



# Fosse Green Energy

EN010154

## 5.1 Consultation Report

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Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as  
amended)

18 July 2025

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## Planning Act 2008

### The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulation 2009 (as amended)

#### Fosse Green Energy Development Consent Order 202[ ]

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#### **5.1 Consultation Report**

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# 1. Executive Summary

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Fosse Green Energy Ltd (the 'Applicant') is a partnership between Windel Energy Ltd and Recurrent Energy.
- 1.1.2 Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company dedicated to driving the transition towards a sustainable future. Specialising in the origination, development and integration of renewable energy projects and low-carbon disruptive technologies, Windel Energy is at the forefront of clean energy innovation.
- 1.1.3 With a portfolio exceeding 5 gigawatts of renewable power in various stages of development, Windel's team of talented professionals bring a deep understanding and high level of expertise in land viability, electricity networks, planning (Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Developments of National Significance) and consenting for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, legal processes and construction feasibility.
- 1.1.4 Windel Energy adopt a long-term ownership approach, ensuring the efficient operation and management of renewable assets. Leveraging an extensive network of relationships, institutional grade infrastructure and in-house industry expertise, Windel is committed to delivering impactful and enduring energy solutions.
- 1.1.5 Recurrent Energy, a subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc., is one of the world's largest and most geographically diversified utility-scale solar and energy storage project development, ownership, and operations platforms. With an industry-leading team of in-house energy experts, Recurrent Energy serves as Canadian Solar's global development and power services business.
- 1.1.6 To date, Recurrent Energy has successfully developed, built, and connected approximately 12 GWp of solar projects and more than 6 GWh of energy storage projects across six continents. As of the date of this document, its global pipeline includes over 25 GWp of solar and 69 GWh of energy storage capacity.
- 1.1.7 The total area of the Proposed Development is approximately 1,368 hectares (ha), with the Principal Site area comprising approximately 1,070 ha in area.
- 1.1.8 In Summary, the Proposed Development will comprise of an array of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules and associated development. A description of the whole Proposed Development and land-use requirements can be found in **Chapter 3: The Proposed Development** of the Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010154/APP/6.1].
- 1.1.9 The Proposed Development will be sited on approximately 1,368ha of land, lying within the administrative districts of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council.

- 1.1.10 The Proposed Development will connect into the wider transmission network at the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby via a buried export cable corridor. The proposed National Grid substation near Navenby is subject to a separate planning application put forward by National Grid and is not part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.11 The Applicant has endeavoured to undertake an open, transparent and meaningful pre-application consultation process with all consultees and seeks to demonstrate how this has informed the final design of the Proposed Development in this Consultation Report.

## 1.2 Pre-Application Consultation Overview

- 1.2.1 This Consultation Report accompanies the DCO application (the 'Application') by the Applicant to the Secretary of State under s37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008'). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.2 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with s37(7)(c) of the PA 2008. This report will seek to demonstrate how the Application complied with sections 42, 44, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008, in addition to all the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations (the APFP Regulations) and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) that are applicable.
- 1.2.3 This Consultation Report will set out how associated legislation and guidance has been complied with through extensive non-statutory and informal community engagement and consultation.
- 1.2.4 In accordance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development ahead of submission of the Application to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:
- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with s42(1)(a));
  - Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with s42(1)(d), and as set out in s44;
  - The local community and other organisations and persons in the vicinity of the Proposed Development who may be affected both directly and indirectly in accordance with s47;
  - Wider communities, organisations and stakeholders (local, regional and national) in order to seek comments on the Proposed Development proposals in accordance with s47 and s48; and
  - The Applicant also consulted with local authorities in accordance with s43(1) of the PA 2008. The Applicant undertook regular and ongoing meetings with the host local authorities, North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council, from May 2023 through to submission of the Application.



- 1.2.5 Under s47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant developed a draft SoCC and consulted on the detail of this document with the following local authorities during November 2023:
- a. North Kesteven District Council
  - b. Lincolnshire County Council.
- 1.2.6 In response to the comments received, the Applicant made changes to the SoCC as set out in **Table 6-1** and **Table 6-2**, in Chapter 6 of this Consultation Report. The final SoCC was published on 21 October 2024.
- 1.2.7 The Applicant also consulted with both host authorities on the Adequacy of Consultation Report, which have both agreed that the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone has been met. The host authorities' responses to the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone can be viewed in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report (Ref 3) that was submitted to the Inspectorate on 18 April 2025.
- 1.2.8 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEI Report') was published on 21 October 2024. Under s42 of the PA 2008, the Applicant consulted on the Proposed Development with the statutory bodies listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations.
- 1.2.9 Two stages of community consultation were held in accordance with s47 of the PA 2008. This consultation approach allowed for the iterative design of the Proposed Development, taking regard of feedback received during the pre-application process. The first stage of non-statutory consultation was held from 11 September 2023 to 20 October 2023. The second stage of statutory consultation was held from 21 October 2024 to 2 December 2024.
- 1.2.10 Non-statutory community consultation allowed 39 days for receipt of consultation responses (beginning with the day after the day on which the consultation documents were received) and statutory community consultation allowed 42 days for receipt of consultation responses (beginning with the day after the day on which the consultation documents were received), in excess of the statutory requirement of 28 days.
- 1.2.11 The aforementioned community consultation activities generated the following interest:
- a. The Applicant received 158 responses to the non-statutory consultation.
  - b. The Applicant welcomed 419 attendees at five events, including an online webinar during the non-statutory consultation.
  - c. The Applicant received 182 responses to the statutory consultation under s47 of the PA 2008.
  - d. The Applicant received 45 responses to the statutory consultation under s42 of the PA 2008.
  - e. The Applicant welcomed 349 attendees at four in-person events and one online webinar during the statutory consultation under s47 of the PA 2008.

- f. In local and national newspapers, as detailed in Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report.
- 1.2.12 The responses raised during the pre-application consultation raised a number of issues in relation to the Proposed Development. Key issues raised at the non-statutory consultation, and design changes made as a result, are detailed in Section 4.8 of the Consultation Report and in the Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report (Ref 5). Key issues raised at the statutory consultation, and how they have influenced the design of the Proposed Development, are detailed in Chapter 10 and 11.
- 1.2.13 All responses to the statutory consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 received before and after the consultation period closed have been considered by the Applicant in compliance with s49 of the PA 2008. Where possible, responses have been taken into account by the Applicant when preparing the Application. The Applicant's responses to all feedback during statutory consultation are detailed in this Consultation Report as follows:
- a. Chapter 10: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of The Planning Act 2008 (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024): Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made
  - b. Chapter 11: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of The Planning Act 2008 (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024): Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made
  - c. Appendix 4: Applicant Response in Regard to Section 47 Comments (21 October 2024 - 2 December 2024)
  - d. Appendix 5: Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments (21 October 2024 - 2 December 2024).

## 1.3 Key Development Options and Changes

**Table 1-1: Overview of key issues raised through consultation and the Applicants regard to comments**

Key issue	Development change
Site location, including the location of solar PV arrays and grid connection corridor.	<p>The Applicant has set out the reasons for the scale and location of the Proposed Development in the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 3: The Proposed Development</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]</li> <li>• <b>Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]</li> <li>• <b>Appendix A: Site Selection Report</b> of the <b>Planning Statement</b> [EN010154/APP/7.2]</li> <li>• <b>Design Approach Document</b> [EN010154/APP/7.3]</li> </ul> <p>In response to comments received from consultees on the location of infrastructure, the Applicant has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed solar photovoltaics (PV) from a field to the south-east of Thorpe on the Hill.</li> <li>• Removed solar PV from a field east of Morton which was located immediately east of a proposed orchard.</li> <li>• Reduction to the initial Cable Corridor within which the buried connection cable would be located between the principal site and the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby.</li> </ul>
Routing of permissive paths	<p>In response to comments received the Applicant has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changed the permissive path network around Housham Wood.</li> <li>• Changed the permissive path network around Cathedral Park, a caravan park north of the A46.</li> <li>• Changed the permissive path network in the southern part of the site, providing better pedestrian links between Thurlby and Bassingham.</li> </ul>
Landscape impacts and visual amenity	<p>The Applicant has set out the findings of an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development upon the landscape character and visual amenity in <b>Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]. The <b>Framework Landscape and Ecological Management Plan</b> [EN010154/APP/7.15] sets out the habitat creation, management and monitoring measures included in the Proposed Development.</p> <p>In response to comments received the Applicant has removed solar PV in a field west of (the north-western part</p>

Key issue	Development change
	of) Bassingham to minimise views of the solar infrastructure for residents with open views across the site.
Noise from BESS	Presenting a reduction in the size of the BESS compound. This would reduce noise impacts and allow for more landscaping.
Use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development	The Applicant has set out the findings of an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on land use, including agricultural land, in <b>Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use</b> of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1].

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 The Applicant's Approach to Consultation

- 2.1.1 The Applicant's ambition is to deliver a project that will help address national and local climate and energy security objectives while minimising the impact on, and supporting, neighbouring communities. The Applicant has worked with the host Local Authorities and other stakeholders to develop an approach to public consultation - set out in its Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) – to ensure the Proposed Development has considered and had regard to the feedback of local communities, stakeholders and other organisations.
- 2.1.2 The proposals have been consulted on through two stages of public consultation, and the Applicant has welcomed feedback on the Proposed Development. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is presented in Chapters 4, 10 and 11 of this Consultation Report.

### 2.2 The Purpose and Structure of this Consultation Report

- 2.2.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared to accompany an Application to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) which would grant powers to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Proposed Development.
- 2.2.2 This Consultation Report details how the Applicant has complied with the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and other relevant legislation and guidance in Appendix 1.2 of this report.
- 2.2.3 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with s37(3)(c) detailing the matters specified in s37(7) of the PA 2008. It sets out consultation carried out under sections 42, 47 and 49 of the PA 2008 as well as any non-statutory and ongoing informal consultation, relevant consultation responses and how those responses have been taken into account for the Proposed Development.
- 2.2.4 A soft launch to introduce the Proposed Development to key stakeholders and communities was carried out in May 2023. Two stages of consultation were undertaken. Non-statutory consultation ran between 11 September and 20 October 2023. A further, statutory, consultation under s47 of the PA 2008 took place between 21 October 2024 and 2 December 2024. During this second stage, consultation was also carried out under s42 of the PA 2008 in parallel with consultation under s47 and s48.
- 2.2.5 All responses to the statutory consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 received before and after the consultation period closed have been considered by the Applicant in compliance with s49 of the PA 2008. All responses have been considered and accommodated where possible by the Applicant when preparing the application for development consent. The Applicant's responses to all feedback are summarised in the Consultation Report chapters, with all

comments received during statutory consultation and the Applicant's responses listed in the Consultation Report appendices, as follows:

- a. Chapter 10: Statutory Consultation under s47 of the PA 2008 (21 October 2024 to 2 December 2024): Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made;
- b. Chapter 11: Statutory Consultation under s42 of the PA 2008 (21 October 2024 to 2 December 2024): Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made;
- c. Appendix 4: Applicant Response in Regard to Section 47 Comments (21 October 2024 - 2 December 2024); and
- d. Appendix 5: Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments (21 October 2024 - 2 December 2024).



## 3. Legislation, Guidance and Advice

### 3.1 Consultation Report

- 3.1.1 This Consultation Report is submitted with the Application in accordance with s37(3)(c) of the PA 2008.
- 3.1.2 Relevant responses are defined in s49(3) of the PA 2008 as responses received to the consultation under sections 42, 47, 48, 49 and 50 of the PA 2008 by the deadline published; however, the Applicant has also taken account of late responses.
- 3.1.3 Pre-application consultation under s42 has taken place with:
- Prescribed bodies (statutory consultees), being those set out in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, in accordance with s42(1)(a);
  - Non-statutory bodies treated as prescribed by the Applicant e.g. local nature conservation groups such as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Witham First District Internal Drainage Board;
  - Local authorities, in accordance with s42(1)(b) and s43(1); and
  - Landowners, in accordance with s42(d)(1) and s44.
- 3.1.4 Pre-application consultation under s47 has taken place with:
- The local community i.e. those living and/or working within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. A Map of the Core Consultation Zone and Wider Consultation Area is included in Appendix 10.1;
  - A range of community groups and 'seldom heard' groups (see Appendix 6.2.2);
  - Local elected representatives including ward and parish councillors and members of Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council (See Appendix 12.1 for a full list of locally elected representatives consulted); and
  - Members of Parliament (MPs) for Sleaford and North Hykeham and for Lincoln.
- 3.1.5 Pre-application consultation has also taken place in accordance with s48 of the Planning Act 2008 through publicity of the Proposed Development, as described in Chapter 9.
- 3.1.6 In accordance with s49 of the PA 2008, changes have been made to the Proposed Development as a result of the relevant responses received through the statutory consultation process. Those changes are detailed in Section 11.3. Full details of all responses to the statutory consultation, as well as the regard had to them by the Applicant, are set out in Appendix 4 and 5.
- 3.1.7 The Applicant has had regard to the pre-application procedure guidance issued by the Secretary of State on 30 April 2024 in accordance with s50 of the PA 2008, in addition to the guidance listed below.

- 3.1.8 The Applicant has also had regard to the s51 Advice from the Planning Inspectorate, in compliance with s51 of the PA 2008. Responses from the Applicant to the Advice can be viewed in Appendix A of the **Covering Letter to the Application [EN010154/APP/1.1]**.

## 3.2 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

- 3.2.1 The following legislation and guidance has been complied with or considered when undertaking the pre-application consultation and when compiling the Consultation Report:
- a. The Planning Act 2008;
  - b. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017;
  - c. The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009;
  - d. The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) 2024;
  - e. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017;
  - f. Department for Communities and Local Government Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (2015);
  - g. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government "Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (2024)";
  - h. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation; and
  - i. The Planning Inspectorate "Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report".
- 3.2.2 The Applicant has ensured that its pre-application consultation accords with the applicable legal framework and provides a high-quality, meaningful process of consultation with the consultees referred to above.
- 3.2.3 A table setting out how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance is presented in Appendix 1.2.

## 4. Early Engagement and Non-Statutory Consultation

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Outside of the statutory consultation conducted under s47 and s42 of the PA 2008, the Applicant continuously engaged with stakeholders including statutory consultees, technical groups, landowners, Parish Councils, MPs and other community representatives, and the Local Authorities. This non-statutory consultation was undertaken under the same principles as statutory consultation carried out under the PA 2008.
- 4.1.2 This ongoing and informal process of engagement commenced in January 2022 and continued up until the DCO application submission. Ongoing engagement with a range of stakeholder groups enabled a continuous dialogue between the Applicant and consultees and enabled the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the proposals for the Proposed Development.
- 4.1.3 To introduce ('soft launch') the Proposed Development, the Applicant launched its dedicated website on 11 May 2023, which included an overview of the Proposed Development; FAQs; contact details; a page to keep registered for future updates; and an early-stage layout map.
- 4.1.4 Other activities associated with the 'soft launch' included:
- A direct mailing to 477 residents and businesses living within, or close to, the proposed Order Limits.
  - Emails issued to key stakeholders, including Parish Councils.
  - A press release issued to local media outlets including Lincolnshire Live, The Lincolnite, East Midlands Connected and Newark Advertiser.
  - Communications to update officers, parish councils, and elected members of host and neighbouring local authorities, which was followed up by a communication sent on 26 June 2023.
- 4.1.5 The contact channels included a freephone, freepost address and email address. Along with the website, these were available and maintained for the entire pre-application period.

### 4.2 MP Meetings and Engagement

- 4.2.1 As part of the 'soft launch', the Applicant set out to meet with local representatives. This included the MP for Sleaford and North Hykeham, Dr Caroline Johnson, and the MP for Lincoln, Karl McCartney.
- 4.2.2 The Applicant contacted both local MPs, inviting each MP to a meeting to introduce early-stage proposals for the Proposed Development on 11 May 2023. A copy of this email is available in Appendix 3.2.3.

4.2.3 The Applicant met with Dr Caroline Johnson MP on 27 June 2023. Key issues discussed included soil quality, the size of the Proposed Development, and the cumulative impacts of other neighbouring solar development, including opinions of local residents on these projects.

4.2.4 Karl McCartney MP did not take up the offer of a briefing.

### 4.3 Elected Members and Parish Council Meetings and Engagement

4.3.1 The Applicant held a number of meetings with Parish Councils and local councillors within the Core Consultation Zone (see Section 7.2 and **Table 4-1**) prior to the non-statutory consultation.

4.3.2 In preparation for the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant held pre-consultation briefings with the host Local Authorities and with neighbouring Parish Councils via the Witham and Brant Parish Council Cluster (a group of 10 Parish Councils in the vicinity of the Proposed Development including Thorpe on the Hill; Coleby; Navenby; Harmston; Witham St Hughs; Thurlby; Aubourn & Haddington; and Norton Disney Parish Councils). These briefings explored the emerging plans for the Proposed Development and provided the opportunity to comment on approaches to consultation (see Appendices 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.4). The schedule of pre-consultation briefings and meetings is set out below:

**Table 4-1: List of briefings held before the Non-Statutory Consultation**

Stakeholder	Meeting Date
Lincolnshire County Council	2 May 2023
North Kesteven District Council	10 May 2023
Lincolnshire County Council	26 June 2023
Witham and Brant Parish Council Cluster	4 September 2023

4.3.3 The Applicant was also in regular communication with officers from Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council to help develop the draft SoCC and build the strategy for the statutory consultation. A list of meetings is contained below:

**Table 4-2: List of meetings with NKDC and LCC**

Stakeholder	Meeting Date
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	30 January 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	4 July 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	15 August 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	26 September 2024

## **4.4 Non-Statutory Consultation with Section 42 Consultees**

- 4.4.1 The Applicant carried out non-statutory consultation with a wide range of statutory and non-prescribed consultees to seek advice on a range of issues including approach to EIA, the Proposed Development and drafting the statutory consultation documents.
- 4.4.2 In Autumn 2023, the Applicant developed a list of s42 consultees. These consultees were engaged with prior to the statutory consultation.
- 4.4.3 The Applicant has also engaged with National Grid extensively during this period to ensure a coordinated approach given the proposed connection of the Proposed Development to the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby, consent for which National Grid is promoting.

## **4.5 Early Engagement and Consultation with Section 44 Consultees**

- 4.5.1 From January 2022, the Applicant held one-to-one meetings and updates with landowners and persons with an interest in land (PILs) in the Principal Site throughout the pre-application stage.
- 4.5.2 These meetings were highly personalised and held on a case-by-case basis, with several larger meetings and updates provided in line with key milestones for the Proposed Development. The meetings were conducted both in-person, on the phone or via Microsoft Teams where required, and helped to develop the Proposed Development and proposals for the connection corridor to the National Grid.

## **4.6 Non-Statutory Public Consultation (11 September 2023 – 20 October 2023)**

- 4.6.1 The Applicant ran a non-statutory consultation from 11 September 2023 to 20 October 2023.
- 4.6.2 During this consultation, the Applicant used a range of techniques to raise awareness and enable people to take part, including issuing 12,970 postcards to private and business addresses across the consultation area (as shown in Appendix 3.5.2).
- 4.6.3 The Applicant advertised the non-statutory consultation twice in local and regional newspapers – Lincolnshire Echo and Newark Advertiser – on 14 September 2023 and 21 September 2023, and via digital Google advertising (as shown in Appendix 7.3).
- 4.6.4 The Applicant issued two media releases. The first on 11 September in advance of the consultation and again on 13 October as it neared its close.
- 4.6.5 The Applicant wrote directly to a range of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders – including around 100 people who had signed up for updates on the Proposed Development.

- 4.6.6 In addition, posters were distributed to 46 community facilities. The posters advertised events and ways to take part (Appendix 7.1.3).
- 4.6.7 Hard copy versions of the consultation documents were held at three information points to boost accessibility.
- 4.6.8 The Applicant developed and contacted a list of Seldom Heard groups and organisations operating outside the area of the Proposed Development. Seldom Heard groups can be defined as those who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. These include but are not limited to the elderly, young people, people with visual impairments, people with deafness or hard of hearing, and minority ethnic groups (see Appendix 3.5.1).
- 4.6.9 Four in-person community consultation events were held in the area of the Proposed Development, as well as an online webinar. These are set out below in **Table 4-3**.

**Table 4-3: Non-Statutory Consultation Events**

Location	Date and Time
Witham St Hughs Village Hall	Saturday 30 September 10:00-14:00
Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room	Wednesday 4 October 15:00 -19:00
The Venue @Navenby	Thursday 5 October 15:00 – 19:00
Hammond Hall and Sports Centre	Saturday 7 October 10:00 – 14:00
Online event	Wednesday 11 October 18:00 – 19:00

- 4.6.10 The four in-person events were attended by 409 attendees, while 10 people attended the online event. Events were open to anyone who wished to attend, with no registration required. A breakdown of attendance by event can be found in **Table 4-4**, with photos and event summaries viewable in Appendix 7.1.8.
- 4.6.11 Each in-person event was attended by a full team of subject experts from the Applicant's project team to enable as many questions as possible to be answered on the day. Each event also included a range of materials including exhibition panels (Appendix 7.1.6), plans (Appendix 7.1.4), feedback forms (Appendix 7.1.2) and copies of the information materials on the Proposed Development including a project information booklet (Appendix 7.1.1).
- 4.6.12 The online event involved a presentation by the Applicant's project team followed by a question-and-answer session, with questions received through the platform message system. A recording of the online event was uploaded onto the website for the Proposed Development (see Appendix 7.1.9 for more on the webinar)

**Table 4-4: Non-Statutory Consultation – Event Attendance**

Location	Attendees
Witham St Hughs Village Hall	124



Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room	91
The Venue @Navenby	94
Hammond Hall and Sports Centre	100
Online event	10
Total event attendees	419

4.6.13 The Applicant undertook additional engagement with parish, county, and district councillors across the consultation area, including a briefing held with members for North Kesteven District Council on 9 October 2023.

4.6.14 Throughout the consultation and the life of the Proposed Development, the Applicant has offered a range of different methods for engaging and asking questions, including a live freephone number, email and freepost address.

4.6.15 All materials connected with the non-statutory public consultation were also included on the website for the Proposed Development – [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk) – which was set up at the time of the soft launch on 11 May 2023 and has been updated as the Proposed Development progressed (Appendix 7.1.7).

4.6.16 Further information on how the Applicant undertook the non-statutory consultation can be found in the Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report (Ref 5).

## 4.7 Feedback Responses from Non-Statutory Consultation (11 September 2023 – 20 October 2023)

4.7.1 Feedback to the non-statutory consultation was accepted by the Applicant using the following online and offline methods:

- Hard copy feedback forms sent to the Freepost address for the Proposed Development – FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY
- Letters or other written communications sent to the Freepost address for the Proposed Development – FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY
- Feedback forms or other written communications submitted at one of the in-person consultation events
- Emails to the email address [info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk)
- Submissions via the online feedback form.

4.7.2 The Applicant received a total of 158 pieces of feedback to the non-statutory consultation by the close of the consultation on 20 October 2023:

**Table 4-5: Feedback received to the Non-Statutory Consultation**

Feedback type	Number received
Online Feedback form	25

Hard copy feedback forms/letters	40
Via email	93

- 4.7.3 The Applicant produced a Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report (Ref 5). This was produced following the non-statutory public consultation. The report was published on the project website at the launch of the statutory consultation on 21 October 2024.
- 4.7.4 The Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report details the feedback received during the non-statutory consultation, and how this feedback was considered in the development of the design proposals for the Proposed Development and Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report (Ref 2) consulted on during the statutory consultation.

## 4.8 Design Changes Following Consultation Feedback from Non-Statutory Public Consultation (11 September 2023 - 20 October 2023)

- 4.8.1 The Proposed Development underwent a number of changes and updates as a result of the non-statutory consultation. These changes reflect the evolution of the options and design, taking into account comments received at consultation and also the findings of environmental and technical surveys/assessments.
- 4.8.2 The Applicant reviewed and considered all feedback received to the non-statutory consultation and continued to develop the Proposed Development, including refining the Principal Site Boundary to exclude individual residential properties and removal of the Option B ('southern') grid connection option due to it resulting in a longer cable route affecting landowners and resulted in potential temporary impacts.
- 4.8.3 The main design iterations for the Principal Site and Cable Corridor can be seen at Table 4.2 of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (Volume 1, Chapter 4) (Ref 2).
- 4.8.4 Changes made as a result of comments received during the non-statutory consultation are summarised below:
- a. Principal Site:*
- Removal of the Option B ('southern') grid connection option as it would result in a longer cable route affecting additional landowners and resulting in additional temporary impacts.
  - Refining the Principal Site Boundary to exclude individual properties.
  - Minimising visual impacts.
  - Creating links across the Principal Site.
  - Reducing potential operational noise impacts.

- vi. Locating all Solar Station Compounds away from Flood Zones 2 and 3.
  - vii. Locating larger elements of the solar farm in areas of reduced flooding and screening from existing vegetation and topography.
  - viii. Removing land previously containing solar infrastructure south of Moor Lane (southwest of Thurlby) to reduce the impact on ground nesting birds by managing and enhancing the habitat.
  - ix. As a result of landowner discussions and further environmental assessment, an area to the north of the A46 has now been included for the deployment of solar panels to maximise the opportunities to deliver clean energy.
  - x. Changes have been made in the vicinity of Cathedral View Holiday Park and in land southeast of Thorpe on the Hill to provide additional buffers from the Solar PV Array areas.
  - xi. The design of the Solar Stations and BESS has been optimised to aggregate these as much as possible to minimise the number of water tanks that may be requested by the local fire and rescue teams should the DC-coupled BESS option be selected for development.
  - xii. Permissive paths have been included to show the Applicant's intention for greater connectivity between the local villages and provision of shorter circular walks. Proposed planting has also been added.
- b. *Cable Corridor* - Further refinement of the Cable Corridor has been undertaken, with a single, approximately 250m wide, route included within the DCO Site. The refinement of the Cable Corridor has considered:
- i. Feedback from non-statutory consultation including concerns related to the provision of additional overhead lines.
  - ii. The confirmed point of connection at the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby.
  - iii. Optimisation of the corridor so the cable can be laid in a straight line or in shallow curves so that the cable can be pulled through the ducting effectively, thereby minimising environmental impacts.
  - iv. Provision of adequate space to allow for crossing on existing utilities such as the existing overhead lines and the new Anglian Water main.
  - v. Access to the corridor during construction.
  - vi. Provision of adequate space required to undertake the works to lay the cable.

## 5. Consultation under EIA Regulations

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of identifying, evaluating, and mitigating the likely significant environmental effects of a project before an application for consent is considered. The findings of EIA are presented in an Environmental Statement (ES) which allows the body deciding the application to fully understand the environmental impact of a proposal when it makes its decision.
- 5.1.2 The Proposed Development qualifies for mandatory EIA in compliance with Regulation 4(1) and Schedule 2 paragraph 3(a) of the EIA Regulations (Ref 1). An EIA development requires an ES to be submitted as part of the DCO application.
- 5.1.3 A summary of how the Applicant has fulfilled its statutory obligations in relation to carrying out consultation on, publication, and notification of the DCO application, as required under the EIA Regulations (Ref 1), is set out in this section.

### 5.2 EIA Scoping Phase

- 5.2.1 The issues that the Applicant considered the EIA would need to address were identified in the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report** of the ES [EN010154/6.3]) submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 19 June 2023 (see Ref 4). The EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report** of the ES [EN010154/6.3]) set out the initial details of the Proposed Development and the proposed scope of the surveys and assessments to be undertaken during the EIA process.
- 5.2.2 A formal request for a Scoping Opinion was made to the Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, as part of the written notification sent in June 2023. This was made under Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref 1) and requested a written opinion on the information required for inclusion within the **ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]**.
- 5.2.3 The Applicant also notified the Secretary of State under Regulation 8(1)(b) that it proposed to provide an ES in respect of the Proposed Development, and by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a) the Proposed Development is 'EIA development' (Appendix 3.6).
- 5.2.4 The Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, consulted with the relevant competent authorities and key statutory stakeholders in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref 1) to seek comments on the scope of the proposed EIA prior to adopting its Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1-B: EIA Scoping Opinion** of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]). Competent authorities and key statutory stakeholders were notified under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref 1) of the duty imposed on them to make information available to the Applicant relevant to the preparation of **ES Volume 6.1 [EN010154/APP/6.1]** for the Proposed

Development. A Scoping Opinion was received on 25 July 2023, along with comments received from statutory consultees.

- 5.2.5 Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, the Applicant reviewed the list of consultees contacted by the Inspectorate as part of its consultation on the Scoping Report. This was to ensure that all organisations contacted by the Inspectorate were included in subsequent consultation activity. The EIA has been carried out in accordance with the content of the Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1-B: EIA Scoping Opinion** of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.3]), the outcomes of which are detailed in the **Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report** (Ref 2) and reflected in **Chapters 6 to 14** of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]. Each of the technical chapters of the ES (**Chapters 6 to 14** of the ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]) sets out the Applicant's response to the Scoping Opinion and the comments received as part of the Scoping Opinion.

## 5.3 EIA Consultation

- 5.3.1 Under Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref 1), the Applicant is required to develop a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), as can be viewed in Appendix 6.3. This set out how the Applicant intended to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. Regulation 12 defines preliminary environmental information as being the information referred to in Regulation 14(2) which “*has been compiled by the applicant; and is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the development (and of any associated development)*”. This information was compiled by the Applicant into a PEI Report (Ref 2) and a Non-technical summary, viewable on the project website at [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk).
- 5.3.2 Regulations 12 and 14, and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref 1) set out the information which is to be included in the PEI Report (Ref 2). Regulation 12(2) provides that “preliminary environmental information” means information referred to in Regulation 14(2). In accordance with Regulation 12(2)(b), the PEI Report (Ref. 2) presented information which “*is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)*”.
- 5.3.3 The PEI Report (Ref 2) was published on 21 October 2024 as part of the statutory consultation process and presented the preliminary findings of the assessment of potential significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development at that time.
- 5.3.4 The feedback received from consultees during the statutory consultation period has been used to inform the EIA and the design of the Proposed Development. Where relevant, technical chapters within the **ES [EN010154/APP/6.1]** detail how stakeholder engagement during the consultation process has been used to inform the development of the design of the Proposed Development for which the EIA has been undertaken.
- 5.3.5 A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEI Report was also prepared, viewable on the website at [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk), which was written in

non-technical language to aid people's understanding. A summary of the preliminary environmental information was also included in the statutory consultation booklet in Appendix 9.1.1.

- 5.3.6 The statutory consultation ran from 21 October 2024 to 23:59 on 02 December 2024, providing an opportunity for statutory consultees, the local community and the wider public to review and provide comments on the Proposed Development and the information provided in the PEI Report (Ref 2). Further details on how statutory consultees were consulted can be found in Chapters 7 to 11.
- 5.3.7 On 21 October 2024, the Applicant sent all statutory consultees (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) and those identified as s42(1)(d) consultees) a copy of the combined s47/48 notice in Appendix 2.2, enclosed with a letter (see Appendix 3.3) notifying them of the consultation (see Chapter 8.4), pursuant to Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref 1). In addition, email copies of the same letter and s47/48 notice were sent via email on 21 October 2024, where email addresses were held for the consultees. Lists of the consultees identified under s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) and s42(1)(d) can be found in Appendix 3.1.
- 5.3.8 In addition, both the PEI Report and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) were available to all attendees at the four in-person statutory consultation events. The PEI Report and NTS were available on the Proposed Development website and at the designated information points as detailed in the SoCC (available in Appendix 6.3) as detailed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report.
- 5.3.9 Appendix 4 and Appendix 5 contain tables evidencing how the Applicant has had regard to statutory consultation feedback and its responses (in accordance with s49 of the PA 2008). These appendices summarise the matters raised by respondents to the statutory consultation, including those related to the PEI Report (Ref 2).
- 5.3.10 Further details of the engagement undertaken with the statutory bodies defined in Regulation 3(1) of the EIA Regulations (2017) (Ref 1) with regard to the development of each chapter of the EIA assessment are summarised in **Chapters 6-14** of the ES [EN010154/APP /6.1]. This detail can be found within the consultation subsection of the Assessment Methodology section of each chapter.



## 6. Preparation for Statutory Consultation (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024)

### 6.1 Statutory Requirements and Guidance

- 6.1.1 S47(1) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in the 'vicinity' of the land to which the Proposed Development relates.
- 6.1.2 S47(2) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult each local authority on the content of this statement, known as the SoCC, before preparing the statement.
- 6.1.3 In accordance with s47(3) of the PA 2008, the deadline given for receipt of local authority responses to consultation on the content of the SoCC should be no less than the end of a 28-day period (commencing on the day after the day on which the local authority received the consultation documents).
- 6.1.4 In developing the SoCC, regard must be had to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 1) stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal is EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on its PEI Report (Ref 2).
- 6.1.5 The PEI Report (Ref 2) was published at the launch of the statutory consultation on 21 October 2024 and was consulted on in line with the commitments listed in the SoCC.

### 6.2 Development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- 6.2.1 As part of its preparation for statutory consultation, and in accordance with s47(2) of the PA 2008, the Applicant consulted with the host Local Authorities, North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council, on the approach to and content of the draft SoCC.
- 6.2.2 S47(2) of the PA 2008 states that, before preparing the SoCC, the Applicant must consult each local authority that is within s43(1) about the content of the SoCC. At the time of preparing the SoCC, the relevant authorities within s43(1) were North Kesteven District Council ('A' classification) and Lincolnshire County Council ('C' classification).
- 6.2.3 Prior to sending over the draft SoCC for comments, the Applicant engaged with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council on a range of issues relating to consultation, including around the Core Consultation Zone proposed for the statutory consultation. Comments from North Kesteven District Council about the zone provided during the SoCC

consultation, and the Applicant's response to the host authorities' comments, can be found in **Table 6-1**.

- 6.2.4 The draft SoCC was sent to both host authorities on 30 October 2023, ahead of the SoCC consultation. This provided them with a week for consideration before the formal consultation period launched on 7 November 2023.

## 6.3 Consultation on the Draft SoCC and Responses

- 6.3.1 On 6 November 2023, an email with a draft of the SoCC was sent to the host authorities to confirm the SoCC consultation (see Appendix 6.1 for the email and Appendix 6.2.1 for the draft SoCC issues to local authorities). The consultation was held from 7 November 2023 to 19 December 2023 for a period of 42 days, exceeding the statutory minimum requirement of 28 days.
- 6.3.2 The Applicant received feedback on the draft SoCC from North Kesteven District Council on 15 November 2023 and Lincolnshire County Council on 18 December 2023. This feedback was considered by the Applicant in finalising the SoCC. An updated version of the SoCC, including the changes and the final red line boundary being presented at statutory consultation, was issued back to the host authorities on 6 September 2024 (Appendix 6.2.3). A summary of the feedback received and the changes that were made to the draft SoCC (Appendix 6.2.1) are presented below:

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

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 4: Consultation and Planning Process  We request that the statutory consultation phase is increased to 6 weeks rather than 30 days. The end of February is anticipated; just be mindful of Lincolnshire half term starting 10th February for 1 week in case you were looking to bring the date forward. This period should be avoided.	The Applicant extended the statutory consultation from 30 days to 43 days and held the consultation between 21 October and 2 December 2024. The half term starting 10 February was avoided.

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 5: Non statutory consultation summary</p> <p>Text should be expanded to confirm that purpose of NSC was to review scheme layout and mitigation on the basis of feedback. At present it reads that the focus was on receiving feedback rather than then saying how this would be acted upon in terms of emerging designs etc. Feedback report is referenced – we agree that there should be a summary of the key themes highlighted in feedback.</p>	<p>The Applicant amended the text to read:</p> <p><i>"The purpose of the non-statutory consultation was to review the project's layout and mitigation by seeking to identify and understand the views of communities and stakeholders who may be affected by the development."</i></p> <p>A summary of key feedback themes was added to the SoCC. The Applicant also included the following text:</p> <p><i>"All feedback received was considered when refining the project's emerging design which is being presented at the statutory consultation. A summary of the themes and issues raised is available to view in more detail within a feedback report available at <a href="http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk">www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk</a>. This includes the Applicant's responses to the feedback received and information on how feedback has been incorporated into the design."</i></p>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 6: Consultation objectives</p> <p>This should be expanded to include seeking feedback and suggestions in relation to community benefit and mitigations.</p>	<p>The Applicant included the following objective:</p> <p><i>"Seek feedback and suggestions for community benefits, mitigation and enhancement."</i></p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 7: Environmental information</p> <p>This should be expanded to confirm that the applicant is required to address the matters contained in the Scoping Opinion issued by PINS. At present it's not quite clear enough in terms of the applicant's obligations in relation to this document.</p>	<p>The Applicant added the following text to the Scoping Report sub-section under Section 7 of the SoCC:</p> <p><i>"In accordance with Regulation 14(3)(a) of the EIA Regulations 2017, where a scoping opinion has been adopted, the ES for the Proposed Development must be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as that which was the subject of the scoping opinion). The Applicant will need to demonstrate how the ES submitted as part of the application meets this requirement."</i></p>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 7: Environmental information</p> <p>As above can you please clarify legal status of the Scoping Opinion in terms of what the PEIR and future DCO must address.</p>	<p>As above. The Applicant addressed the PEI Report's relation to the Scoping Opinion at the beginning of the PEI Report sub-section:</p> <p><i>"The PEI Report will build upon the findings from the previous scoping documents."</i></p>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 8: What we will consult on</p> <p>As above we request consultation extended to 6 weeks.</p>	<p>As above. The Applicant extended the statutory consultation from 30 days to 43 days and held the consultation between 21 October and 2 December 2024.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 8: What we will consult on</p> <p>In terms of the issues that you are consulting on, whilst the use of sub-headings is helpful you need to be mindful that you are bound to receive comments resisting the principle of development (objections) and that you need to be receptive of these. The topic sub-headings suggest that these comments and concerns might not be entertained whereas you need to show that you will be receptive to a range of comments including challenges to the principle of development on policy, technical grounds etc. In terms of the grid connection corridor, depending on National Grid decisions you might also be in a position to confirm publicly the approximate location of the new NGSS around Navenby Heath. In addition, if you do keep sub-headings in can you please add a section on seeking feedback on community benefit options.</p>	<p>While the sub-headings were retained in the SoCC for ease of viewing, the Applicant added a sub-section on community benefits.</p> <p>The Applicant also added a paragraph at the end of Section 8 to read:</p> <p><i>"The Applicant appreciates and considers all feedback on the proposals and people can leave their feedback on any aspect of the Proposed Development."</i></p> <p>Methods for providing feedback were also added at the end of the section to demonstrate the Applicant was willing to receive a range of comments and feedback.</p> <p>The Applicant added the location of the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby to Figure 1 of the SoCC.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 9: Who will we consult?</p> <p>As with previous feedback latterly 4th September we just want to reiterate the point that whilst you've referred to examples of 2km and 3km radial consultation areas for other NSIPs, our experience has been for a 5km corridor around the energy park site (dropping to 2km around the cable corridor) and this is what we've been recommending consistently across all NSIPs within NKDC. We maintain this position and recommendation.</p>	<p>The Applicant decided to retain a 'Core Consultation Zone' that was three kilometre around the site boundary. This was for several reasons. Firstly, the Applicant wished to maintain consistency with the non-statutory consultation mailout zone, ensuring that the same stakeholders were notified via a postcard mailout. The Applicant notes that this zone is also larger than those used by neighbouring projects in North Kesteven as well, with Springwell Solar Farm using an inner consultation zone of two kilometres. As also referenced in the draft SoCC, a Core Consultation Zone of three kilometres is consistent with the maximum extent of the study areas for the EIA.</p> <p>The Applicant instead ensured a wider consultation zone of five kilometres was used for the statutory consultation. Activities undertaken in the wider consultation zone include advertising in local media and via targeted Google online advertising, issuing posters, and engaging with the Parish Councils of towns and villages in this area.</p> <p>The same activities were conducted within the Core Consultation Zone, though addresses within the Core Consultation Zone received a postcard mailout advertising the consultation as well (see Section 7.2).</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 9: Who will we consult?</p> <p>As above we recommend a 5km zone which would then avoid the need to deal with feedback from outside the 3km core zone. It is unclear how google online advertising will work/details. If the 3km core zone is retained it would help to identify villages etc beyond the 3km where you might expect to receive feedback and how the proposed local media coverage will reach those areas</p>	<p>As above. The Applicant encouraged feedback from local stakeholders in both the Core Consultation Zone of three kilometres and the wider consultation area of five kilometres as part of the consultation. Further, the Applicant made an online feedback form available on the consultation website, which was available to use by all members of the public.</p> <p>The Applicant added a sub-section under Section 9 of the SoCC which clarified how Google advertising would work.</p> <p>When defining the wider consultation area in the SoCC, the Applicant added which towns and villages which would be included as part of this.</p>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 9: Who will we consult?</p> <p>Consideration on a case by case basis suggests that you might decline requests? Suggest rewording along the lines of you will accommodate these requests.</p>	<p>The Applicant rephrased this sentence to instead read:</p> <p><i>"Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for members of seldom heard groups will be agreed and planned with the requesting organisations."</i></p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 10: How the Applicant consults</p> <p>Please confirm that the ORPMR venue is at Thorpe on the Hill. Re: booking and availability of meeting rooms can you mention that you would look to agree alternatives in discussion with the parish councils and host authorities? Mix of weekend and weekday events are supported but there is no reference to start and end times to ensure maximum scope for attendance across spectrum of residents.</p>	<p>The Applicant added text to note that the Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room was in Thorpe on the Hill.</p> <p>The Applicant listed the venue, date, time and address for all in-person consultation events in Table 3 of the SoCC. It noted that the Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room was in Thorpe on the Hill.</p> <p>The Applicant also rephrased the paragraph after Table 3 to read:</p> <p><i>"Events are scheduled at a mixture of times and on both weekdays and weekends to enable people with different time commitments to attend the events."</i></p> <p>The Applicant also deleted the following text from the draft SoCC:</p> <p><i>"If these venues are not available, other suitable venues in the local area will be selected."</i></p> <p>The Applicant did this as all venues were confirmed prior to the publication of the SoCC. Throughout the SoCC, there is a sustained commitment to engaging with host authorities and Parish Councils around plans for the consultation.</p>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 10: How the Applicant consults</p> <p>No indication as to where these [information points] are. It is presumed that these are libraries, parish offices/halls etc within the core</p>	<p>The Applicant set out the information point addresses and opening times in Table 2 of the SoCC.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		consultation zone but can you please confirm likely venues so that we can comment; e.g. North Hykeham Community Library?	
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults  No reference to accommodating feedback via social media	The Applicant notes this comment. To ensure all feedback was accurately and consistently captured, the Applicant decided not to accept feedback left on social media. Stakeholders were instead encouraged to comment online via the feedback form on the website or by emailing the project inbox.
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults  'Advertising and notices' and 'media releases' suggest expansion to include Lincolnshire Live, Lincolnshire World and The Lincolnite for press/advertising, and for media releases to include BBC Radio Lincolnshire, Lincs 102.2FM, BBC Look North, ITV News Calendar, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live, Local Lincs Magazine. The area is also covered either in whole or part by Tucann Publishing's Witham Herald and the Hykeham Gazette.	The Applicant expanded the list of advertisements being placed to include Lincolnshire World, and the list of media outlets receiving press releases to include BBC Radio Lincolnshire, Lincs 102.2FM, BBC Look North, ITV News, Lincolnshire Free Press, Local Lincs Magazine, Witham Herald, and Hykeham Gazette.
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Finally please can you liaise with the developers for Beacon Fen and Springwell to ensure that there is no overlap with the statutory consultation where possible. This is particularly the case for Springwell given that both projects are planned to connect into a new NGSS on Navenby Heath.	The Applicant ensured the statutory consultation was not held at the same time as the consultations for Springwell Solar Farm (who held their statutory consultation from 11 January 2024 to 22 February 2024) and Beacon Fen Energy Park (who held their statutory consultation from 22 January 2024 to 3 March

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			2024) through discussions with the respective projects.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult?  Core Consultation area, Figure 1 - Would it be possible to show which parts of the site shown in blue are the solar array area and which is the cable route?	The Applicant ensured that the solar array and cable route were clearly defined in Figure 1 of the SoCC.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult?  Please could a copy of the consultation communication (postcard) be sent to the Planning Authority and the local members so that they are aware what has been sent out in their area.	The Applicant added text under the postcard sub-section in Section 10 of the SoCC, stating 'At the start of consultation, postcards will be issued to the host authorities' planning officers and councillors representing wards in the Core Consultation Zone.'  The Applicant ensured that a copy of the postcard was sent to both host authorities and relevant local members in advance of the consultation launch.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult?  Wider consultation area information points – these should be identified, be local and have a range of opening hours.	The Applicant set out the information point addresses and opening times in Table 2 of the SoCC.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult?  Consideration should be made to publishing the "seldom heard groups" as this demonstrates that these stakeholders are fully included in the SoCC process. This also shows that appropriate effort has been made to find out who	The Applicant published the list of 'Seldom Heard Groups' that would be contacted in Appendix A of the SoCC.  The consultation was developed to cater to the needs of these groups as well. Events were hosted both online and in-person at accessible venues. Emails were sent to these groups at the launch of consultation to

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		these groups are and how they will be contacted.	notify them of the consultation, events, and how to provide feedback. This was alongside the postal mailout issued to the Core Consultation Zone.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults  How we consult - the details of the in-person events, dates and times will need listing.	The Applicant listed the venue, date, time and address for all in-person consultation events in Table 3 of the SoCC.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults  Contact lines- Consider offering a call back service / out of working hours times to call for those working / with other commitments during these times.	The Applicant added the following text to Section 10 under the project phone number:  <i>"This phonenumber has a voicemail service for out of hours calls. Calls can be scheduled with the consultation team for outside of working hours."</i>  Calls to the project information line were logged and messages left were responded to, including call backs when requested.

## 6.4 Publication of the SoCC

- 6.4.1 The Applicant published the SoCC on 21 October 2024 on the website for the Proposed Development at [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk/documents](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk/documents) (see Appendix 9.1.15). The website was, and is still currently, accessible to the public free of charge. Copies of the SoCC were printed in advance to send to information points. Evidence of the Applicant's compliance with the SoCC can be found in **Table 6-2**.
- 6.4.2 In accordance with s47(6) of the PA 2008, the Applicant published in a local newspaper a notice stating where and when the SoCC could be inspected.
- 6.4.3 This notice was combined with the notice required under s48 of the PA 2008 to publicise the proposed application for a DCO, producing a 'combined notice' (Appendix 2.2).
- 6.4.4 The 'combined notice' was published in The London Gazette as well as in local and national newspapers, in accordance with s47 and s48 of the PA 2008, on the following dates:

- a. Lincolnshire Echo on 17 October 2024 and 24 October 2024 (Appendix 6.4.3);
  - b. The Guardian on 21 October 2024 (Appendix 6.4.1);
  - c. The London Gazette on 21 October 2024 (Appendix 6.4.2).
- 6.4.5 On Thursday 17 October 2024 and Friday 18 October 2024, the Applicant also delivered hard copies of the SoCC to information points, as detailed in the SoCC, and published a digital copy on the website at [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk) (see Appendix 9.1.11 and Appendix 9.1.15). Copies of the SoCC as it appeared in hard copy and on the website are included in Appendix 6.3 of this Consultation Report.
- 6.4.6 In accordance with s42 of the PA 2008, and as further detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant consulted with statutory stakeholders in the prescribed manner, which included notifying s42 stakeholders of the SoCC's publication on 21 October 2024 and providing the link to view, download and print the document. These communications also included an embedded copy of the combined notice (Appendix 2.2), which references the SoCC and where and when it could be publicly inspected. Copies of these communications can be viewed in Appendix 3.3 and Appendix 3.4.1.

## 6.5 Statement of Compliance with the SoCC

- 6.5.1 The Applicant complied with all commitments made in the SoCC. **Table 6-2** below demonstrates how these commitments were met and can be evidenced.

**Table 6-2: Evidence of Applicant Compliance with SoCC**

Commitment	Evidence of Compliance
<b>3. Purpose of this Statement of Community Consultation</b>	
This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to consult local community' of the PA 2008 with reference to guidance on pre-application consultation published by the Government and the Inspectorate. It also describes the non-statutory and statutory consultation exercises which Fosse Green Energy undertook with the host local planning authorities (LPAs) that cover the area within which the Proposed Development is located.	The Applicant prepared the SoCC in line with s47 of the PA 2008. Section 5 of the SoCC provides an overview of the non-statutory consultation, while Section 6 and Sections 8 to 11 of the SoCC detail activities being undertaken as part of the statutory consultation.
These host authorities comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Kesteven District Council</li> <li>• Lincolnshire County Council</li> </ul>	North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council were consulted with on the SoCC draft from 7 November to 19 December 2023.
	In addition to formal consultation on the SoCC and statutory and non-statutory consultation, the Applicant has maintained communication and dialogue with both host authorities.

## 4. Consultation and Planning Process



## Commitment

## Evidence of Compliance

The Applicant will consult local communities, stakeholders and statutory consultees on draft proposals (as required by Section 42 and Section 47 of the PA 2008).

Statutory consultation was delivered in accordance with s47/s48 requirements. A combined s47/48 notice and SoCC were published (Appendix 2.2 and Appendix 6.3), and s42 and s47 stakeholders were notified at launch of non-statutory consultation (Appendix 3.5) and statutory consultation (Appendix 3.3 and Appendix 3.4).

Feedback from the consultation will be collated and considered to determine the final details of the DCO application that will then be submitted to the Inspectorate.

All feedback received by the Applicant was collated and considered. This included feedback received during and following non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation.

A summary of feedback received, and the Applicant's response, can be found in Appendix 4 (Section 47 Comments) and Appendix 5 (Section 42 Comments).

A consultation report will be submitted with the DCO application showing how the Applicant has had regard to consultation responses.

The Applicant has prepared and submitted this Consultation Report in accordance with s37(3)(c) and s37(7) of the PA 2008.

A summary of feedback received, and the Applicant's response, can be found in Appendix 4 (Section 47 Comments) and Appendix 5 (Section 42 Comments).

The PEI Report NTS will be available to view at information points (see Table 2).

The PEI Report was sent to information points and made available to view on 17 October 2024. The information points are evidenced in Appendix 9.1.11.

At the statutory consultation the PEI Report and NTS will be available online at the documents page on [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk).

The PEI Report was published as part of the statutory consultation on the website for the Proposed Development on 21 October 2024 (see Appendix 9.1.15).

A copy will also be available at events. The Applicant will respond to reasonable requests for further copies.

A hard copy of the printed version of the PEI Report was made available at all community consultation events. Photographs within Appendix 9.1.9 show the availability of the hard copy printed version of the PEI Report at the events.

A hard copy of the PEI Report was available to be posted to members of the public for a minimum charge of £500 to cover printing and postage.

After the statutory consultation, the assessments presented in the PEI Report will be developed based on the final design of the Proposed Development,

The Environmental Statement has been included as part of this DCO submission.

## Commitment

## Evidence of Compliance

environmental surveys and impact assessment in order to produce the ES.

It will also describe any changes to the project and any mitigation measures which need to be implemented. The ES will form part of the DCO submission.

The statutory consultation will take place between 21 October and 2 December 2024.

The statutory consultation was launched on 21 October 2024 and was open until 2 December 2024.

### 8. What the Applicant will consult on

The statutory consultation provides the opportunity to comment upon the PEI Report, which describes the preliminary results of the ongoing EIA process. The Applicant will seek feedback on this document from statutory consultees and the public, with a particular focus on:

- The solar PV arrays and associated infrastructure, including design and layout considerations
- The grid connection corridor
- Environmental mitigation and public recreation
- Construction, maintenance and traffic
- Community benefits

The Applicant ensured the hardcopy and online feedback form were structured to accommodate feedback on these topics (see Appendix 9.1.12 for a copy of the hardcopy feedback form and Appendix 9.1.15 for the online feedback form). The website for the Proposed Development, which was updated for the statutory consultation, and information booklet also asked for feedback on these topics.

At the statutory consultation, feedback will be sought on the updated layout for the Proposed Development following consideration of feedback from the non-statutory consultation and further technical and design work.

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under questions 1, 2 and 6 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

We are consulting on the location of this route, and any information you think is relevant to further develop the grid connection corridor's design

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under question 3 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

Feedback will be sought on the Proposed Development's environmental mitigation measures and on suggestions for permissive paths to connect into existing networks.

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under question 4 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

The Applicant will be asking for particular feedback on aspects relating to construction, maintenance and traffic, including access requirements.

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under question 7 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

The Applicant is inviting people to suggest ideas for local projects or schemes that could be supported, particularly suggestions

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under question 5 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

## Commitment

## Evidence of Compliance

for the design of permissive paths and other access arrangements for the site

The Applicant appreciates and considers all feedback on the proposals and people can leave their feedback on any aspect of the Proposed Development. Feedback can be provided by email at [info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk), by feedback form, available as hard-copies or on the project website at [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk) or by Freepost address at FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY

The Applicant set up communications lines including a project inbox, phone line, website, and freepost address. These channels have been used for the entirety of the pre-application period.

### 9. Who will the Applicant consult?

Properties within the Core Consultation Zone will directly receive communications such as consultation postcards (as set out in Section 10).

The Applicant issued a postcard to 11,883 Core Consultation Zone addresses (see Appendix 10.1).

If the site boundary of the Proposed Development is reduced or expanded ahead of the statutory consultation the Core Consultation Zone will be adjusted to maintain the 3km minimum zone.

The Applicant ensured that the Core Consultation Zone maintained a 3km minimum zone from the Proposed Development.

The Applicant will publicise the consultation to communities outside of the Core Consultation Zone by advertising in local media, issuing posters (see section 10) and by Google online advertising targeted in an area around 5km from the Proposed Development.

In addition to the publication of the combined s47/s48 notice, the Applicant sent designed advertisements to the Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire World and Newark Advertiser, and sent press releases to regional and local media outlets, as detailed in Chapter 7 and Appendix 6.4.

The Applicant issued posters (Appendix 9.1.4) to information points and Parish Councils as well as local businesses and venues in the 5km wider consultation area.

The Applicant set up Google adverts for the duration of the statutory consultation. These were set up to target Lincolnshire and to specific search terms relating to renewable energy and solar energy development (Appendix 9.1.10).

The Applicant also maintains a register of interested individuals who will be kept informed at key milestones. Anyone wishing to be kept informed can use the online registration form at [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk/register/](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk/register/) to receive updates.

The Applicant ensured that individuals who wished to register for updates were able to do so on the dedicated statutory consultation website. This page has been operational for the entirety of the pre-application period.

## Commitment

## Evidence of Compliance

Google search advertising will be used, which are adverts that appear on Google's search engine results pages when users search for keywords relating to Fosse Green Energy. The advertising will be geographically targeted to Lincolnshire.

The Applicant set up Google adverts for the duration of the statutory consultation. These were set up to target Lincolnshire and to specific search terms relating to renewable energy and solar energy development (Appendix 9.1.10).

Media releases will be issued to outlets covering Lincolnshire and will include a mix of regional and local titles. The coverage area of the Lincolnshire Echo is shown below, which covers the largest area of the media titles which will be contacted. A list of the publications to which the Applicant will issue media releases can be found in section 10.

The Applicant issued a press release to local and regional outlets in Lincolnshire announcing the launch of the statutory consultation (Appendix 10.5).

The Applicant sent designed advertisements to the Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire World and Newark Advertiser.

The Lincolnshire Echo and Newark Advertiser published the advertisements on 24 October 2024 and 31 October 2024. Lincolnshire World published the advertisement on 23 October 2024 and 30 October 2024 (Appendix 9.1.14).

Information points will be located in community spaces at a number of locations near to the Proposed Development.

The Applicant used North Hykeham Community Library, Lincoln Library, Collingham Community Partnership Library, Navenby Parish Council office, Bassingham Parish Council office, and Sleaford Library as information points, as set out in Table 2 of SoCC.

The information points will hold copies of consultation materials and the PEI Report NTS. A copy of the SoCC will also be available for inspection.

The Applicant sent materials to the information points on 17 October 2024, which arrived on 17 October 2024 and 18 October 2024. This included copies of the feedback form, brochure, PEI Report NTS and SoCC (Appendix 9.1.11).

Elected representatives (district and county council members, parish councils, Members of Parliament) representing wards, parishes and constituencies that lie within the core consultation zone boundaries will be notified of the consultation and offered a briefing.

The Applicant issued emails on 7 October, in advance of the statutory consultation, to local ward members, MPs, and Parish Councils offering briefings. A briefing with councillors for NKDC was held on 18 October 2024 in advance of the statutory consultation, and with local Parish Councils on 21 November 2024 and 27 November 2024 (Appendix 3.7). No briefing was held with councillors for LCC or the local MP due to a lack of expressed interest.

A range of seldom heard groups and individuals working in the Lincolnshire area who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation

At the start of the statutory consultation, the Applicant sent a letter notifying non-prescribed consultees of the statutory consultation via email to the seldom heard

## Commitment

techniques will be notified of the consultation.

These include but are not limited to:

- The elderly.
- Young people.
- People with visual impairments.
- People with deafness or hard of hearing.
- Minority ethnic groups.

For the non-statutory consultation the seldom heard groups contacted were agreed with North Kesteven District Council with input from its Communities' Team. These seldom heard groups will also be contacted for the statutory consultation.

A list of seldom heard groups to be notified of the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix A [of the SoCC].

Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for members of seldom heard groups will be agreed and planned with the requesting organisations.

Consultation documents can also be requested in an accessible format for those with visual and/or hearing impairments.

Where email addresses are available seldom heard groups and community organisations will be contacted by email at the launch of the statutory consultation.

We will consult the main point of contact at each host local planning authority, neighbouring local authorities, landowners (including those with non-landowning interests that are affected) and other technical stakeholders such as Natural England, National Highways, the Environment Agency and Historic England as required by Section 42 of the PA 2008.

## Evidence of Compliance

groups identified in the SoCC (see Appendix 3.4.1 for the email; and Appendix 6.2.2 for the list of Seldom Heard Groups).

The Applicant received no requests for documents in an accessible format.

The Applicant sent a letter notifying non-prescribed consultees of the statutory consultation via email to the seldom heard groups, identified in the SoCC, at start of the statutory consultation (Appendix 3.4.1).

The Applicant sent these consultees the letter notifying prescribed consultees (Appendix 3.1) of the statutory consultation via email and post at the start of the consultation (Appendix 3.3 and Appendix 3.4.1).

## 10. How the Applicant consults

The Applicant will provide information about the Proposed Development at the statutory consultation using a range of methods:

Public events

The Applicant held events for four hours at these four venues, as detailed in Table 3 of the SoCC, where members of the Applicant's project team were on hand to answer questions and feedback forms were made

## Commitment

## Evidence of Compliance

Anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development is welcome to attend events. Attendees will be able to ask questions about the Proposed Development and the ways to provide feedback will be presented and / or feedback forms provided.

available. The Applicant also held a webinar on 26 November 2024.

The Applicant ensured feedback methods were outlined on the feedback form and the information panels exhibited at events.

The Applicant will hold four in-person events in areas around the Site and one online webinar. The in-person events will be held at Witham St Hughs Village Hall, Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room (Thorpe on the Hill), The Venue, Navenby and Hammond Hall and Sports Centre. These are the same venues where events were held for the non statutory consultation.

Events are scheduled at a mixture of times and on both weekdays and weekends to enable people with different time commitments to attend the events.

The Applicant held in-person consultation events on Fridays in the evening and on Saturdays during the day, with the webinar held on Tuesday evening, to allow for maximum attendance.

Information panels and plans will be shown at events containing information about the Proposed Development and the ways to provide feedback.

The Applicant produced information panels displaying information about the Proposed Development and the ways to provide feedback (Appendix 9.1.5). These were exhibited at the four in-person events, as well as at the webinar in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

The online event is to be held during an evening and will consist of a presentation followed by a question and answer session.

The Applicant held its online event, or 'webinar', of 26 November 2024 from 6-7pm, with a Question-and-Answer session following the presentation (Appendix 9.1.12).

Should an event need to be cancelled or rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances, the Applicant will seek to alert people as early as possible by updating the website [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk) and sending emails to the Parish Councils contacted at the launch of consultation.

There were no event cancellations or reschedules.

Postcards will be mailed to over 11,000 addresses within the Core Consultation Zone (as seen in section 9). This will inform the local community of the consultation and the events taking place.

The Applicant issued a postcard to 11,883 Core Consultation Zone addresses (Appendix 10.1).

At the start of consultation, postcards will be issued to the host authorities' planning officers and councillors representing wards in the Core Consultation Zone.

A link to the website, containing the electronic postcard, was sent by the Applicant to officers and local ward members as part of the launch (Appendix 3.4.1).



## Commitment

## Evidence of Compliance

An Information booklet will be produced that summarises the information being consulted on. The Information booklet will be available to view online, at in-person events, information points or by request.

The Applicant prepared an information booklet that was made available at information points, in-person events, and online (Appendix 9.1.1). The Applicant received and answered several requests from residents to have a copy of this booklet mailed to them.

The feedback form will contain questions to capture feedback on the Proposed Development. The feedback form will be available to view and fill out online, at in-person events, at information points or by request.

The Applicant prepared and issued a feedback form (Appendix 9.1.2). This was sent out to information points and made available online at launch and at in-person events.

Posters advertising the public exhibitions will be issued to Parish Councils and information points for display in a 5km area around the Proposed Development.

The Applicant issued posters to information points and Parish Councils as well as local businesses and venues in the 5km wider consultation area.

The website [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk) will contain information about the Proposed Development, consultation events and frequently asked questions. It will host the PEI Report and NTS, SoCC and other consultation documents and an online version of the feedback form will be available for use.

The Applicant created a dedicated website for the statutory consultation, which launched on 21 October 2024 and contained these documents under the Documents section (Appendix 9.1.15). These documents are still available to view on the website.

The website will also be updated to show new media releases and will have a register for updates feature where people can sign up to receive email updates about the Proposed Development.

The Applicant published the press release on the website under the 'News' section (Appendix 9.1.15).

The Applicant will publish statutory notices in local and national newspapers providing details about the consultation, as required by Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008. The notices will be published in one or more local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, and a national newspaper and the London Gazette for one week.

The Applicant produced a combined s47 and s48 notice (Appendix 2.2), which was issued to the Lincolnshire Echo, The Guardian and the London Gazette.

The London Gazette and The Guardian published the notice on 21 October 2024 (Appendix 6.4.2 and Appendix 6.4.1). The Lincolnshire Echo published the notice on 17 October and 24 October 2024 (Appendix 6.4.3).

The newspaper outlets which will be used subject to availability for bookings are:

- Lincolnshire Echo
- The Guardian
- London Gazette

In addition to publishing a Section 48 Notice in regional and national newspapers, we will place advertisements in regional media outlets to promote the consultation and consultation events.

The Applicant sent designed advertisements to the Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire World and Newark Advertiser.

## Commitment

## Evidence of Compliance

Advertisements will be placed with:

- Lincolnshire Echo
- Lincolnshire World
- The Newark Advertiser
- Digitally via Google. The Google advertisements will be geographically targeted to Lincolnshire, and to specific search terms relating to renewable energy and solar energy developments.

The Lincolnshire Echo and Newark Advertiser published the advertisements on 24 October and 31 October 2024. Lincolnshire World published the advertisement on 23 October and 30 October 2024 (see Appendix 9.1.14).

The Applicant set up Google adverts to target Lincolnshire and to specific search terms relating to renewable energy and solar energy development (Appendix 9.1.10).

We will also issue press releases to regional press outlets and relevant trade titles, including:

- Lincolnshire Echo
- Lincolnshire Live
- Lincolnshire World
- Newark Advertiser
- Solar Power Portal
- ReNews
- BBC Radio Lincolnshire
- Lincs 102.2FM
- BBC Look North
- ITV News
- Lincolnshire Free Press
- Local Lincs Magazine
- Witham Herald
- Hykeham Gazette

The Applicant issued a press release to these outlets announcing the launch of the Statutory Consultation (Appendix 10.4 and Appendix 10.5).

The Applicant's communication lines are open throughout the entire pre-application stage. Through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of the consultation team to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback. You can get in touch with members of the stakeholder engagement team using any of the communication lines listed below.

The Applicant set up communications lines including a project inbox, phone line, website, and freepost address. No requests for large print or audio documents were received.

Should documents in large print or audio be required, please contact the Applicant at the details provided.

## 12. Following statutory consultation

The Applicant will consider all written consultation responses received as feedback forms, emails to [info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk) and letters

The Applicant has included the feedback provided at statutory consultation, and its response to this feedback, in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5.

## Commitment

## Evidence of Compliance

sent to the Freepost address FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY.

Details of all consultation responses and how they have been addressed will be included in the Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Inspectorate as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be a public document, but personal information will not be shared publicly unless specifically requested by the Inspectorate.

If, because of the feedback received, the proposals for the Proposed Development change to the extent that it is necessary to undertake further geographically targeted consultation, this would be undertaken, where relevant, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC. The timetable and programme for the consultation would be publicised in the affected area via methods judged to be most appropriate by the Applicant.

No formal geographical targeted consultation needed to be undertaken after the statutory consultation.

In the process of completing a Land Registry refresh, the Applicant identified several new lands interests. A later consultation in line with the statutory consultation was therefore held for newly identified PILs within the Order Limits. A S42(1)(d) letter (Appendix 3.3) and a copy of the s47/s48 combined notice (Appendix 2.2) were issued to these parties on 3 March 2025, and these parties were given 28 days to respond in line with the statutory consultation commitments. The same process was undertaken for Openreach Limited, Cadent Gas Limited, and J.E. Porter Limited, who were sent the same notice on 20 March 2025 (Openreach Limited) and 25 April 2025 (Cadent Gas Limited and J.E. Porter Limited) and given 28 days to respond in line with the statutory consultation commitments. These parties were identified through the Applicant's continued efforts throughout the pre-application stage demonstrating diligent enquiry in understanding all relevant land interests.

The Applicant will continue to update the public and other stakeholders on the proposals at appropriate milestones, primarily through the website [www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk) and engagement activities such as briefings with political and technical stakeholders.

The Applicant has continued to engage with the public and other stakeholders since the statutory consultation. This includes briefings with local authority officers, technical stakeholders and members of the public; mailshots including a letter to Morton Lane residents in February 2025 (Appendix 13.1); a community update to a wide list of stakeholders and project update subscribers in March 2025 with an update on feedback received, changes made and next steps (Appendix 13.2); a Community Liaison Group, held on 28 April 2025 at

## Commitment

## Evidence of Compliance

Witham St Hughs Village Hall, which saw discussions between the Applicant and Parish Councils and local ward members (Appendix 13.3); and responses to enquiries and calls that were received over the following months.

# 7. Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of The Planning Act 2008 (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024)

## 7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report 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 s47 of the PA 2008.
- 7.1.2 As required under s47(7) of the PA 2008, the Applicant carried out statutory consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). A summary of how the Applicant complied with s47(7) of the PA 2008 through commitments placed in the SoCC is detailed in Chapter 6 of this Consultation Report. Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report sets out the s47 statutory consultation undertaken in line with the commitments set out in the SoCC, in chronological order, covering the statutory consultation period from 21 October 2024 until 2 December 2024. This period exceeded the statutory minimum period of 28 days for statutory consultation as specified by the PA 2008. This period included:
- a. The statutory s47 consultation, which commenced on 21 October 2024 in parallel to the start of s42 consultation and s48 consultation (referred to collectively throughout this Report as the “statutory consultation”), inviting comments on the Proposed Development, including the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report and PEI Report Non-Technical Summary (NTS). The statutory consultation provided consultees with a further opportunity to understand, comment on and influence the proposals prior to submission of the application.
  - b. Direct notification of the launch of the statutory consultation, provided by the Applicant to 11,883 local households and businesses (see Appendix 10 for details of the Core Consultation Zone), MPs, elected representatives, Parish Councils, seldom heard groups, community groups, and 265 individuals who signed up to the digital community mailing list.

- c. Four statutory public consultation exhibitions and an online webinar were held by the Applicant between 8 November 2024 and 26 November 2024. A recording of the online webinar was uploaded to the website for the Proposed Development. All consultation materials were also available on the website.
  - d. A number of briefing meetings held with locally elected representatives, Parish Councils, and near neighbours and residents.
- 7.1.3 The Applicant considered late responses beyond 2 December 2024, up until the end of 2024. A feedback extension was granted to Parish Councils who the Applicant was planning to brief on 27 November 2024. The deadline for feedback from Parish Councils was extended to 9 December 2024 to ensure they had sufficient time to respond in detail to the statutory consultation following the briefing (See Paragraphs 8.8.7 to 8.8.9).
- 7.1.4 Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must state whether the proposal is an EIA development and how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information. The Applicant included this information in the SoCC, which also included the dates of the statutory consultation period and signposts to digital and hardcopy statutory consultation materials, as is shown in Appendix 6.3. As detailed in Chapter 6 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant publicised this to the community by creating a combined s47 and s48 notice (Appendix 2.2), which was published in the Lincolnshire Echo on 17 and 24 October 2024, and in The Guardian and the London Gazette on 21 October 2024 in accordance with s47(6) of the PA 2008 (Appendix 6.4).
- 7.1.5 Further publicity for the statutory consultation is detailed in Section 7.8. All statutory consultation materials, including the PEI Report and PEI Report NTS, were made available on 21 October on the Proposed Development website.
- 7.1.6 Early engagement with the community prior to the statutory consultation (i.e. before 21 October 2024) is detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report. Chapter 4 also includes a description of the Applicant's additional non-statutory engagement with MPs, elected representatives and parish councils.
- 7.1.7 All ongoing engagement with the community beyond the statutory consultation (i.e. after 2 December 2024) that took place up to the point of the DCO application submission is detailed in Chapter 12 of this Consultation Report.

## 7.2 Section 47 Community Consultation Area

- 7.2.1 As noted above, s47(1) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a SoCC: 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.
- 7.2.2 A Core Consultation Zone and a wider consultation area were identified for the Proposed Development and presented in the draft SoCC for the local authorities to comment on. The Applicant had regard and responded to

comments made by local authorities about the proposed consultation area (see **Table 7-2**).

7.2.3 A tiered consultation zone strategy was put in place that saw:

- a. A Core Consultation Zone of three kilometres from the site boundary, which matched the Proposed Development's initial non-statutory Consultation Zone and ensured a similar list of stakeholders could be notified of the statutory consultation. Addresses in this Zone would receive direct notification of the statutory consultation through a direct mail postcard, as well as communications through Google advertising, local media advertising, posters and notices.
- b. A wider consultation area that was specified to reach communities within five kilometres of the site boundary. These communities would be communicated with through Google advertising, local media advertising, posters and notices.

7.2.4 The Core Consultation Zone for the Proposed Development was identified by:

- a. Centring the area on the Proposed Development, including the Principal Site and the Cable Corridor;
- b. Extending by a minimum distance of three kilometres from the boundary of the Proposed Development's Order Limits. The zone included 11,883 residential and commercial properties;
- c. Taking into consideration the potential mailing zones of other solar NSIPs being proposed nearby to understand and, where possible, avoid overlap to prevent 'consultation fatigue' and any potential confusion with other solar NSIPs;
- d. Using natural and human geographical boundaries; and
- e. Ensuring as far as possible that whole settlements were included.

7.2.5 Throughout the Core Consultation Zone, which included 11,883 homes and businesses, the following statutory consultation activities took place:

- a. Four public consultation exhibitions and an online webinar;
- b. Direct mailing of community consultation postcard to addresses in core zone;
- c. Google search keywords advertising;
- d. Adverts in the local press;
- e. Posters;
- f. Advertising across six local information points (listed in Appendix 9.1.11);
- g. Media releases to outlets covering Lincolnshire to include a mix of local and regional outlets and regional trade titles (See Paragraph 7.13.6);
- h. Issuing emails on 7 October 2024, in advance of the statutory consultation to local ward members, MPs, and Parish Councils offering briefings;



- i. At the start of the statutory consultation, sending a letter for non-prescribed consultees via email to 'Seldom Heard Groups' (SHGs) identified in the SoCC (Seldom Heard Groups who were mailed can be viewed in Appendix 6.2.4);
  - j. Notifying members of the community who registered their interest in receiving updates on the Proposed Development before 21 October 2024 about the launch of consultation;
  - k. Offering a near neighbour meeting with residents of the Cathedral View Holiday Park;
  - l. Placing site notices (listed in Appendix 8); and
  - m. Displaying all consultation materials on the Proposed Development website including information about the Proposed Development, consultation events, frequently asked questions, the PEI Report and PEI Report NTS, SoCC, the information booklet and feedback form.
- 7.2.6 The map of the Core Consultation Zone is included in Appendix 10.1.
- 7.2.7 The Applicant recognised that there might be some interested individuals or parties who were not within the Core Consultation Zone. The Applicant committed to ensuring that these interested parties still had an opportunity to view the proposals and have their say.
- 7.2.8 The Applicant publicised the consultation to communities outside of the Core Consultation Zone by advertising in local media, issuing posters (see Paragraph 7.13.1b) and by Google online advertising targeting a wider consultation area around five kilometres from the Proposed Development.
- 7.2.9 The wider consultation area for the Proposed Development remained within the administrative area of the host local authorities, with all neighbouring authorities being kept informed of the proposals as part of the Applicant's project updates. In accordance with s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008, the local authorities in **Table 8-1** were consulted.
- 7.2.10 The towns and villages which were within this wider consultation area included but were not limited to:
- a. North Hykeham;
  - b. Waddington;
  - c. Nocton;
  - d. Metherringham;
  - e. Rowston;
  - f. Digby;
  - g. Bloxholm;
  - h. Ruskington;
  - i. Leadenham;
  - j. Fulbeck;
  - k. Stragglethorpe;

- l. Brant Broughton;
- m. Stapleford; and
- n. Collingham.

7.2.11 Throughout the wider consultation area, the following consultation activities took place:

- a. Advertising across media channels covering the Core Consultation Zone and wider consultation area (as detailed in Section 7.13 of this Consultation Report);
- b. Engaging with the wider Lincolnshire media as well as regional and national media through media releases, advertisement placements in publications and Google search advertising (as detailed in Section 7.13 of this Consultation Report);
- c. Advertising across six local information points (listed in Appendix 9.1.11);
- d. Holding an online webinar session;
- e. Providing a digital notification at the launch of consultation on 21 October 2024 about the consultation and where to find project information to the 256 individuals signed up to the mailing list;
- f. Holding stakeholder meetings throughout the wider consultation area as detailed in Section 7.9 of this Consultation Report; and
- g. Using a dedicated Proposed Development website.

7.2.12 The map of the wider consultation area is included with the Core Consultation Zone in Appendix 10.1.

7.2.13 The Applicant also maintained a register of interested individuals who were kept informed at key milestones. Anyone wishing to be kept informed could use the online registration form on the website to receive updates.

## 7.3 Additional Consultees and Groups

7.3.1 In addition to the 11,883 homes and local businesses consulted within the Core Consultation Zone, the Applicant identified additional non-prescribed consultees, including local councillors, MPs, community venues, national bodies, and seldom-heard groups. These seldom-heard groups include local community groups, interest groups, and representatives for those who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. These consultees were within both the Core Consultation Zone and wider consultation area, and were identified through early suggestions from the local authorities and feedback received at the Application's non-statutory consultation. A list of the non-prescribed bodies consulted can be found in Appendix 6.2.4.

7.3.2 At the start of the statutory consultation the Applicant sent the letter to non-prescribed consultees via email. This includes, where possible, sending the letter via email to the list of 'Seldom Heard Groups' (SHGs) identified in Appendix A of the SoCC (Appendix 3.4.1).

- 7.3.3 The Applicant contacted the SHGs via email on 21 October 2024. Those SHGs which could not be contacted on 21 October 2024 were sent an email on 24 October 2024 (Appendix 3.4.2), demonstrating a commitment from the Applicant to ensuring these groups were informed of the consultation.
- 7.3.4 Of the 143 SHGs listed in the SoCC, 12 could not be contacted directly. Some, such as the Blue Badge Scheme and the Community Digital Hub, came directly under a local authority or another group who had been contacted at the start of the statutory consultation. Others, such as Lincolnshire Pamoja, could no longer be found and/or have been closed down. There were also several whose stated email address could not be reached by the Applicant. A postal database was compiled (Appendix 6.2.2), where addresses were available, of the SHGs which could not be reached digitally so that they could be sent a notification via post of the consultation launch.
- 7.3.5 Where local SHGs could not be contacted, the Applicant emailed local sports clubs, community and family groups, and local institutes and venues to ensure the community was made as aware of the statutory consultation as possible. A list of these groups is included in Appendix 6.2.2.
- 7.3.6 Previous engagement had been undertaken with residents of the Cathedral View Holiday Park. The Applicant sent a letter to these residents, which landed on 23 October 2024, inviting them to meet with the project team at 2.30pm before the Thorpe on the Hill event (Appendix 3.8). Several attendees from the holiday park attended.

## 7.4 Undertaking Consultation under Section 47 of The Planning Act 2008

- 7.4.1 Consultation under s47 of the PA 2008 ran as the statutory consultation from 21 October 2024 until 2 December 2024 (allowing 43 days).
- 7.4.2 The Applicant continued ongoing consultation between the non-statutory and statutory consultation stages to enable comments to be received and considered as part of an iterative consultation process that fed into an iterative design response for the Proposed Development, demonstrating how consultation had been taken into consideration in the design of the Proposed Development. Ongoing consultation is described in Chapter 12 of this Consultation Report.
- 7.4.3 The Applicant undertook the following consultation activities as set out in the SoCC:
- Meetings and briefing sessions – The Applicant issued emails on 7 October in advance of the statutory consultation to local ward members, MPs, and Parish Councils offering briefings. A briefing with councillors for NKDC was held on 18 October 2024 in advance of the statutory consultation. Briefings were held with Parish Councils on 21 November 2024 and 27 November 2024. Meetings were offered to, but not taken up at this stage by, councillors for LCC or the local MP. (see Section 7.9);
  - Stakeholder meetings – the Applicant contacted sensitive stakeholders and interest groups, including local residents and near neighbours, to

discuss the Proposed Development and receive feedback, including Cathedral View Holiday Park, as well as Seldom Heard Groups identified in Appendix A of the SoCC (see Section 7.3 of this Consultation Report);

- c. Consultation events – the Applicant hosted in-person consultation events from 8 November 2024 to 23 November 2024 (see Section 7.12);
- d. Literature - The Applicant published and distributed a range of literature to the Core Consultation Zone and wider consultation area and to key stakeholders. This included consultation postcards, consultation information booklets and feedback forms (see Section 7.5);
- e. Communication lines – a freephone information line, Proposed Development email address, and a FREEPOST address were available for interested parties to ask questions and provide feedback (see Section 7.7);
- f. Proposed Development website – provided the latest updates and all consultation materials and Proposed Development information (see Section 7.8);
- g. Online presentation – the Applicant published a recording of its online consultation webinar, held 26 November 2024, on the Proposed Development website (see Section 7.12);
- h. Media and advertising – local media engagement and advertisements informed the wider consultation area of the Proposed Development;
- i. Local information points – to coincide with the launch of statutory consultation, the Applicant hand delivered printed copies of the SoCC, PEI Report NTS, feedback form and information booklet to local information points to enable members of the community to access hard copies of these materials (see Section 7.6).

7.4.4 The hard copy combined s47/48 notices to be sent to consultees were printed and issued by 18 October 2024 and uploaded to the Proposed Development website on 21 October 2024 date. On 21 October 2024 date, after launching the consultation website, it was noticed that the combined s47/48 notice in print and on the website included an error in relation to the opening times for the Navenby and North Hykeham information points, although the notice did include text stating that opening times may be subject to change and so it would be advisable to check with the relevant organisation in advance. At this stage, the Applicant had not sent out the launch of consultation communications. The Applicant therefore decided to address the error in relation to the opening times by providing an update in emails (sent out on 21 October 2024) to prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, noting the difference between the actual opening times and the opening times on the published notice. The Applicant also updated the opening times on the Proposed Development website. The Applicant did not update the notice itself. See also Paragraph 8.8.5.

7.4.5 Thurlby Parish Council pointed out that the wrong Thurlby Parish Council had been contacted in the s42 communications mailout (see paragraph 8.8.6 for more detail on this). The Applicant apologised and took immediate action to resolve the situation. The Applicant sent Thurlby's Chairman the prescribed

email on 23 October 2024 with a link to the postcard and mailed him a copy of the prescribed contact letter along with five information booklets. This still allowed more than the statutory 28 days to respond. See also Paragraph 8.8.6.

- 7.4.6 The Applicant sent out a project update mailout on 31 October 2024 to all email contacts (including update subscribers) which noted that the Applicant had made some minor changes to proposed permissive paths (see also paragraph 7.6.5 below in relation to the hard copies that had been sent to information points). The following documents were updated to account for this:
- a. Statutory consultation Information booklet;
  - b. Layout plan;
  - c. Volume 2: Figures of the PEI Report, specifically:
    - i. Figure 3-2A;
    - ii. Figure 3-2B;
    - iii. Figure 3-3; and
  - d. Volume 4: Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEI Report.

## 7.5 Literature

- 7.5.1 In accordance with the SoCC, the Applicant made the following consultation literature available for the public to view, print and download on the Proposed Development website at the start of the statutory consultation, on 21 October 2024:
- a. Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC);
  - b. Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report;
  - c. Statutory consultation information booklet, which provided an updated summary of the Proposed Development, and how people could provide feedback and take part in the consultation;
  - d. Programme document;
  - e. Layout plan;
  - f. Project location map;
  - g. Postcard;
  - h. Poster;
  - i. Feedback form;
  - j. Exhibition panels;
  - k. The S47 and S48 combined notice;
  - l. The Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report and supporting documents (including a PEI Report Non-Technical Summary), which set out the environmental assessments undertaken to date, explained what was proposed to be constructed and where, as well as the decisions which had been taken in developing the proposals and provided an

overview of the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Development. Views were sought during the consultation on the information contained in the PEI Report and its supporting documents; and

- m. A recording of the online webinar which took place on 26 November 2024.

7.5.2 The website can be viewed here <https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/> and screenshots of the consultation website can be viewed in Appendix 9.1.15.

## 7.6 Information Distribution (postcard, information points, document requests)

7.6.1 In addition to sending the statutory consultation postcard to 11,883 homes and businesses located within the Core Consultation Zone (see Appendix 10.1 and Appendix 9.1.3), the Applicant also distributed consultation information by making hardcopies available at six local information points, listed in **Table 7-1**:

**Table 7-1: Information Points**

Information Points		Address	Opening Times
North Community Library	Hykeham	Valerian Place, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 9YW	Mon - 2:30pm to 5pm Tue - 9:30am to 12:30pm and 2:30pm to 5pm Wed - 9:30am to 12:30pm Thu - 2:30pm to 5pm Fri - 9:30am to 12:30pm Sat - 9:30am to 12:30pm Sun - closed
Lincoln Library		Free School Lane, Lincoln, LN2 1EZ	Mon - 9am to 5pm Tue - 9am to 5pm Wed - 9am to 5pm Thu - 9am to 6pm Fri - 9am to 5pm Sat - 9am to 4pm Sun - closed
Collingham Partnership Library	Community	71 High Street, Collingham, Newark, NG23 1LB	Mon - 2pm to 5pm Tue - 9:30am to 1pm Wed - 2pm to 5pm Thu - 9:30am to 1pm Fri - 9:30am to 1pm Sat - 9:30am to 12:30pm Sun - closed
The Venue		Navenby, Grantham Road, Navenby, Lincoln, LN5 0JJ	Mon - Closed Tue - 10am to Midday Wed - 10am to Midday Thu - 10am to Midday



Information Points		Address	Opening Times
			Fri - 10am to Midday Sat - closed Sun – closed
Bassingham Council office	Parish	The Hammond Hall Lincoln Road Bassingham Lincoln LN5 9HQ	Mon - closed Tue – 8:30am to 4:30pm Wed - 8:30am to 4:30pm Thu - 8:30am to 4:30pm Fri - closed Sat - closed Sun – closed
Sleaford Library		13-16 Market Place, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7SR	Mon - 9am to 5pm Tue - 9am to 5pm Wed - 9am to 5pm Thu - 9am to 6pm Fri - 9am to 5pm Sat - 9am to 1pm Sun – closed

- 7.6.2 Navenby Parish Council highlighted to the Applicant that the address originally given for the Venue was incorrect, as it mistakenly included a reference to the Parish Council office. As result, the website was updated on 6 November 2024 to delete reference to the Parish Council office and instead refer to the Venue only. As the Parish Council office and the Venue are in the same building, signs were also sent to the Parish Council, with the changed address for them to display. This sign redirected people to the correct location within the building. This is in addition to the change in opening times noted in Paragraph 7.4.5 and Paragraph 8.8.6.
- 7.6.3 The following hard copy Proposed Development information was made available to read and/or take away at the information points:
- The PEI Report NTS;
  - Consultation information booklet;
  - Feedback form;
  - Poster; and
  - SoCC.
- 7.6.4 Each information point was informed, in a covering letter accompanying the documents, of what had been sent to them and that these documents had been published on the Proposed Development website.
- 7.6.5 Following amendments made to the PEI Report NTS and the consultation information booklet to account for changes to the proposed permissive paths (see Paragraph 7.4.4), the updated information booklet and PEI Report NTS were posted to the information points on 31 October 2024 with a request to replace the previous versions of these documents.

## 7.7 Section 47 Community Consultation – Communication Lines

- 7.7.1 The Applicant kept all project-dedicated communications lines open for the entire pre-application stage, from 11 September 2023 to the point of Application submission in Summer 2025. In total, communications lines were open for over 630 days, going beyond the 28-day statutory minimum. Through these channels, stakeholders were able to speak to a member of the stakeholder engagement team directly to ask questions, and request information (including in alternative formats):
- a. By emailing: [info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk)
  - b. By calling the FREEPHONE line: 0800 860 6262
  - c. By writing to: FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY.
- 7.7.2 The FREEPHONE information line operated each working day of the consultation period between 09:00 and 17:00, Monday to Friday. The Applicant set up a voicemail service to operate for out of office hours calls. All missed phone enquiries resulted in a callback within 24 hours during the working week. The Applicant made sure to consistently advertise that the FREEPOST postal address would be free of charge to consultees, as there was no need for a stamp.
- 7.7.3 The ways in which consultees were able to provide feedback to the statutory consultation are set out in Section 7.11 of this report.

## 7.8 Section 47 Community Consultation – Website

- 7.8.1 The dedicated Proposed Development website was updated for the statutory consultation, with an online feedback form and consultation page also added. This included the Applicant making all consultation materials freely available for the public to view on the 'Documents' page. These materials could also be downloaded and printed. Screenshots of the consultation website are shown in Appendix 9.1.15.
- 7.8.2 The Proposed Development website was well used, being visited by 2,158 total users over the course of the consultation period.
- 7.8.3 The Applicant managed the project website and online feedback form for the duration of the statutory consultation. The website was updated once again, following the close of consultation on 2 December 2024, to remove the online feedback form and note the close of consultation. As set out in Paragraph 7.11.4a, the Applicant received a total of 47 consultation responses online via the feedback form.

## 7.9 Stakeholder Meetings and Engagement

- 7.9.1 As per the SoCC, the Applicant held stakeholder meetings during the s47 consultation, engaging directly with elected members, MPs, and a number of sensitive stakeholders, including local residents and near neighbours. Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report details all stakeholder engagement before the

Section 47 consultation (including pre-briefings and invitations to meet ahead of statutory consultation). Chapter 12 of this Consultation Report details all ongoing community engagement.

- 7.9.2 The Applicant issued emails on 7 October (Appendix 3.7), in advance of the statutory consultation, to local ward members, MPs, and Parish Councils offering briefings. A briefing with councillors for NKDC was held on 18 October 2024 in advance of the statutory consultation. A briefing was offered to councillors for LCC and the local MP but was not taken up.
- 7.9.3 The Applicant offered briefings to all Parish Councils in its Core Consultation Zone (See Appendix 3.2 for the list of Parish Councils and Appendix 3.7 for the email offering a briefing). Two specific parish council briefings were held:
- The first on 21 November 2024 was held online and was attended by the parishes of Scopwick and Kirkby Green; Doddington and Whisby; and Branston and Mere.
  - The second on 27 November 2024 was held in person at Thorpe on the Hill and was attended by the parishes of Thorpe on the Hill; Coleby; Navenby; Harmston; Witham St Hughs; Thurlby; and Aubourn and Haddington.
- 7.9.4 The Applicant contacted all the councils, mentioned in Paragraph 8.2.5, and councillors in and around the Proposed Development Order Limits to provide a direct digital notification of the s47 consultation period. This email (shown in Appendix 3.4.1) included:
- An introduction to the updated Proposed Development proposals;
  - A direct link to a digital copy of the consultation information booklet;
  - Section 47 consultation period and event details (including references to the step-by-step webinar guide, dates, times, and locations);
  - A direct link to the webpage comprising all Section 47 literature, including reference to the PEIR and PEIR NTS;
  - A direct link to the updated Proposed Development website.
- 7.9.5 The Applicant also contacted Cathedral View Holiday Park. Previous engagement had been undertaken with residents of the Cathedral View Holiday Park. The Applicant sent a letter to these residents which arrived on 23 October 2024 inviting them to meet with the project team at 2.30pm before the Thorpe on the Hill event (see Appendix 3.8). Several attendees from the holiday park attended.

## 7.10 Section 47 Community Consultation – Community Requests

- 7.10.1 While the statutory consultation postcard was sent to all homes and businesses located within the Core Consultation Zone, the Applicant responded to ad-hoc requests for hard copies of non-technical statutory consultation materials in line with the Applicant's SoCC commitments and so that the statutory consultation was accessible to those without website access.

## 7.11 Section 47 Community Consultation Feedback

- 7.11.1 Feedback to the statutory consultation was accepted via the following online and offline methods:
- Hard copy feedback forms sent to the Proposed Development Freepost address;
  - Online feedback forms submitted via the Proposed Development website;
  - Emails to the Proposed Development inbox; and
  - Letters sent to the project FREEPOST address.
- 7.11.2 In total, 216 pieces of feedback were received in response to the statutory consultation. This includes 7 submissions past the deadline of 2 December 2024. Feedback from s47 consultees is summarised in Section 10.3 of this Consultation Report and responses to the feedback are recorded in Appendix 4.1.
- 7.11.3 Representations were received from local authorities, national and local organisations, PILs, and the local community.
- 7.11.4 The feedback comprised:
- Online via the feedback form - 47
  - Email feedback - 141
  - Hardcopy feedback forms - 26
  - Hardcopy mail – 2.
- 7.11.5 Late responses were received from the Forestry Commission, the Lincoln and Witham Landscape Recovery Project, a member of the Stop Fosse Green Action Group, and from two members of the public. Noting that these responses were submitted a few days after the close of consultation, the responses were considered by the Applicant.
- 7.11.6 On 18 November 2024, a feedback extension was granted to Parish Councils who the Applicant was planning to brief on 27 November 2024. The deadline for feedback was extended to 9 December 2024 to ensure the Parish Councils had sufficient time to respond in detail to the statutory consultation following the briefing. The Applicant received feedback from Coleby Parish Council and Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council in response. See Paragraphs 8.8.7 to 8.8.9.

## 7.12 Section 47 Community Consultation Events

- 7.12.1 In compliance with the SoCC, statutory consultation events took place between Friday 8 November 2024 and Tuesday 26 November.
- 7.12.2 As discussed and agreed with local authorities in the draft SoCC (see Chapter 6 of the Consultation Report), four places were selected at key locations throughout the Core Consultation Zone for in-person consultation events. The Applicant received 26 hardcopy feedback forms provided by s47 consultees via the Freepost address and at consultation events. The online community

webinar event on 26 November 2024 was held via Zoom (Appendix 9.1.12), during which members of the public were able to join at any point via telephone or internet.

- 7.12.3 The Applicant held in-person consultation events on Fridays in the evening and on Saturdays during the day, with the webinar held on Tuesday evening, to allow for maximum attendance. Overall, 349 people attended the events.

**Table 7-2: Statutory Consultation In-Person Events**

Event Venue	Date and Time	Attendees
The Venue, Navenby, Grantham Road, Navenby, Lincoln LN5 0JJ	Friday 8 November 2024 13:30 to 17:30	111
Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room, Lincoln Lane, Thorpe on the Hill, Lincoln LN6 9BH	Saturday 9 November 2024 15:00 to 19:00	58
Hammond Hall and Sports Centre, 35, Lincoln Road, Bassingham, Lincoln, LN5 9HQ	Friday 22 November 2024 15:00 to 19:00	95
Witham St Hughs Village Hall, Caraway Drive, Witham St Hughs, Lincoln, LN6 9XG	Saturday 23 November 2024 12:30 to 16:30	76
Online via Zoom	Tuesday 26 November 2024 18:00 to 19:00	9

- 7.12.4 The Applicant produced information panels displaying information about the Proposed Development and the ways to provide feedback. These were exhibited at the four in-person events, as well as at the webinar in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

- 7.12.5 All materials were available on the Proposed Development website, as described in Section 7.5. The following Proposed Development information was available at the statutory consultation events on display and/or to take away (as viewable in Appendix 9.1.9):

- Consultation information booklets, which provided an updated summary of the Proposed Development and how people could provide feedback (copies to take away);
- Site layout plans;
- The project location map;
- Hardcopy feedback forms (copies to take away);
- The hardcopy PEI Report;
- PEI Report NTS (copies to take away);
- Consultation exhibition panels;
- Statement Of Community Consultation (copies to take away).

- 7.12.6 Photos of the statutory consultation events can be found in Appendix 9.1.9.
- 7.12.7 During the webinar that the Applicant held on 26 November 2024, the Applicant's team explained the purpose of the consultation and how to provide feedback. The team ran through the different elements of the Proposed Development and responded to questions and comments posed by the public in the live Q&A box. Two questions/comments were received (viewable in Appendix 9.1.13) and were responded to verbally during the online webinar.
- 7.12.8 The Applicant published recordings of the webinar event, as shown in Appendix 9.1.12, on the Proposed Development website, enabling those who may not have been able to attend or who would like to review the session to access the presentation and the Q&A portion where team members had responded to questions posed by the public.
- 7.12.9 During the four in-person and one online information events, the Applicant's team included members from all relevant disciplines, including consultants from key environmental disciplines and the promoters of the Proposed Development, to explain the Proposed Development and answer questions from members of the local community.

## 7.13 Section 47 Consultation Publicity

- 7.13.1 In addition to the publication of the SoCC on 19 May 2022 as discussed in Chapter 6 of this Consultation Report, the consultation and consultation events were publicised in the following ways:
- A community consultation postcard (Appendix 9.1.3) was issued to 11,883 homes and businesses in the Core Consultation Zone on 18 October 2024 before the consultation launch on 21 October 2024 and three weeks before the first event;
  - Information posters (Appendix 9.1.4) were sent to six local information points - North Hykeham Community Library, Lincoln Library, Collingham Community Partnership Library, The Venue @ Navenby, Bassingham Parish Council office, and Sleaford Library, as well as to 84 other publicly accessible community spaces within the wider consultation area (Appendix 10.1);
  - Direct digital notifications were provided to MPs, elected representatives, Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings, Community Groups, Seldom Heard Groups, and the 256 individuals signed up to the digital mailing list (See Appendix 6.2.4 and Appendix 3.4.2 for the lists of persons notified and Appendix 3.4.1 for the digital notifications);
  - The Applicant delivered hard copy materials to the information points on 17 October 2024 and 18 October 2024. This included copies of the feedback form, brochure, PEI Report NTS and SoCC (see Appendix 9.1.11);
  - A link to the electronic postcard on the Proposed Development website was sent by the Applicant to host authority officers and local ward members as part of the launch (see Appendix 3.4.1 for the digital notification and Appendix 9.1.3 for the postcard);



- f. The consultation event details were posted on the Proposed Development website (Appendix 9.1.15);
  - g. Adverts were placed across local media (Advert shown in Appendix 9.1.14 with more detail in Paragraph 7.13.5); and
  - h. A press release was issued to 13 local and industry media outlets (See Appendix 10.4 for the media outlets contacted and Appendix 10.5 for the press release).
- 7.13.2 The Applicant directly publicised the statutory consultation period and events by providing a digital notification at the start of the statutory consultation, on 21 October 2024, to s47 consultees and Seldom Heard Groups as listed in Appendix 6.2.2, s42 consultees as listed in Appendix 3.1, and s43 Local Authorities including host and neighbouring Councils and Parish Councils (see Appendix 3.4.1 for the digital notifications).
- 7.13.3 The Applicant also sent out a project update mailout on 31 October 2024 to all email contacts (including update subscribers) which noted that the Applicant had made some minor changes to proposed permissive paths. This notification also advertised the four in-person events and online event.
- 7.13.4 As detailed in Chapter 9 and Appendix 6.4, the combined s47/s48 notice was issued to the Lincolnshire Echo (local), The Guardian (national) and the London Gazette. The London Gazette and The Guardian published the notice on 21 October 2024. The Lincolnshire Echo published the notice on 17 October and 24 October 2024. Appendix 2.2 contains copies of the combined notice as published in these outlets. This was done in accordance with s47(6) of the PA 2008, with the combined notice stating where and when the SoCC could be inspected by the public.
- 7.13.5 The Applicant also placed an advertisement in three local media outlets. The coverage area of the local newspapers in which the Applicant placed the advert is shown in Appendix 10.2. The coverage area ensured all interested parties could be notified of the events.

**Table 7-3: Newspaper Advertisements**

Media Outlet	Publication Dates
Lincolnshire Echo	24 October 2024
Lincolnshire Echo	31 October 2024
Lincolnshire World	23 October 2024
Lincolnshire World	30 October 2024
The Newark Advertiser	24 October 2024
The Newark Advertiser	31 October 2024

- 7.13.6 On 21 October 2024, the Applicant issued a press release (as shown in Appendix 10.5) to 13 media outlets (nine local media outlets; four UK general trade / industry outlets). The press release contained details of the consultation, links to the website, and how to provide feedback. A full list of media outlets contacted as part of the statutory consultation is listed in

Appendix 10.4. The media list in Appendix 10.4 also accounts for changes in publications since the media list presented in the draft SoCC that was consulted on as part of the draft SoCC consultation (see Appendix 6.2.1 and Section 6.3 of the Consultation Report), Appendix 10.4 notes that the Lincolnite was no longer being published when the statutory consultation launched. The publication was removed from the media list of the final SoCC (Appendix 6.3) as a result. The Witham Herald and Hykeham Gazette had also merged. The press release was therefore sent to one email contact that represented both publications.

- 7.13.7 In total, the Applicant received 182 s47 consultee feedback responses to the statutory consultation (in addition to 34 s42 consultee feedback responses). The Applicant's responses to this feedback can be viewed in Appendix 4.

## 7.14 Statement of Compliance with Formal Consultation under Section 47

- 7.14.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with s47 of the PA 2008 because:

- a. The Applicant prepared the draft SoCC under s47(1);
- b. The Applicant consulted on the draft SoCC with all relevant local authorities as defined within s43(1) of the PA 2008 giving them each at least 28 days to respond (in accordance with s47(2) and s47(3) of the PA 2008);
- c. In preparing the final SoCC, the Applicant had regard to any responses received from the relevant local authorities during consultation on the draft SoCC under s47(5) (see Section 6.3);
- d. The Applicant made the SoCC available for inspection by the public from 21 October 2024 on the Proposed Development website and in hard copies at local information points, in accordance with s47(6);
- e. The Applicant advertised that the SoCC was available for inspection by the public, via the combined notice, published in the publications listed in Paragraph 7.13.4 (under s47(6)(a) of the PA 2008);
- f. The Applicant commenced statutory consultation with the community through the publication of its SoCC on 21 October 2024 and in accordance with the SoCC, which also complied with the prescribed requirements in Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations (in accordance with s47(6)(b) of the PA 2008);
- g. The Applicant consulted with the community i.e., those persons defined under s47 of the PA 2008 as living in the vicinity of the land where the Proposed Development is, over a core and wider consultation zone (which was in accordance with the SoCC, in compliance with s47(7) of the PA 2008);
- h. In addition to those living within the consultation area for the Proposed Development, the Applicant identified and engaged with local community groups, held briefing meetings, and engaged with locally elected representatives (which was in accordance with the SoCC, in compliance with s47(7) of the PA 2008);

- i. The Applicant held one statutory phase of s47 consultation in addition to the non-statutory round detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report (together comprising two rounds of community consultation events) to enable an iterative design of the Proposed Development in response to the consultation process (which was in accordance with the SoCC, in compliance with s47(7) of the PA 2008);
- j. The Applicant welcomed 349 people over its four in-person and one online statutory consultation events;
- k. The Applicant purposely ran the statutory s47 consultation in parallel to s42 consultation (collectively known as the “statutory consultation”) to invite responses from the community to the PEI Report and PEI Report NTS; and
- l. The consultation period ran from 21 October to 2 December 2024. Consultation documents were issued by post to consultees on 18 October and were received by 21 October. This meant there was a 42-day response period, beginning with the day after the day on which the consultation documents were received, provided for the statutory consultation, going beyond the 28-day statutory requirement.

## **8. Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of The Planning Act 2008 (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024)**

### **8.1 Introduction**

- 8.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report details the statutory consultation under s42 of the PA 2008 ('section 42 consultation') and provides an overview of the statutory consultation activities that took place during the formal consultation period commencing 21 October 2024 and closing 2 December 2024.

### **8.2 Statutory Requirements and Guidance**

- 8.2.1 Section 42 of the PA 2008 requires that the Applicant must consult the following groups of stakeholders about the proposed Application:
- Such persons as may be prescribed;
  - The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) where the proposed development would affect (or be likely to affect) the areas specified in s42(2);
  - Each local authority that is within s43;
  - The Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London; and
  - Each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in s44.
- 8.2.2 Prescribed consultees are defined in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations. Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations makes provision through a 'circumstances' test for whether there is a requirement to consult a specific party. Appendix 3.1 sets out which consultees were prescribed. Regard was had to the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report in identifying consultation bodies.
- 8.2.3 As the Proposed Development does not affect any of the areas specified in s42(2), the Applicant was not required to, but did, consult the MMO. The MMO still provided feedback to the consultation, and this feedback can be viewed in Appendix 5.1.
- 8.2.4 All s42 consultees received the same Proposed Development information.
- 8.2.5 In relation to s42(1)(b), the local authorities under the definitions set out in s43 of the PA 2008 were consulted, which sets out four categories of authority:
- A is a neighbouring authority that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower tier district council within whose area the development is situated – an adjacent authority;

- b. B is either a unitary council or lower tier district council in which the development is situated – a host authority;
- c. C is an upper-tier county council in whose area the development is situated – a host authority; and
- d. D is a neighbouring local authority (other than a lower tier district council) that shares a boundary with an upper-tier county council in whose area the development is situated – an adjacent authority.

8.2.6 Details of the identification of the relevant local authorities, and which category of authority they fall within, is included in **Table 8-1** below:

**Table 8-1: Section 43 Groupings**

Section 43 Grouping	Description	Local Authorities
A	A neighbouring authority that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower tier district council within whose area the development is situated (an adjacent authority).	Lincoln City Council; West Lindsey District Council; Newark and Sherwood District Council; East Lindsey District Council; North East Lincolnshire Council; North Lincolnshire Council; North Northamptonshire Council; Peterborough City Council; Boston Borough Council; South Holland District Council; South Kesteven District Council;
B	Either a unitary council or lower tier district council in which the development is situated (a host authority).	North Kesteven District Council
C	An upper-tier County Council in whose area the development is situated.	Lincolnshire County Council
D	A neighbouring local authority (other than a lower tier DC) that shares a boundary with an upper-tier county council in whose area the development is situated.	Nottinghamshire County Council; Rutland County Council; Cambridgeshire County Council; Norfolk County Council; Leicestershire County Council; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

8.2.7 S42(1)(c) of the PA 2008 is not relevant to the Proposed Development as no land element of the Proposed Development is within Greater London.

8.2.8 For the purposes of s42(1)(d), a person is within s44 of the PA 2008 if the Applicant knows, after making a diligent inquiry, that the person:

- a. Is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land (Category 1 persons, as per s44(1));
- b. Is interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or release the land (Category 2 persons, s44(2)); or

- c. Would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim under s10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 or Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (Category 3 persons, s44(4)).
- 8.2.9 The relevant persons defined under s44 of the PA 2008 were consulted as part of the s42 consultation between 21 October 2024 and 2 December 2024. The list of land interests is presented in the **Book of Reference [EN010154/APP/4.3]**. In parallel to the s42 consultation, those consultees identified under s44 were engaged by the Applicant's land agents through requests for responses to a landowner questionnaire and request to meet.
- 8.2.10 S45(1) of the PA 2008 states that the Applicant must, when consulting a stakeholder under s42, provide notification of the deadline for responses to the consultation. S45(2) states that such a deadline must not be less than 28 days, beginning with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents. The consultation period ran from 21 October to 2 December 2024. Consultation documents were issued by post to consultees on 18 October and were received by 21 October. This meant there was a 42-day response period, beginning with the day after the day on which the consultation documents were received, provided for the statutory consultation. This goes beyond the 28-day statutory requirement.
- 8.2.11 The Applicant received a total of 34 responses from s42 consultees during the statutory consultation. The Applicant accepted and had regard to one late s42 consultee response received past the deadline. See Appendix 5 for a full record of this feedback and the Applicant's response.

### 8.3 Preliminary Environmental Information Report

- 8.3.1 The Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report and PEI Report Non-Technical Summary (NTS) were produced as part of the documents for the statutory consultation. These were consulted on in compliance with the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
- 8.3.2 The PEI Report was designed to accord with the minimum requirements for an ES (as set out in Regulation 14 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations) as far as possible based on known information.
- 8.3.3 In preparing the PEI Report for consultation, regard was had to the Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements.
- 8.3.4 The findings presented in the PEI Report were based on a preliminary assessment and reflected the design of the Proposed Development at that stage and understanding of baseline conditions, allowing for conclusions as to the likely significant effects to be drawn. Although preliminary, the findings of the assessment set out within the report allowed an informed view to be developed of the Proposed Development being promoted, the assessment approach that had been undertaken, and drew preliminary conclusions on the likely significant effects and environmental measures proposed.



- 8.3.5 The PEI Report NTS was produced, recognising that some s42 consultees may wish to view a more easily digestible and accessible document.

## 8.4 Section 42 Consultees

- 8.4.1 The Applicant consulted all s42 consultees, as listed in Appendix 3.1.
- 8.4.2 Where consultees were identified as both s42 and s44 consultees, any feedback they have provided has been included in the s42 consultation responses identified in Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report.

## 8.5 Section 43 Consultees

- 8.5.1 As identified under s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008, the applicant must consult with the relevant local authorities defined under s43 of the PA 2008. The full list of s43 consultees is listed in **Table 8-1** above and Appendix 3.1.
- 8.5.2 The Applicant received seven pieces of feedback from the list of local authorities consulted under s43 of the PA 2008.

## 8.6 Section 44 Consultees

- 8.6.1 As identified under s42(1)(d), the Applicant must consult with the relevant persons defined under s44 of the PA 2008. Overall, there are a total of 197 named interests in the Book of Reference who have been consulted. The full list of s44 consultees is listed in the **Book of Reference [EN010154/APP/4.3]**.
- 8.6.2 The Applicant sought to identify the s42(1)(d) consultees by diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. The methodology used to identify said persons included a combination of desktop referencing, using HM Land Registry documents and contact referencing which aimed to confirm land ownership findings with the landowner. This was conducted via Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs). The list of land interests is presented in the **Book of Reference [EN010154/APP/4.3]** (hereafter referred to in this Consultation Report as 's44 consultees').
- 8.6.3 Where owners, lessees, tenants or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed unregistered land notices, detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Proposed Development site area. These notices were installed on 12 September 2024 and removed on 21 October 2024, therefore being on display for a 6 week period.
- 8.6.4 An example of the notice and a map showing the locations where the notices were placed is included in Appendix 2.2 and Appendix 8.1, respectively, of this Consultation Report. During the consultation period, the signs were checked on a fortnightly basis. If a notice was damaged or missing it was replaced during these visits.
- 8.6.5 All persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed in the **Book of Reference [EN010154/APP/4.3]** which is up to date at the time of submitting the Application for the DCO. It is noted that the list of s42(1)(d) consultees may be subject to change over time, as a result of the changes in land ownership.

- 8.6.6 The Applicant consulted with landowners, including those with subsoil interests only, as part of the statutory consultation between 21 October 2024 and 2 December 2024. The Applicant informed the s44 consultees of the consultation by sending them a s42(1)(d) letter, which contained the combined s47/48 notice publicising the consultation.
- 8.6.7 Following the close of the statutory consultation, and in the process of completing a HM Land Registry refresh, the Applicant identified several new land interests. A later consultation, in line with the statutory consultation, was therefore held for 12 newly identified s44 consultees within the Order Limits. S42(1)(d) letters and combined s47/48 notices were issued to these parties on 3 March 2025, who were given 28 days to respond.
- 8.6.8 As part of the Applicant's continued efforts throughout the pre-application stage to understand all relevant land interests, a further three s44 consultees were identified – Openreach Limited, Cadent Gas Limited, and J.E. Porter Limited. S42(1)(d) letters (Appendix 3.3) and combined s47/48 notices (Appendix 2.2) were issued to these parties on 20 March 2025 (Openreach Limited) and 25 April 2025 (Cadent Gas Limited and J.E. Porter Limited), who were given 28 days to respond.
- 8.6.9 Landowner knowledge and feedback was critical in shaping the final design of the Proposed Development, with feedback sought on the Proposed Development throughout the Pre-Application stage as the preferred design emerged.
- 8.6.10 The following correspondence was issued to landowners. All parties were given at least the 28-day minimum period to respond, even where this resulted in a deadline later than the close of the statutory consultation (2 December 2024):

**Table 8-2: Summary of Correspondence issued to Landowners**

Document Type	Date and Reasoning
Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs)	<p>8 August 2024</p> <p>LIQs were issued to parties within the Order Limits identified during initial His Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR) interrogations. A template of the LIQ issued can be viewed in Appendix 11.1.</p> <p>A second notification chasing up responses was issued on 22 August 2024.</p> <p>LIQs were issued on an ad hoc basis to parties that were identified as holding an interest in land within the Order Limits after 22 August 2024.</p> <p>LIQs were issued on 18 September 2024 and 26 September 2024 to unregistered residential properties that have an interest in the subsoil of highways that fall within the Order Limits.</p>
S42 (44) letters and notices	21 October 2024

Document Type		Date and Reasoning
		S42(1)(d) letters were issued with the combined s47/48 notice to parties within the Order Limits identified via HMLR interrogations and other Land Referencing activity.
Subsoil Interest letter (S42d)		21 October 2024
		S42(1)(d) letters were issued with the s47/48 combined notice to parties with subsoil interests within the Order Limits identified via HMLR interrogations and other Land Referencing activity.
Category 3 interest letter	Lands	Letters would have been sent to all parties identified that may have been able to make a potential claim in relation to section 10 Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 and section 152(3) of the Planning Act 2008; however, none were identified.
Letter to identified interests	newly lands	3 March 2025, 20 March 2025, and 25 April 2025
		S42(1)(d) letters were issued with the combined notice to newly identified lands interest within the Order Limits. These parties were given 28 days to respond.

8.6.11 A full record of correspondence and engagement with landowners and s44 consultees within and in close proximity to the Proposed Development can be found in the Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought in Annex A of the **Statement of Reasons [EN010154/APP/4.1]**.

8.6.12 In total, the Applicant received 11 responses from s44 consultees to the statutory consultation, including two responses to the newly identified land interests consultation which began 3 March 2025, 20 March 2025, and 25 April 2025. The responses to s44 consultees can be found in Appendix 5.2.

## 8.7 Duty to Notify the Planning Inspectorate of the Proposed Application under Section 46 of The Planning Act 2008

8.7.1 Prior to commencing the statutory consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent for the Proposed Development under s46 of the PA 2008. The notification was sent to the Planning Inspectorate via email on 18 October 2024 and attached a s46 covering letter (Appendix 2.1) and the following documents for download via a SharePoint folder:

- Combined notice
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
- Example letters to s42(1)(a) (aa) (b), and (d) consultees
- PEI Report and the PEI Report NTS
- Statutory consultation brochure
- Feedback form

- 8.7.2 The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, acknowledged receipt of the notification on 24 October 2024 (Appendix 2.3).

## 8.8 Undertaking Section 42 Consultation

- 8.8.1 All s42 consultees were formally written to and notified by both email and recorded post, where possible, at the start of the statutory consultation on 21 October 2024 (Appendix 3.3 and Appendix 3.4). The Applicant was satisfied that all consultees had been contacted by post, email, or both methods about the launch of consultation.
- 8.8.2 The consultation period ran from 21 October to 2 December 2024. Consultation documents were issued by post to consultees on 18 October and were received by 21 October. This meant there was a 42-day response period, beginning with the day after the day on which the consultation documents were received, provided for the statutory consultation. This goes beyond the 28-day statutory requirement.
- 8.8.3 The notification of the launch of consultation to s42 consultees contained:
- The s42 cover letter, setting out ways to participate in the consultation and submit feedback;
  - A copy of the combined s47/48 notice; and
  - A link to the consultation materials including the PEI Report (whereby the PEI Report constituted a s42 consultation document under s45(3) of the PA 2008), PEI Report NTS, consultation booklet, consultation leaflet and consultation feedback form.
- 8.8.4 A link to the Applicant's website, which contained a copy of the consultation postcard, was sent separately by email to host authority officers, as per the Applicant's SoCC commitments. A link to the postcard was also sent to Parish Councils, for their awareness, with the s42 digital notification (Appendix 3.4.1).
- 8.8.5 The digital s42 covering letter was updated with a corrective that noted the opening times for North Hykeham Community Library and Navenby Parish Council information points differed from the ones published in the combined notice. The correct opening times were listed instead. The combined notice contained in the digital notification remained as it appeared in print and on the website.
- 8.8.6 On 23 October 2024, the Applicant was made aware by Thurlby Parish Council in North Kesteven District I that it had not received materials about the consultation. It was discovered that Thurlby Parish Council in South Kesteven district had been initially contacted instead at the launch of consultation. To correct this, the Applicant:
- Emailed the Chair of Thurlby Parish Council in North Kesteven District on 23 October 2024 with the s42 notification and a link to the postcard;
  - Mailed five consultation booklets to the Chair, as per their request, along with a copy of the s42 cover letter; and

- c. Maintained the deadline for consultation feedback as 2 December 2024, given the materials and email were sent within a time frame that would still provide Thurlby Parish Council with more than the minimum 28-day time period required for the consultation.
- 8.8.7 In the process of coordinating the second Parish Council briefing on 27 November 2024, the Applicant decided to extend the consultation feedback deadline, from 2 December 2024 to 9 December 2024, for those Parish Councils invited to the briefing. By providing an extra week, the Applicant aimed to provide sufficient time for detailed responses to the consultation to be submitted following the briefing.
- 8.8.8 As the Applicant was coordinating the Parish Council briefing with Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council, the Applicant first emailed the Parish Council on 15 November 2024 notifying it of the extension. This was done with the awareness that Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council would likely have already been in communication with the other Parish Councils invited to attend the briefing and so would pass on the message. For certainty, the Applicant nevertheless emailed the seven other Parish Councils on 18 November 2024 to also directly notify them of the extension, including:
  - a. Aubourn with Haddington Parish Council;
  - b. Coleby Parish Council;
  - c. Harmston Parish Council;
  - d. Navenby with Skinnard Parish Council;
  - e. Norton Disney Parish Council;
  - f. Thurlby Parish Council; and
  - g. Witham St Hughs Parish Council.
- 8.8.9 The Applicant received two pieces of feedback, one from Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council and one from Coleby Parish Council, between 2 December 2024 and 9 December 2024, with Thurlby Parish Council submitting its feedback on 2 December 2024.
- 8.8.10 In total, the Applicant received 34 s42 consultee feedback responses to the statutory consultation. A summary of s42 consultee feedback can be viewed in Section 11.2 of this Consultation Report and the Applicant's responses to this feedback can be viewed in Appendix 5.

## 8.9 Statement of Compliance with Formal Consultation under Section 42

- 8.9.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with s42, s44, s45 and s46 of the PA 2008:
  - a. The Applicant consulted with such persons as may be prescribed (s42(1)(a) to s42(1)(d) and relevant to the Proposed Development, including landowners under s44);

- b. Notification of the Proposed Development under s46 was provided to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 18 October 2024; and
- c. Notification of the Proposed Development to s42 consultees commenced on 22 October 2024, as documents were received by s42 consultees on 21 October 2024, providing a 42-day notification period and a total response period of 42 days for all statutory consultees, exceeding the statutory period of 28 days.



## 9. Statutory Consultation – Duty to Publicise the Application under Section 48 (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024)

### 9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 The chapter details how the Applicant has complied with s48 of the PA 2008 (duty to publicise).

### 9.2 Statutory Requirements and Guidance

- 9.2.1 S48 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to publicise the proposed Application in the prescribed manner. As part of publicising the proposed Application, a deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity must also be included.
- 9.2.2 Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations sets out the requirements for publicity under s48 of the PA 2008, which include details of the content of the notice to be published and publication of the notice in given publications. Specifically, Regulation 4 requires an applicant to publish the notice for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers and once in a national newspaper and in the London Gazette. The Applicant placed notices in the London Gazette and The Guardian in addition to local publications.
- 9.2.3 For the Proposed Development, s48 publicity took place in parallel with the statutory consultation.
- 9.2.4 The Applicant, for reasons of simplicity and ensuring maximum community impact, combined the s48 notice and the s47 notice into a 'combined notice'.
- 9.2.5 Paragraph 9.3.5 specifies the publications and timing of the combined notice publication, including in the national and local newspapers, and in the London Gazette.
- 9.2.6 As set out in the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Guidance, Regulation 13 of EIA Regulations 2017 requires that, at the same time as the publicising of project proposals under s48 of the PA 2008, applicants must also notify the consultation bodies (the prescribed consultees and s43 local authorities) together with any person notified to the applicant by the Secretary of State under Regulation 11(1)(c). No consultation bodies were notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c). The Applicant complied with this guidance by issuing the combined notice to s42 consultees at the launch of the statutory consultation, on 21 October 2024, and publishing the notice on the Proposed Development website.
- 9.2.7 Evidence of compliance with the relevant legislation and guidance is provided in Appendix 1.2.

## 9.3 Publication of Notice

- 9.3.1 The combined notice (available in Appendix 2.2) publicising the Proposed Development and advertising the intention to apply for a DCO was placed in the Lincolnshire Echo for two successive weeks, once in the Guardian and the London Gazette.
- 9.3.2 All consultees identified under s42 of the PA 2008, including the consultation bodies (prescribed consultees and local authorities within s43) as required by Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, were provided with a copy of the combined notice, both digitally and by post.
- 9.3.3 Copies of the advertisements and notices, as placed on site, are provided at Appendix 8.12 and Appendix 8.23.
- 9.3.4 The combined notice included the required information under Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations.
- 9.3.5 The combined notice was issued to the Lincolnshire Echo (local), The Guardian (national) and the London Gazette. The London Gazette and The Guardian published the notice on 21 October 2024. The Lincolnshire Echo published the notice on 17 October and 24 October 2024. Appendix 6.4 contains copies of the combined notice as published in these outlets.
- 9.3.6 As noted in paragraph 8.6.4, the Applicant placed combined notices around the Proposed Development area. The notice is shown in Appendix 2.2 and locations for the notices are shown in Appendix 8.1. The Applicant checked the locations of the notices on a fortnightly basis throughout the consultation period, replacing any that had been removed.

## 9.4 Statement of Compliance with the Duty to publicise the Application under Section 48

- 9.4.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with s48 of the PA 2008:
  - a. The Applicant publicised the Proposed Development in a single notice, and consecutive notices where required, in the publications listed in paragraph 9.3.5.
  - b. The Applicant publicised a s47/s48 combined notice, which was published at the start of the statutory consultation and issued to s42 consultees at the launch of consultation as part of the s42 consultee notification; and
  - c. The Applicant placed the notices around the Proposed Development Site area.

# **10. Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of The Planning Act 2008 (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024): Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made**

## **10.1 Introduction**

10.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under s49 of the PA 2008 to take account of consultation responses received under s47 of the PA 2008.

## **10.2 Statutory Section 47 Consultation (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024) Responses**

10.2.1 In response to the statutory (s47) consultation, the Applicant received 182 feedback responses. This includes 47 online responses, 107 email responses, 26 hardcopy feedback forms, and two pieces of hardcopy mail.

10.2.2 The key issues arising from feedback received during this period and how the Applicant has had regard to this is outlined in Appendix 4.

10.2.3 The format of the feedback form included comprehensive questions regarding the Proposed Development. Feedback forms also included free-form spaces for consultees to provide open feedback on the Proposed Development. The full feedback form can be viewed in Appendix 9.1.2.

10.2.4 Feedback provided by s47 consultees has been summarised and responded to thematically by the Applicant. This is to ensure that similar pieces of feedback receive a consistent response. To do this, pieces and sections of feedback were grouped together by theme and were then assigned sub-categories. An example of a theme would be 'Community Benefits', and within the 'Community Benefits' theme there are sub-categories such as 'Solar panels for buildings' and 'Collaboration with local organisations'. Each sub-category received an Applicant's response. Each piece of feedback was also anonymised before a response was provided, in the interests of data safeguarding and ensuring consistent and fair responses were given. All feedback responses to the consultation under s47, including how the Applicant has had regard to these responses under s49 of the PA 2008, can be viewed in Appendix 4.

## **10.3 Summary of s47 Consultee Comments**

10.3.1 A summary of the key themes and issues raised in s47 feedback are:

- a. BESS – concerns around safety, noise, size and screening.

- b. Community benefits – suggestions for community benefits including solar pV installation on local buildings, new facilities, improvements to local buildings and green spaces, and energy grants and discounts.
- c. Consultation – focus on the consultation events and materials presented, requests for future collaboration with local groups and representatives, and comments on the purpose of the consultation.
- d. Decommissioning – concerns about recycling infrastructure and the feasibility of decommissioning in addition to comments about land use following decommissioning.
- e. General positive and negative feedback – including references to Neighbourhood and Local Plans in addition to concerns about privacy and supply chain.
- f. Grid connection corridor – focus on construction impact, distance to the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby, and connection availability.
- g. Landscape, ecology and biodiversity – concerns raised about potential impact on wildlife, the usage of green spaces and farmland, flooding, and visual impact, Comments also provided on biodiversity net gain and on suggestions for environmental mitigation.
- h. Location of infrastructure – including concerns about the proximity of solar infrastructure to villages, and preferences expressed for brownfield and rooftop solar. Comments about heritage also included.
- i. Permissive paths and recreation – requests for more public footpaths and entry points to the Proposed Development site, as well as comments about path changes and access.
- j. Traffic, transport and construction – concerns about the noise, safety, volume and routes of construction traffic. Suggestions also provided for access points and traffic mitigation measures.
- k. UK net zero policy and the need cause of the Proposed Development – support for net zero initiatives as well as concerns about the efficiency of solar power, overall carbon footprint, and the number of developments in the local area. Comments also provided around the planning consents process and requesting strategic planning of cumulative developments in the area.
- l. Other topics, including around theft and damage to solar infrastructure, electrical consumption, procurement ethics, and pV production

# **11. Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of The Planning Act 2008 (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024): Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made**

## **11.1 Introduction**

- 11.1.1 This chapter provides an overview of the feedback and key comments received by consultees in response to the s42 statutory consultation, including s42 and s44 consultees.
- 11.1.2 During the s42 consultation, a total of 34 responses were received on the Proposed Development. The complete list of all comments received, together with the Applicant's responses, are detailed in Appendix 5.
- 11.1.3 Feedback provided by statutory consultees has been responded to by the Applicant point-by-point, noting the detailed and specific nature of each response provided. The feedback was organised by theme to ensure clarity in responses, and so that similar feedback could be viewed together.

## **11.2 Summary of s42 and s44 Consultee Comments**

- 11.2.1 A summary of the key themes and issues raised in s42 and s44 feedback are:
- a. Agricultural land - the impact of development on Best and Most Versatile land and food security concerns.
  - b. Battery safety - risk of fire.
  - c. Biodiversity net gain - positive responses to 10 per cent commitment.
  - d. Cable undergrounding - concerns over asset protection.
  - e. Carbon footprint – concerns over GHG emissions during construction of the project.
  - f. Construction – concerns over asset protection and interactions, cumulative impact of intermittent equipment replacement during operational lifespan, impact on residents and local villages in construction phase and increased congestion due to construction traffic.
  - g. Decommissioning - 60-year operational lifespan exceeds the description of 'temporary use'. Concerns over the ability to return the site to its pre-construction state.
  - h. Waste and contamination - concerns over recycling of replaced equipment during operational lifespan and on handling of foul and wastewater.

- i. Flooding - comments that insufficient consideration has been made for several factors regarding flood risks.
- j. Heritage – feedback about the need for further cumulative impact analysis and archaeological evaluation.
- k. Woodland – concern for ancient woodland in proximity to the site.
- l. National Grid infrastructure – questions about the development in absence of a grid connection / substation at Navenby.
- m. Permissive paths and recreation – requests to limit impact on public rights of way.
- n. Preference for alternative renewable energy generation - concerns over the effectiveness of solar farms and concerns over local resident's wellbeing.
- o. Roads and traffic management – concerns around the impact of HGVs on the condition of local roads. Comments raising concerns about glint and glare impacting people's safety while using roads.
- p. Supply chain – comments to publish supplier carbon emissions.
- q. Visual impact – particular comments relating to impacts on tourism, concerns over reversibility, loss of rural amenity and cumulative impacts.
- r. Water supply: scoping of water supply in EIA potentially premature.
- s. Wildlife and land animal habitats: maintaining good management of mitigation measures.

11.2.2 A detailed summary of s42 and s44 feedback can be found in Appendix 5.

## 11.3 Summary of Changes

11.3.1 Following the statutory consultation, the Applicant reviewed and considered all feedback received and continued to develop the Proposed Development, also taking account of ongoing surveys and assessments. The main changes to the design of the Proposed Development made as a result of the feedback received during statutory consultation include:

- a. Removal of solar photovoltaics (PV) from a field to the south-east of Thorpe on the Hill. This can be used for ecological mitigation and enhancement;
- b. Removal of solar PV from a field east of Morton which was located immediately east of a proposed orchard;
- c. Change of the permissive path network around Housham Wood in response to a request by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust;
- d. Change of the permissive path network around Cathedral Park, a caravan park north of the A46, in response to requests by local residents;
- e. Change of the permissive path network in the southern part of the site, providing better pedestrian links between Thurlby and Bassingham;



- f. Removal of solar PV in a field west of (the north-western part of) Bassingham to minimise views of the solar infrastructure for residents with open views across the site;
- g. Reduction in the size of the BESS compound. This will reduce noise impacts and allow for more landscaping; and
- h. Slight reduction in the grid connection corridor within which the buried connection cable will be located between the principal site and the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby. This change will remove land from our proposals that will no longer be required.

11.3.2 **Table 11-1** below sets out the key feedback themes received during statutory consultation where design changes were not implemented, and justification as to why as relevant.

**Table 11-1: Changes to Development as a result of consultation**

No.	Element of the Proposed Development and issue raised in consultation	Reason why design change was not made
1	Access for the construction and operation of the Proposed Development should be direct from the A46	<p>Following consultation with National Highways, direct access from the A46 is not technically viable due to the nature of it being a major A road which has strict safety and design constraints for new access points. The existing tracks connecting to the A46 were considered unsuitable by the Applicant, in discussion with National Highways and Lincolnshire County Highways.</p> <p>Access points will utilise the local road network, where vehicles will use the A46 and the A46 Fosse Lane/ Haddington Laned grade-separated junction</p>
2	Solar PV panels should be removed from fields near Tunman Wood and Stocking Wood.	<p>The Principal Site layout sought to avoid siting solar PV and BESS infrastructure immediately surrounding residential dwellings and residences. The suggested alternative layout was discounted due to the reduction in renewable energy generation it would create, constraints relating to landscaping proposals, and some areas proposed being outside of the Order Limits. The Applicant has tried to balance the need for renewable energy and maximising renewable generation based on the agreed connection agreement with minimising environmental and social effects.</p>
3	Request to remove all Grade 3a Best and Most Versatile agricultural land from the Application.	<p>Within the Principal Site, there is approximately 282.9 ha of Grade 3a agricultural land with solar infrastructure (the solar panel arrays and the centralised BESS) being located on approximately 124 ha of this. The design has been developed to avoid BMV land as much as practicable, with 69% of the Proposed Development's physical infrastructure proposed to be built on non-BMV land. It should be noted that the withdrawal of this BMV land from agriculture will be reversible after the 60-year operation of the Proposed Development and upon completion of decommissioning, with the possible exception of some hedges or tree planting as part of the Proposed Development that do not need to be removed and the landowners may request remain.</p>
4	The Proposed Development should be seeking a grid connection to the existing substation at South Hykenham, or another substation already in existence, rather than the proposed substation near Navenby.	<p>The Applicant explored a range of grid connection options during the early stages of the project, including a connection at the substation at Whisby. However, the Applicant was informed by National Grid that this point of connection was not available – due to a lack of capacity at the existing substation - and instead the Applicant was offered and</p>

No.	Element of the Proposed Development and issue raised in consultation	Reason why design change was not made
		subsequently secured a point of connection at the proposed National Grid substation near Navenby, which was considered to be the most suitable and strategic point for a grid connection for a project of this scale. The Applicant is not able to dictate or control the point of connection; this was determined by National Grid.
5	The operational life of the Proposed Development should be 40 years, not 60 years.	Due to advances in technology it is reasonable to expect that a development of this type can be suitably maintained to operate efficiently and continue to make a meaningful contribution to renewable energy generation for a 60 year period. This is consistent with the approach taken on other similar DCO projects whereby a 60 year operational period has been granted. This also maximises the renewable energy that can be generated from the Proposed Development and consequently maximises its contribution to the critical need for renewable energy in the UK. Therefore, there is no overriding reason to limit the operational period to less than 60 years.
6	Specific requests for community benefit items, infrastructure or projects to be built or included as part of the Application.	The Proposed Development does not include specific community benefit items/infrastructure as part of the Application. Instead, the local community would be able to use the community fund proposed by the Applicant for such use. The community fund would comprise a pre-agreed amount per export capacity (£400 per MWac per year for the operational life of the Proposed Development) that is available for the local community to spend on local projects such as this. This fund will become available during operation of the Proposed Development. It does not form part of the DCO, but will be delivered in parallel, in liaison with North Kesteven District Council.

No.	Element of the Proposed Development and issue raised in consultation	Reason why design change was not made
7	A line of Solar PV panels should be provided near the upper and lower churchyard.	<p>The proposed location has been carefully selected following a comprehensive site selection assessment considering topography, solar efficiency, land availability, grid connection proximity and environmental impacts, including potential effects on heritage setting. It is important that the Proposed Development does not significantly alter the heritage setting of the local churches and their associated features including graveyards in the surrounding villages. <b>Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution</b> of the Environmental Statement <b>[EN010154/APP/6.1]</b> provides more information on the design evolution of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The churchyard is outside the DCO Site but the local community would be able to use the community fund proposed by the Applicant for such use.</p>
8	Alternative site configuration to the north of the A46	<p>A detailed explanation of why this was discounted is provided at section 4.9.3 of <b>Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution</b> of the Environmental Statement <b>[EN010154/APP/6.1]</b>. In summary, the alternative proposed would have resulted in reduced generation capacity, which does not align with the Design Vision for the Proposed Development which is to maximise the renewable energy generation across the site, given the urgent need for renewable energy generation in the UK. It also contained land outside of the DCO Site boundary and therefore was not deliverable.</p>

## 12. Ongoing Consultation Activities

### 12.1 Introduction

- 12.1.1 The Applicant continued its engagement with a number of consultees, including with members and representatives of local communities, technical stakeholders, landowners and local authorities, in response to the comments raised at the statutory consultation and to demonstrate its commitment to keeping communities updated about the progress of the Proposed Development.
- 12.1.2 Following the statutory consultation, the Applicant consulted with the host authorities and produced an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report (Ref 3).
- 12.1.3 The Applicant has also continued to engage with the community and local representatives by producing a community newsletter in March 2025, hosting a Community Liaison Group in April 2025, and meeting with landowners, Parish Councils, and local councillors.

### 12.2 Adequacy of Consultation Report

- 12.2.1 Responding to the Guidance Note *Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report* and the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone advice in the *Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project: 2024 Pre-Application Prospectus*, the Applicant developed an Adequacy of Consultation Report (Ref 3). This is a written submission to the Inspectorate which establishes the consultation undertaken to date, confirms the approaches set out in the SoCC, and summarises the consultation responses and how they have shaped the application.
- 12.2.2 The Applicant has consulted with both host authorities on the Adequacy of Consultation Report, which have both agreed that the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone has been met. The host authorities' responses to the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone can be viewed in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report (Ref 3) that was submitted to the Inspectorate on 18 April 2025.

### 12.3 Ongoing Community Responses

- 12.3.1 The Applicant has continued to engage with the local community and its representatives following the conclusion of statutory consultation.
- 12.3.2 Throughout this period, the website and communications channels used throughout the project development – email, freephone and freepost – remained active. The Applicant responded to enquiries throughout the period between end of statutory consultation and submission.
- 12.3.3 The Applicant met with the residents of Morton Lane in October 2024 to discuss the Proposed Development. Feedback from the meeting was

considered by the Applicant, including construction access on The Avenue; the option for an alternative access direct on to the A46; the proposed emergency access at the northern end of Morton Lane; and the proposed community orchard to the east of Morton Lane. In response to this feedback, the Applicant issued a letter to the residents on 6 February 2025 which noted how the Applicant had had regard to the points raised, the next steps for the Proposed Development, and a commitment to further engagement with the residents. See Appendix 13.1.

- 12.3.4 The Applicant issued a community newsletter to everyone who had registered an interest in the Proposed Development along with MPs, elected representatives and other stakeholders. The first newsletter was issued on 20 March 2025, and further editions are planned through consenting and construction. See Appendix 13.2.
- 12.3.5 As had been discussed with host authorities, and as raised during the statutory consultation, the project established a Community Liaison Group (CLG) focused on Parish Councils in and around the Proposed Development. The first CLG took place on 28 April 2025 (see Appendix 13.3 for more details). Further meetings are planned through the consenting process and on into construction.

## 12.4 Ongoing Landowner Negotiations

- 12.4.1 The Applicant has continued to engage with Principal Site and Cable Corridor landowners in relation to the Proposed Development since the statutory consultation. Further details of engagement with landowners at this stage can be found in the Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought in Annex A of the **Statement of Reasons [EN010154/APP/4.1]**.



## 13. Conclusion

### 13.1 Concluding remarks

- 13.1.1 The Applicant has carried out extensive pre-application consultation and engagement on the Proposed Development with clear reference to the PA 2008. This has been an iterative process and consultation has complied with, and exceeded, the requirements of the PA 2008. It has considered and responded to updated guidance and comments from relevant bodies including Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) and the Inspectorate, including the Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report.
- 13.1.2 The Applicant has sought to build positive relationships with key stakeholders and has appreciated, and benefited from, the engagement and guidance of the Inspectorate and Local Authorities. This has actively shaped the consultation undertaken.
- 13.1.3 The Applicant has actively listened to comments on its approach to public consultation from stakeholders and communities throughout the engagement leading up to the statutory consultation. Post statutory consultation, it is continuing to actively engage through a number of channels including through creating a Community Liaison Group.
- 13.1.4 The Applicant has engaged early with local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees including an awareness raising project launch in May 2023 and the non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023.
- 13.1.5 The Applicant has conducted a thorough consultation process which has allowed it to identify, consider and, as far as possible, seek to reach agreement on issues likely to arise during the examination.
- 13.1.6 For the non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation, the Applicant shared information at an early enough stage to allow the proposal to be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what was proposed.
- 13.1.7 The Applicant has carried out two stages of consultation and carefully considered feedback received - making changes after each stage. These changes are summarised in Section 4.8 and Section 11.3, as well as in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5 of this Consultation Report.
- 13.1.8 The Applicant carried out a statutory consultation under s47, s42 and s48 in parallel. The period provided to comment was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed under s45(2) of the PA 2008.
- 13.1.9 The Applicant has received significant interest and engagement at all stages of consultation and has sought to address comments, concerns and issues raised in the final Proposed Development design where possible and has responded to comments raised in the Consultation Report.

13.1.10 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 [EN010154/APP/1.5]** which forms part of the DCO application documents.

## 14. References

- Ref 1 His Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) (2017) The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents/made>
- Ref 2 Fosse Green Energy Preliminary Environmental Information Report (2024). Available at: <https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/documents/>
- Ref 3 Fosse Green Energy Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report (2025). Available at: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010154/documents>
- Ref 4 Fosse Green Energy Scoping Report submitted to the Secretary of State on 19 June 2023 (2023). Available at: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010154/documents>
- Ref 5 Fosse Green Energy Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report (2024). Available at: <https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/assets/images/pdf/FGE-Consultation-Report-Final-Oct.pdf>

# 15. List of Appendices

## Appendix 1 - Consultation Compliance Checklist

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1.1 - Table 1-1 SoCC Compliance Checklist

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1.2 - Legislation and guidance followed

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## Appendix 2 - Section 46 Notification to Planning Inspectorate (18 October 2024)

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2.1 - Section 46 Notification to Planning Inspectorate (18 10 24)

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2.2 - Combined Section 47 / 48 Notice

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2.3 - Acknowledgement of Section 46 Notification (24 10 24)

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## Appendix 3 - Section 42 Consultees and Consultation (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024)

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3.1 - Table 3-1 Consultees consulted under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008

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3.2 - Early Engagement Briefings

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3.2.1 - Lincolnshire County Council Briefing

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3.2.2 - North Kesteven District Council Briefing

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3.2.3 - Caroline Johnson MP Briefing

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3.2.4 - Witham and Brant Cluster Meeting

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3.3 - Section 42 Notification of Statutory Consultation (21 10 24)

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3.4 - Section 42 Digital Notification of Statutory Consultation (21 10 24)

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3.4.1 - Email

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3.4.2 - Additional Consultation Notifications (24 10 24)

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3.5 - Section 42 Notification of Non-Statutory Public Consultation (11 09 23)

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3.5.1 - Covering Email and Mailing List

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3.4.2 - Non-Statutory Community Consultation Postcard

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3.6 - Regulation 8(1)(b) Notification and Regulation 10(1) cover letter (19 06 23)

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3.7 - Stakeholder Briefings for Statutory Consultation

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3.8 - Cathedral View Holiday Park Meeting

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## **Appendix 4 - Applicant Response in Regard to Section 47 Comments (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024)**

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4.1 - Table 4-1 Applicant Response in Regard to Section 47 Comments

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## **Appendix 5 - Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024)**

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5.1 - Table 5-1 Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments

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5.2 - Table 5-2 Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 (Landowner Section 44) Comments

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## **Appendix 6 - Section 47, Duty to Consult the Local Community and Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**

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6.1 - Statement of Community Consultation Cover Emails to Planning Authorities (06 11 23)

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6.2 - Draft Statement of Community Consultation

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6.2.1 - Draft Statement of Community Consultation issued to local authorities (30 10 23)

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6.2.2 - Seldom Heard Groups, Community Groups and Local Information Points reference databases (21 10 24)

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6.2.3 - Updated Draft Statement of Community Consultation issued to local authorities before statutory consultation (06 09 24)

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6.2.4 - Non-prescribed and Seldom Heard Group (SHG) mailout list

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6.3 - Final Statement of Community Consultation

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6.4 - Combined Section 47 / 48 Notice publication

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6.4.1 - The Guardian (21 10 24)

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6.4.2 - The London Gazette (21 10 24)

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6.4.3 - The Lincolnshire Echo (17 10 24 and 24 10 24)

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## **Appendix 7 - Non-Statutory Consultation Outputs (11 September 2023 – 20 October 2023)**

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7.1 - Non-Statutory Public Consultation Materials (11 09 23 – 20 10 23)

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7.1.1 - Information Booklet

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7.1.2 - Feedback Form

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7.1.3 - Poster

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#### 7.1.4 - Early Layout Plan

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#### 7.1.5 - Project Location Map

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#### 7.1.6 - Consultation Panels

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#### 7.1.7 - Website

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#### 7.1.8 - Photos and Summaries of In-Person Events

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#### 7.1.9 - Webinar and slides

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### 7.2 - Non-Statutory Public Consultation Notifications (11 09 23 – 20 10 23)

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### 7.3 - Non-Statutory Public Consultation Publicity (11 09 23 – 20 10 23)

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## **Appendix 8 - Combined Section 47 and 48 Site Notices Locations (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024)**

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### 8.1 - Map of Locations of Combined s47/48 Site Notices in Relation to the Proposed Development

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### 8.2 - Table 8-1 Locations of Combined Section 47 / 48 Site Notices

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## **Appendix 9 - Statutory Community Consultation Outputs (21 October 2024 – 2 December 2024)**

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### 9.1 - Statutory Section 47 and Section 48 Consultation (21 10 24 – 02 12 24) Materials

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#### 9.1.1 - Information Booklet

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#### 9.1.2 - Feedback Form

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#### 9.1.3 - Postcard

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#### 9.1.4 – Poster

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#### 9.1.5 - Exhibition Panels

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#### 9.1.6 - Layout Plan

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#### 9.1.7 - Project Location Map

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#### 9.1.8 - Programme Document (updated 17 03 25)

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#### 9.1.9 - Photos of In-Person Events

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#### 9.1.10 - Google Search Advertising

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#### 9.1.11 - Information Points

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9.1.12 - Webinar Slides and Recording

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9.1.13 - Webinar Questions Received by the Applicant

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9.1.14 - Publicity Advertisements in Local Media

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9.1.15 - Website

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**Appendix 10 - Statutory Consultation Zone (21 October 2024)**

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10.1 - Map of Core Consultation Zone and Wider Consultation Area

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10.2 - Maps of Local Newspaper Coverage Area

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10.3 - Table 10-1 Local Information Points

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10.4 - Table 10-2 Statutory Consultation press release media list

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10.5 - Statutory Consultation Press Release

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**Appendix 11 - Section 44 Consultees and Consultation**

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11.1 - Land Interest Questionnaire

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11.2 - Map of Locations of Combined Section 47 / 48 Site Notices in Relation to the Proposed Development

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**Appendix 12 - Local Representatives Distribution List**

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12.1 - Table 12-1 Local Representatives Distribution List

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**Appendix 13 - Ongoing Community Engagement (3 December 2024 onwards)**

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13.1 - Morton Lane Residents Letter (06 02 25)

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13.2 - Community Update Newsletter (20 03 25)

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13.3 - First meeting of the Community Liason Group (28 04 25)