

The Peak & Northern Footpaths Society (PNFS) monitors and protects public rights of way (PROW) across a large part of northern England. There are a significant number of PROW that will be directly affected by the proposed Frodsham Solar development. PNFS generally accepts the proposed changes to the PROW network, in accordance with the project's Outline PROW Management Plan. However, we have ongoing concerns relating to the implementation and maintenance of these changes, as well as the visual impacts on path users around and across the solar farm and beyond (e.g. from the Sandstone Trail and viewpoint on Frodsham Hill).

PNFS is normally a statutory consultee for proposed changes to the PROW network. However, we now understand that for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) subject to the Development Consent Order (DCO) process this will not be the case. Nonetheless, in the spirit of good public consultation, PNFS requests that we can have sight of the detailed PROW management plan, when this is available, so that we can monitor its implementation in accordance with our Society's aims.

On the matter of visual impacts, path users and visitors to Frodsham Hill have been used to extensive views across the Frodsham Marshes and beyond, across the Mersey estuary. The installation of 4m high panels and associated equipment will mark a significant change to these views. Apart from areas where lower vegetation height will be maintained to preserve estuary views, PNFS wishes to see enhanced screening to provide an improved buffer and less obtrusive impact for path users on the marshes, as well as planting and other techniques to break up the linear, monotonous appearance of the solar rows from the top of Frodsham Hill.