and called for enhanced cumulative effects assessments, coordination, and detailed environmental plans.</p> <p>Consultees also stressed the need for clarity over access arrangements, and</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges comments regarding the cumulative impacts of multiple developments and existing infrastructure in the area.</p> <p>All known utilities and critical infrastructure in the area have been identified and mapped (for example, ES Figure 1-6: Utilities [EN010153/DR/6.3] shows the location of on-site utility assets). To protect these assets, protective provisions have been included in the draft DCO (see Schedule 13) that safeguard the rights and operations of infrastructure operators – for instance, measures are in place to allow SP Energy Networks (SPEN) continued access to and maintenance of their electrical network within the site. This approach guarantees that the Proposed Development will not impede or damage existing utility services.</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
adequate land rights for surface water discharge and safe navigation impacts.	The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.5] , outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.6] and the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.7] include measures to account for any specific safety requirements relating to the nearby COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) installations and pipelines.
<p>Cultural Heritage and Archaeology</p> <p>Consultees stated that although the assessment of cultural heritage impacts in the PEIR is generally appropriate and aligned with best practice, Grade II heritage assets should be given higher importance, and further mitigation is needed for potential impacts on peat deposits of archaeological significance.</p> <p>Consultees also emphasised the need for continued consultation. Historic England on any design changes, and requested a targeted geoarchaeological investigation, to address gaps in understanding of the site's prehistoric landscape.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised about potential adverse effects from dewatering or drainage on lower peat layers.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes these comments.</p> <p>An assessment of the impacts to Grade II heritage assets are included within ES Vol 2 Appendix 11-5: Settings Assessment [EN010153/DR/6.2]. This assessment took account of on-going engagement with consultees.</p> <p>The Applicant has also committed to further study of the site; ES Vol 1 Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN010153/DR/6.1] (paragraph 11.9.1) proposes that a programme of geoarchaeological investigation in the form of a purposive borehole survey would be undertaken within the southern, central and southeastern parts of the Site (outside the areas of previous canal dredging deposition) in order to ascertain the depth of preservation of any buried peat and organic deposits. Given the results of initial investigations undertaken, it is not considered likely that there would be impacts to peat from dewatering or drainage from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The exact scope of the geoarchaeological investigation would be agreed through consultation with Historic England and secured through</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
	<p>an appropriately worded Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). This is secured via a Requirement in Schedule 2 of the draft DCO.</p>
<p>Hydrology, Flood Risk, and Drainage</p> <p>Consultees requested that the Applicant used a different model to project the potential flood risk of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Consultees also questioned detail on temporary watercourse crossings and concerns that fencing and compacted access tracks may obstruct flood flows, increasing flood risk. They also emphasised the need for timely flood storage compensation, comprehensive construction phase flood mitigation, and clear management of residual flood risk to protect the site and surrounding areas.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns regarding the risk of flooding. Consideration of risk of flooding from all sources, including reservoirs, is provided in ES Volume 2 Appendix 9-1: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [EN010153/DR/6.2].</p> <p>The Applicant has also provided detailed technical consideration of all crossing points with full details provided in the ES Volume 2 Appendix 9-1: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [EN010153/DR/6.2].</p>
<p>Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <p>Consultees stated that while the proposed development near the Weaver Navigation considers visual impacts and existing industrial presence, concerns remain about the potential further industrialisation of sensitive landscapes, including the Helsby and Frodsham Hills Area of Special County Value.</p> <p>Consultees also requested assessment of cumulative landscape effects, particularly in light of other nearby infrastructure projects such as the HyNet Pipeline.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on the landscape and visual amenity of the local area. The Applicant has undertaken an assessment of effects upon the Helsby and Frodsham Hills ASCV within ES Vol 1 Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010153/DR/6.1].</p> <p>Furthermore, visual effects from Frodsham Memorial (Viewpoint 9) are also assessed in ES Vol 1 Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010153/DR/6.1]. This chapter also includes the assessment of cumulative impacts in relation to the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline DCO.</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
<p>Noise and Vibration</p> <p>Consultees stated concern regarding the noise and vibration as a result of the Proposed Development. A request was also made for further study into the effects during construction and operation.</p>	<p>The Applicant conducted a construction phase noise assessment which has been presented within ES Vol 2 Appendix 4-1 Noise Impact Assessment [EN010153/DR/6.2] and concludes that no likely significant effects are expected to arise to any human or ecological receptors.</p> <p>Furthermore, the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.5] includes a requirement for the contractor to prepare a Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP) and describes a series of measures that would be used to minimise construction noise effects.</p>
<p>Site Selection and Alternatives</p> <p>Consultees stated that legal easements crossing the site must be respected, with no storage or planting on easement widths to protect private assets and maintain access.</p> <p>Consultees also raised concerns about potential interference with the adjacent wind farm, especially regarding solar panel setbacks and underground cable routes, which could affect operations and cause financial loss.</p> <p>Additionally, consultees emphasised the need for ongoing consultation with NGET due to the proximity of critical infrastructure and highlighted policy preference for solar developments on brownfield or rooftop sites, noting much of the proposed area remains agricultural or restored land.</p>	<p>The Applicant has ensured that the limits of deviation for the Works Plans [EN010153/DR/2.3] have made allowance for easement strips to protect assets. Protective Provisions to safeguard utilities crossing the Site have been included within the draft DCO [EN010153/DR/3.1].</p> <p>The Applicant also acknowledges concerns regarding the cumulative effect of the nearby windfarm and has engaged with the operator of Frodsham Wind Farm in respect of their concerns and has included Protective Provisions for their benefit within the draft DCO [EN010153/DR/3.1].</p> <p>ES Appendix 3-1: Alternative Sites Assessment [EN010153/DR/6.2] and Chapter 3: Alternatives of the Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.2] explain the Applicant's approach to site selection and why brownfield or rooftop sites are not reasonable alternatives to what is</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
	proposed for the Proposed Development.
<p>Socioeconomics, Tourism, and Recreation</p> <p>Consultees raised concern over landscape impacts affecting views from Frodsham Hill and the Sandstone Ridge and stressed the need to manage public access carefully to avoid harming nature conservation areas, particularly skylark habitats.</p> <p>Consultees welcomed proposals to improve public rights of way and green infrastructure, highlighting benefits for biodiversity, health, and wellbeing, and supported measures like screening and interpretation boards to protect wildlife while enhancing visitor experience.</p>	<p>The Applicant has given much thought to balancing improvements to access against protecting nature conservation, and the proposals in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan EN010153/DR/7.13] explain how this will be achieved.</p> <p>Views from Frodsham Hill and Sandstone Ridge have been considered in Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement, with photomontages included in Figure 6-5. Following consideration of the nature of that view, the assessment concludes that no likely significant visual effects arise.</p>
<p>Ground Contamination</p> <p>Consultees stated concerns about potential ground disturbance near the Weaver Navigation during connection works, urging best practices to prevent contamination. They highlighted risks of mobilising contaminants from dredged infill and unclear drainage arrangements for the Battery Energy Storage System, recommending thorough risk assessments, monitoring, and emergency drainage plans.</p> <p>Some consultees also requested clear protocols on unexpected contamination, detailed risk assessments for foundation works, protection of private pipelines, clarity on monitoring borehole locations, and comprehensive soil management to safeguard long-term land use and environmental health.</p>	<p>ES Vol 1 Chapter 10: Ground Conditions [EN010153/DR/6.1] assesses the potential for historic contamination and contamination which could arise from the Proposed Development, and considers impacts on utilities, groundwater, and surface water receptors.</p> <p>Mitigation measures are set out, and these are included within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.5], Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.6], and the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.7].</p> <p>A protocol for dealing with unexpected contamination is secured by DCO Requirement via the OCEMP [EN010153/DR/7.5] and oDEMP</p>

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
	[EN010153/DR/7.7]. If unsuspected or unexpected contamination is identified during Site preparation, demolition, clearance and construction then works will stop in the affected area, while further investigation is carried out.

11 Conclusion on the Applicant's Regard to Consultation Responses

11.1.1 The consideration of the feedback received from both the public and technical consultees, and across both phases of consultation has informed the refinement of the Proposed Development and the proposals presented within the Applicant's DCO application.

11.1.2 Features of the Proposed Development that have developed in response to the Applicant's consideration of feedback include:

- Bird mitigation areas: the Proposed Development includes substantial habitat enhancement measures, including the creation of approximately 54 ha of new and enhanced habitats (wetland and other neutral grassland) to benefit wetland birds and 28 ha within the Skylark Mitigation Area. These will mitigate for habitat loss resulting from the Proposed Development and the nature of the proposals has been informed by feedback from key local ecology and ornithology stakeholders.
- Flood risk: In response to feedback received during the pre-application stage, the Applicant has increased the height of the panels and other equipment in areas of the Site that are sensitive to flooding, ensuring they remain above the predicted flood levels throughout the 40-year lifespan of the development, taking into account increased flooding from the effects of climate change.
- Public access and permissive paths: the Applicant is committed to delivering a series of permissive paths across the site, the delivery of which is secured via the Applicant's **Draft Development Consent Order [EN010153/DR/3.1]** and described in documents such as the **Design Approach Document [EN010153/DR/5.8]** and the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.13]**. The proposed 5.1 km of permissive routes has been informed by feedback received. The Applicant has refined the public access proposals by making provision for cyclists, equestrians and users with impaired mobility. Each new permissive path would incorporating appropriate design measures for the intended users.
- On site education opportunities: measures have been included in the **Environmental Masterplan [EN010153/DR/6.3]** to provide education interpretation across the site, and seating areas where groups from schools or community groups can congregate. This has been informed by feedback on public access to the Proposed Development and the surrounding area.
- Glint and glare: Specific design measures have been taken in response to feedback received on the potential for glint and glare to impact local road users and residents. This has included changing the azimuth angles and tilt angles of the panels to avoid or reduce impacts to road users of the M56 and aviation receptors. Further measures adopted to manage glint

and glare effects include using antireflective materials and planted screening.

- Traffic and transport: the proposed construction traffic access strategy avoids taking any traffic through Frodsham, Helsby, Ince or Elton, and no impacts to the Sutton Swing Bridge are considered to arise from the Proposed Development. This addresses concerns raised to the Applicant through consultation feedback.

11.1.3 In addition to specific design changes, the Applicant has sought to respond to feedback received through the evidence provided as part of their DCO application. Key topics that have been addressed in detail include:

- Ground contamination: the Applicant heard concerns raised through regarding the potential for the Site to be contaminated and for the Proposed Development to disturb this. The Applicant has sought to provide reassurance on this matter. **ES Vol 1 Chapter 10: Ground Conditions [EN010153/DR/6.1]** assesses the potential for historic contamination and contamination which could arise from the Proposed Development, and considers impacts on utilities, groundwater, and surface water receptors. Targeted ground investigations were also undertaken at the proposed BESS option locations following feedback from the community. Mitigation measures are set out, and these are included within the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.5]**, **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.6]**, and the **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.7]**. A commitment to develop a protocol for dealing with unexpected contamination is secured by DCO Requirement via the **OCEMP [EN010153/DR/7.5]** and **oDEMP [EN010153/DR/7.7]**.
- Traffic and transport: A detailed **Transport Assessment [EN010153/DR/7.3]** has been undertaken, which defines the proposed construction traffic routes and volumes for the project. This was informed by proactive engagement with National Highways regarding the motorway network. In response to feedback about the M56 and surrounding roads, additional traffic analysis was completed and the methodology agreed upon with National Highways. The results of this further analysis are included in the updated Transport Assessment to ensure any potential impacts on the strategic road network are properly addressed.
- Landscape and visual: In response to feedback, **ES Vol 1 Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity [EN010153/DR/6.1]** includes an assessment from elevated positions including at Frodsham Hill and Helsby Hill and concludes that visual effects would not be significant. Regarding mitigation strategies, the Applicant has reported on the suitability of mitigation measures, including the seasonal effect of any proposed planting in ES Vol 1 Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity **[EN010153/DR/6.1]**.
- Ecology and biodiversity - surveys: The Applicant has committed to undertaking up-to-date terrestrial ecological surveys immediately prior to

commencement of construction. These surveys will record the presence of any protected or notable species—such as badgers, water voles, reptiles and amphibians—and will inform the design and timing of any required protection or mitigation measures to ensure full compliance with prevailing wildlife legislation and planning policy. This is detailed in **Section 7.7 ES Vol 1 Chapter 7: Terrestrial Ecology [EN010153/DR/6.1]**.

- Ecology and biodiversity – BNG: The Proposed Development will secure no net loss of watercourses, and will deliver a minimum 10% net gain in habitat and hedgerow units through a combination of retained trees, new native woodland and scrub planting, enhanced hedgerows, wetland scrapes and ponds, and species-rich grassland. These enhancements are quantified and demonstrated in the **Biodiversity Net Gain report [EN010153/DR/7.12]** and are secured via the **outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010153/DR/7.13]** to ensure a lasting positive legacy for biodiversity.
- Inter-project assessment: Acknowledging feedback on the number of developments in the area around the Proposed Development, each chapter of the **Environmental Statement [EN010153/DR/6.1]** provides an inter project assessment of the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in combination with other consented or emerging developments and mitigation measures have been developed to ensure cumulative effects can be mitigated, particularly to ornithological receptors. Appendix 3-1: Alternative Sites Assessment of the Environmental Statement the Environmental Statement **[EN010153/DR/6.2]** explains why the Order limits is a suitable site for the Proposed Development.

12 Conclusion

12.1 Concluding remarks

- 12.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive pre-application consultation process for the Proposed Development.
- 12.1.2 This consultation process has been informed by and compiled with the requirements of the 2008 Act, and associated guidance and legislation.
- 12.1.3 The Applicant's strategy of coordinating consultation activities across the Proposed Development has resulted in a strong level of engagement and consultation responses.
- 12.1.4 The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the development of the Proposed Development in a timely manner, including reported back to consultees at an interim stage.
- 12.1.5 The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in this Consultation Report.
- 12.1.6 Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative development of the Proposed Development, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.
- 12.1.7 The Applicant has sought to address comments, concerns and issues raised in the final project design where possible and has set out these have been addressed in the Consultation Report.
- 12.1.8 As well as preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has set out how it has complied with guidance and advice on consultation in the Section 55 checklist (Included in **Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN010153/DR/5.2]** that is also part of the DCO application documents.
- 12.1.9 The Applicant is grateful to all parties who have engaged in pre-application consultation.