



Dean Moor Solar Farm

Consultation Report: Appendix 4 – Statement of Community Consultation

on behalf of **FVS Dean Moor Limited**

March 2025
Prepared by: Alpaca
PINS Ref: EN010155
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Firma Energy

 **ib vogt**

**DEAN MOOR SOLAR FARM
CONSULTATION REPORT APPENDICES
PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE EN010155
PREPARED ON BEHALF OF FVS DEAN MOOR LIMITED**

**Regulation: SECTION 37(3)(C) OF THE PLANNING ACT
2008**

**APFP REGULATION 5(2)(Q)
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS:
PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE)
REGULATIONS 2009**

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List of Appendices

Appendix	Document
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4.1 Early draft of SoCC informally shared with the LPA



Dean Moor Solar Farm and BESS

Statement of Community Consultation
on behalf of FVS Dean Moor Limited

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

October 2023

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Document Reference: XXX



Firma Energy

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1. Introduction

FVS Dean Moor Ltd is inviting feedback from the local community on its proposals for Dean Moor Solar Farm as part of a public consultation in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 ('2008 Act'). Dean Moor Solar Farm would generate enough clean electricity to power approximately 50,000 typical family homes every year it is in operation. The solar farm will assist in tackling the climate emergency and to help the UK Government in meeting its target for net zero emissions by 2050.



2. Project description

The development of Dean Moor Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development') would involve the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a grid connected solar farm and Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS') ('the Project') on approximate 270 hectares ('ha') (420 acres) of land located between Gilgarran and Branthwaite in West Cumbria ('the Site'). The Proposed Development would include arrays of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, battery energy storage and associated infrastructure that will connect to the existing Distribution Network Operator (DNO) electricity network on the Site.

Dean Moor Solar Farm would contribute to local and national 'Net Zero' targets with an export capacity of up to 150 Megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. The annual output of the solar farm will provide enough clean electricity to meet the annual electricity demand of approximately 50,000 average family homes. This will have an annual displacement of approximately 137,350 tonnes (t) of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) compared with the same electricity generated by fossil fuel sources.

The Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) facility would be utilised to reinforce the power generated by the solar farm, storing energy at times of low demand and releasing to the grid in periods of higher demand or when solar irradiance is lower. The energy stored will also provide balancing services to maintain grid stability.

A full description of the physical characteristics of the whole Proposed Development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases will be set out in the Environmental Statement, Chapter 5: Development Description, which will accompany the application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO'). For the purposes of the statutory consultation this will be set out in the "Preliminary Environmental Information Report" (PEIR).



3. About us



Founded in 2021 by [REDACTED], Firma Energy is an independent management owned business, based in Leeds. The business has a focus on creating and delivering value from renewable energy developments with environmental and social benefits. Across the UK Firma Energy currently has over 260 megawatts (MW) of Solar Farm and 347MW of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in development.



ib vogt (IBV) is a leading developer specialising in utility-scale infrastructure for solar photovoltaic (PV) farms and BESS. With a 20-year history of global expertise, IBV has been a significant player in the UK solar industry, holding the position of the second-largest solar developer in the country from 2012 to 2017 and with over 40GW of development projects in the pipeline globally.

IBV are committed to sustainable energy and high-quality local development, a commitment solidified by their participation in the UN Global Compact. With over 490MWp of solar operations in the UK their projects are designed and delivered with consideration for communities at their core. Through transparent communication and investment in local employment, IBV strive to empower local resilience while addressing the global challenges of climate change. The focus on development and engineering excellence supports IBV's mission to create a greener future through renewable energy solutions.

4. Project overview

What is this document?

This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”), sets out how FVS Dean Moor Ltd will consult with the local community on its proposals for a utility scale solar farm at Dean Moor in Cumbria.

This version of the SoCC has been prepared in advance of the first round of consultation, which is non-statutory. The SoCC will be revised and published again prior to the statutory consultation stage.

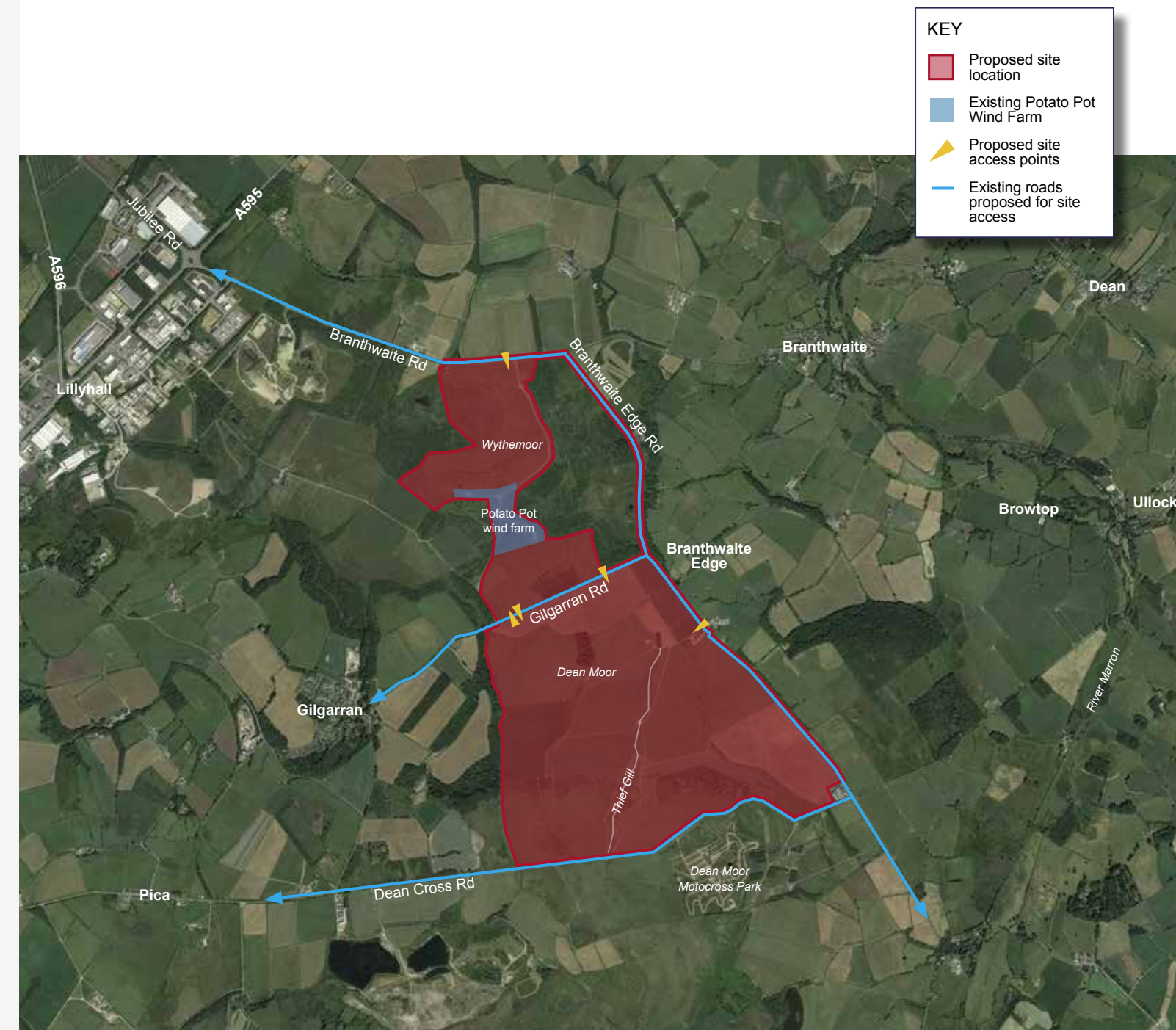
Feedback from this round of consultation and the statutory consultation will inform the final planning submission. It includes:

- A description of the planning process we must follow
- How we have developed our approach to consultation
- How we will be consulting the local community
- How we will publicise the consultation
- Next steps and further information

Why are we publishing this document?

The proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) under the 2008 Act. This means that, unlike conventional planning applications, which are determined by local planning authorities, we must apply to the Department for Energy Security and Climate Change (“DESNZ”) for our proposals.

Part of this process requires us to publish a statement of how we will consult with the local community – known as an SoCC. The consultation process is an opportunity to influence our proposals before we submit our ‘DCO’ application. We very much want feedback from the local community on our proposals during our consultation.



5. The planning process

We are developing the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm under the 2008 Act. This is because its proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts ("MW"), which means that, under the 2008 Act, Dean Moor Solar Farm constitutes an NSIP requiring a 'DCO'.

Unlike planning applications, which are considered by local authorities, 'DCO' applications are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS"). This independent body administers the application process on behalf of the relevant Secretary of State. In this case, the appropriate government department is the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Further information on the 'DCO' application process can be obtained from PINS Advice Note 8: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others. This is available on the PINS website at the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/>

Figure 1 on page 16 of this document shows each stage of the planning process for NSIPs. We anticipate submitting our application in the third quarter of 2024.



Indicative image of an energy storage container

6. The Planning Act 2008 and consultation

'DCO's are governed by a fixed, statutory process which requires us to consult with persons with an interest in the proposed land and certain bodies as prescribed under section 42 of the 2008 Act; the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act; and to publicise the proposals locally and nationally under section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("EIA Regulations"). It also provides a fixed role as consultees for those local authorities which host the development and means we will be following a well-established and clear process to engage on our proposals.

We are at the stage in 2023 developing our proposals where we will informally consult – this is known as a non-statutory consultation. We will use the feedback that we receive during the non-statutory consultation to help us develop our proposals for Dean Moor Solar Farm before commencing the statutory consultation period.

We anticipate reaching the formal statutory consultation stage during the first quarter of 2024. (see Figure 1). This stage is known as statutory consultation. We will use the feedback that we receive during the statutory consultation to help us further develop our final proposals for Dean Moor Solar Farm before submitting our 'DCO' application.

As part of our 'DCO' application, we will submit a Consultation Report detailing our approach to consultation, the feedback that we received during the non-statutory and statutory consultations, and how we have had regard to it. When considering our 'DCO' application, The Planning Inspectorate must consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate.

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

For the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, we are required to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") of our proposals as part of the planning process. This is by virtue of the proposed scheme being considered 'EIA development' for the purpose of the EIA Regulations.

This means we must assess the likely significant environmental effects of our proposals and, where appropriate, describe mitigation that is proposed to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any

significant adverse effects.

We will report on this process in a document called an Environmental Statement ("ES") when we submit our 'DCO' application.

During the statutory consultation process, we will be sharing, and seeking feedback on, the preliminary results of our ongoing environmental assessments. We do this via a document called a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR').

8. More information

You can find more information about the 2008 Act, PINS and its role and how to participate in the 'DCO' process on the PINS National Infrastructure Planning website - <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>, or by calling PINS on 0303 444 5000.



9. Our public consultation process

We are currently in the process of conducting consultations for Dean Moor Solar Farm. The feedback and comments we receive from stakeholders are of great importance as they will help shape the final design of the project, which will later be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for evaluation.

Our goal is to ensure that communities interested in this project can engage effectively without the need for duplicate feedback submissions. We strongly believe that this coordinated approach brings numerous benefits, such as:

- Efficiency for respondents
- Clarity for communities: clearly aligning programmes and providing information on the project in consultation literature allows us to clearly explain our project in single documents

Our consultation will consist of two phases of consultation for both projects, including:

- A non-statutory phase one consultation, lasting 30 days will be held from 3rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023.
- A statutory phase two consultation lasting for 6 weeks from **[DATES TO BE ADDED – Early 2024]**. This SoCC relates to the carrying out of the phase two statutory consultation.

Phase one consultation (3rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023)

This non-statutory consultation introduced our early-stage proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm to the local communities. We received feedback on our initial proposals and suggestions from the communities, based on local knowledge of the area. All of this feedback has been useful for us to understand and consider as we develop and refine our proposals.

Phase two consultation (Early 2024)

The statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act, will allow us to update interested parties on our proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm. We will consult on more detailed proposals alongside presenting the findings of the environmental studies that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The phase two consultation is the consultation that we must carry out by law. More details of what we will be consulting on are listed in Section 11 of this SoCC and the methods for how we will consult are listed in Section 13. As well as the community consultation in accordance with Section 47, this consultation also includes:

- Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under Section 42 of the 2008 Act);
- Consultation with host and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (under Section 43 of the 2008 Act);
- Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by the Project (under Section 44 of the 2008 Act); and general public consultation on the Project (under Section 48 of the 2008 Act)

During our phase two consultation, we will actively seek feedback on the findings of the PEIR. The full PEIR, along with a non-technical summary, will be accessible for review as part of the consultation process. To ensure convenient access, the PEIR will be made available electronically on our project website. Additionally, as part of our statutory notices, we will provide a service for requesting copies of the complete PEIR.

For the convenience of interested stakeholders, hard copies of our community consultation documents will be sent via post upon request. Please refer to Section 13 for more detailed information on this process.

Once we submit the 'DCO' application to the Planning Inspectorate, interested parties will have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm. The Planning Inspectorate will facilitate public engagement by inviting views on the proposals. Interested parties will have the ability to register and submit their representations for consideration during the examination process.

For guidance and further information on this process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate's website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>

Consultation reporting

As part of the 'DCO' application to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, planned for Winter 2024, we will publish a consultation report that:

- Describes our consultation process
- Explains how we have satisfied and adhered to legal requirements
- Details how we have worked with local authorities to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in this SoCC
- Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received
- Responds to the feedback we have received, including explaining how we have listened to feedback and how it has influenced our proposals

11. What will be consulted on?

During the consultation periods we will be asking for views on:

- The proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm
- The short term and long-term impacts of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm including:
 - Construction impacts
 - Environmental impacts
 - Operational impacts
 - Impacts from decommissioning
 - Other impacts during the construction, maintenance, and decommissioning periods, such as socioeconomic and cumulative impacts
- Proposed mitigation of these impacts
- The contribution that Dean Moor Solar Farm could make to the local community
- The PEIR (at statutory consultation only)

10. Timing



Figure 1: Proposed Timeline for Engagement and Submission



Indicative image of energy storage containers

12. Who will we consult?

We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation from any person or group who may be directly impacted by the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm. We have defined a series of ‘zones of consultation’ for the purpose of consulting with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act.

These recognise the fact that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography and inform the techniques we will use to consult.

These zones are set out in Table 1 and visible in Figures 2 & 3.

The launch dates for each stage of consultation will be announced and published at least 10 days before the start of that consultation stage. This will be done in a number of ways, which are outlined in Section 13.

Zone	Parameters
Zone 1	<p>Any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.</p> <p>This zone is defined by a boundary of 250m/500m extending from the site boundary</p>
Zone 2	<p>Any person or group living in proximity to the site, but outside of Zone 1. This zone is defined by the boundaries of the parishes of Dean, Arlecdon & Frizington, Distington, and Winscales</p>
Zone 3	<p>People living and working in the host local authority area of Cumberland Council outside of consultation Zone 1.</p>
Zone 4	<p>Neighbouring district, county and unitary authorities within the administrative areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Westmorland and Furness Council• Lancaster District Council• North Yorkshire Council• Northumberland Council

Table 1: Zones of consultation

Figure 2: Map of the Site and Zone 1 boundaries of 250m and 500m

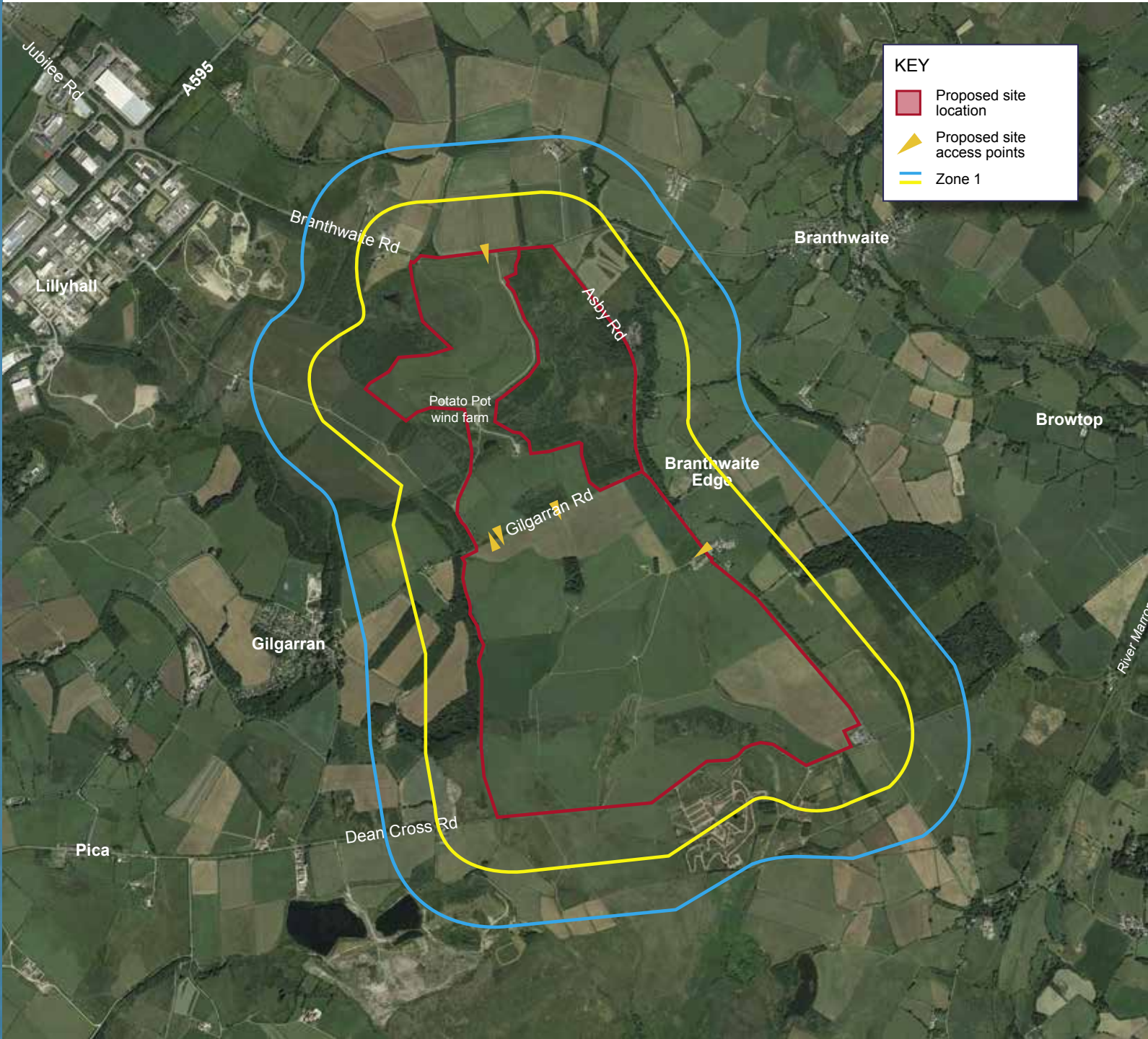
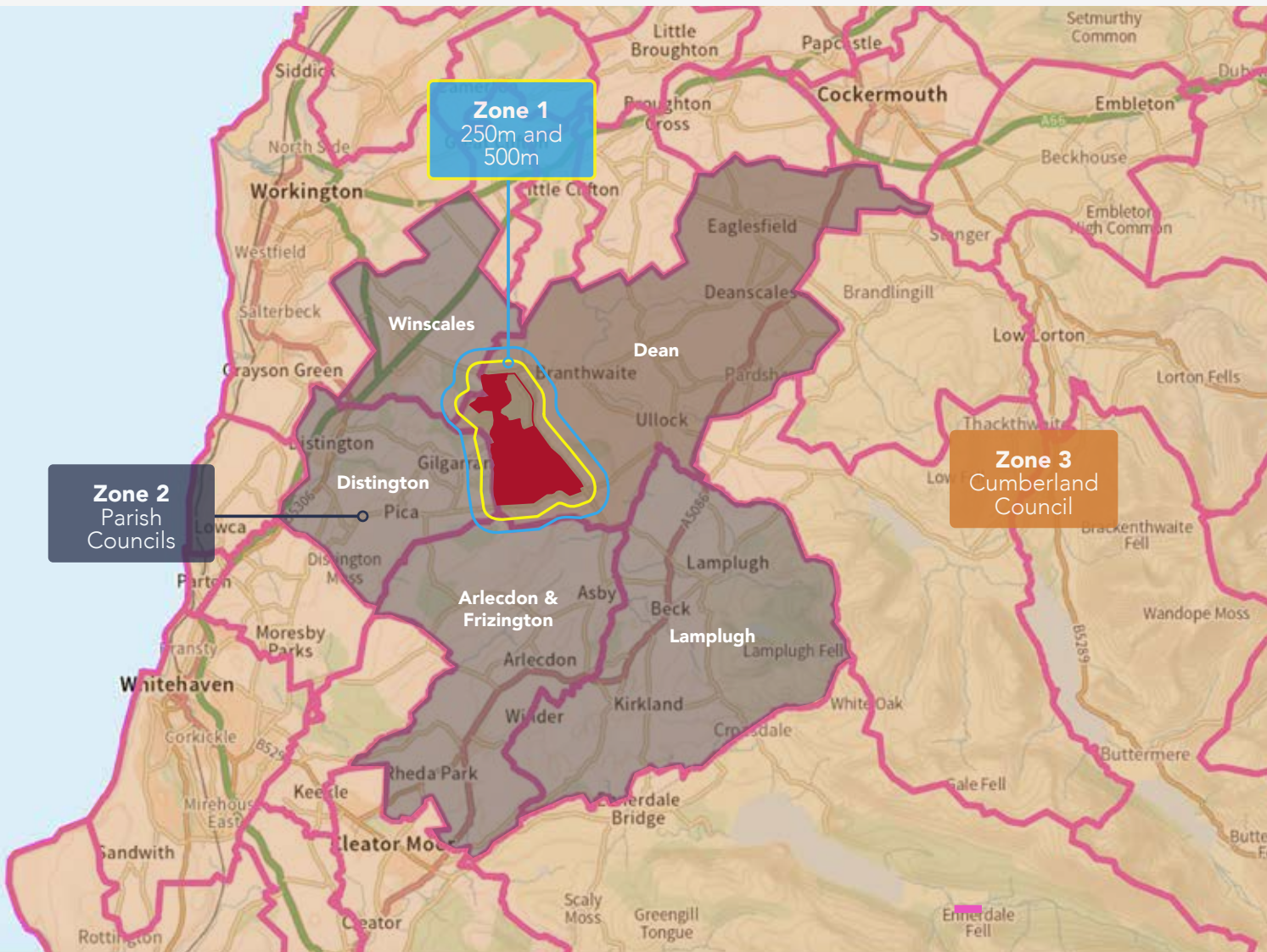


Figure 3: Map of the Site and Zone 1, Zone 2, and Zone 3



We will also consult and continue our engagement with a range of other statutory consultees as required by section 42 and section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm. These groups include, but are not limited to:

- Economic interest groups and organisations such as local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) and chambers of commerce
- Heritage consultees including Historic England and the National Trust
- Environmental consultees including Natural England and the Environment Agency
- Infrastructure providers such as National Highways and National Grid
- Conservation groups such as the RSPB, CPRE Cumbria, and the Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Ongoing engagement

Anybody is welcome to get in touch with us at any point before, during or between stages of consultation. Our contact details are listed in Section 18 of this SoCC. Feedback will be considered as part of the detailed design process and incorporated where possible. Where this is not possible for technical reasons, we will explain this in our Consultation Report. You will also have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm when the 'DCO' application is submitted to, and accepted by, the Planning Inspectorate.

Seldom heard groups

We have developed our consultation to be accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of organisations representing seldom heard groups in the consultation area. These organisations will be contacted ahead of phase two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members. We are hosting different formats of free-to-use communications channels to ensure our consultation is as accessible as possible. These formats include email, phone and post. We will also be using a combination of in person and digital formats such as in person events and webinars. We will also continue to notify them of consultation opportunities. Identified seldom heard groups include:

- Age UK West Cumbria
- Cumbria Deaf Association
- Triple A (All About Autism)
- Autism Support Allerdale and Copeland
- The WI Cumbria-Westmorland Federation
- Allerdale Disability Association
- Owl Blue Cumbria
- Cumbria Young Farmers Clubs
- West Cumbria Society for the Blind England
- Anti Racist Cumbria

13. How will we be consulting?

We will use a range of techniques to consult the community. These are designed to allow people with different needs across the community to take part in the consultation. These are set out as follows:

Zone	How we will publicise consultation within this zone	How we will consult within this zone
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing to all addresses within consultation zone 1 • Writing to elected representatives at a parish, Cumbria Council electoral division, and Parliamentary level, as well as community groups, within the zone with details of the consultation • Sharing a consultation information pack including Q&As and a poster with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone to allow them to promote the consultation through existing communications channels • Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star • Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West • Advertising the consultation via Facebook advertisements • Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending a letter providing at an early stage introduction to the proposals and the contact details of the project team. • Sending a copy of a consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, how to take part in the consultation, and proposed next steps to all addresses in consultation zone 1 • Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email. This will provide a variety of means for consultees to respond in a way convenient to them • Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars are included later in this document and will also be made available in consultation publicity • Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting • Inviting residents of consultation zone 1 to book an individual appointment to discuss the proposals by telephone or in person at an appropriate venue • Contacting community and voluntary organisations within consultation zone 1 to offer direct engagement • Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website. • Provision of copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for review, as well as copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire, at deposit points in the local area. The PEIR will also be available on the project website

Zone	How we will publicise consultation within this zone	How we will consult within this zone
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing to all addresses within consultation zone 2 • Writing to elected representatives at a parish, Cumbria Council electoral division, and Parliamentary level, as well as community groups, within the zone with details of the consultation • Sharing a consultation information pack including Q&As and a poster with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone to allow them to promote the consultation through existing communications channels • Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star • Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West • Advertising the consultation via Facebook advertisements • Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending a copy of a consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, how to take part in the consultation, and proposed next steps to all addresses in consultation zone 2 • Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email. This will provide a variety of means for consultees to respond in a way convenient to them • Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars are included later in this document and will also be made available in consultation publicity • Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting • Inviting residents of consultation zone 1 to book an individual appointment to discuss the proposals by telephone or in person at an appropriate venue • Contacting community and voluntary organisations within consultation zone 2 to offer direct engagement • Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website • Provision of copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for review, as well as copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire, at deposit points in the local area. The PEIR will also be available on the project website

Zone	How we will publicise consultation within this zone	How we will consult within this zone
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing to all division councillors at Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.• Writing to all parish councils within the consultation zone.• Sharing a consultation information pack designed to support stakeholders promoting consultation through their own existing communication channels such as social media feeds with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone.• Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star.• Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West.• Advertising the consultation online• Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars will be made available in consultation publicity.• Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting.• Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website.• Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing to the Leader and Chief Executive of local authorities within the zone• Publicising the consultation in the News and Star and the North-West Evening Mail• Advertising the consultation online• Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website• Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars are included later in this document and will also be made available in consultation publicity• Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email



14. Consultation information

We will produce a range of materials providing information as part of the consultation including:

- A consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm including key plans, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, proposed next steps, and how to find out more and view other consultation documents
- Presentations to be given as part of webinars, which will be recorded and made available for viewing after the event on the project website at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com.
- The PEIR, accompanied by a non-technical summary (for the statutory consultation)
- A consultation questionnaire designed to collect responses to the consultation
- The SoCC

The PEIR will also incorporate the results of the environmental surveys that we have completed to date and set out our preliminary conclusions on the likely significant effects of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm on the environment. It will also give information about some of the mitigation measures that may be proposed to reduce or avoid those effects, so as to assist respondents in making well-informed responses to the consultation.

Copies of consultation information will be made available for review free of charge online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com.

Hard copies of the consultation booklet, questionnaire and SoCC will also be made available free of charge on request. Consultation materials will include guidance on what respondents can influence through the consultation and how we will have regard to their responses.

15. Public information events

Non-statutory events (3rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023)

IN-PERSON:

- **Tuesday 17 October 2pm-7pm**
Dean Kirkstile Hall, Workington CA14 4TH
- **Wednesday 18 October 2pm-7pm**
Solway Lounge, Hunday Manor, Winscales, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4JF

WEBINAR:

- **Thursday 19 October 6pm-7pm**
- **Monday 30 October 6pm-7pm**

Statutory events (Spring 2024)

TBC

16. Our documents

The following reports (listed below) will be prepared as part of the EIA and the 'DCO' process:

Scoping Report:

In August 2023, we published our Scoping Report, which presented the Project Envelope and outlined the processes we will undertake to assess potential impacts on the existing environment. Following feedback from Local Planning Authorities and statutory consultees, a Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate in September 2023. Both the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/dean-moor-solar-farm/?ipcsection=overview>.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR):

The PEIR will set out preliminary environmental findings and information and take account of the Scoping Opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate as well as feedback received during the non-statutory 'phase 1' consultation and stakeholder engagement. It will include the results of surveys and preliminary environmental assessments conducted thus far, providing consultees with a preliminary understanding of the potential impacts of the Dean Moor Solar Farm on the local environment.

The PEIR will also detail any project changes and proposed mitigation measures. During our phase two consultation, we will publish the PEIR for review and seek feedback. Please refer to Sections 9 and 14 for more detailed information.

Environmental Statement (ES):

Building upon the content of the PEIR and incorporating responses from the phase two consultation, stakeholder engagement, and survey results, the ES will outline the assessment and conclusions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Similar to the PEIR, it will describe any project changes and proposed mitigation measures. The ES will be an integral part of the Development Consent Order ('DCO') application for submission.

17. Community access points

Hard copies of this document and Phase Two consultation materials, including our leaflet, Feedback form and PEIR, will be available for public inspection at the locations to be agreed with the Council. We will provide copies of the consultation materials on a USB stick upon reasonable request and for a small charge.



Indicative image of an energy storage container



18. Contact details

If you would like to obtain further information about the Dean Moor Solar Farm, please feel free to get in touch. Our team can be reached through any of the communication channels listed below. For individuals requiring documents in large print, audio, or braille formats, kindly contact us using the provided details. Please note that all graphs and maps included in this document are purely for illustrative purposes.



info@deanmoorsolarfarm.com



0800 041 8643



FREEPOST: DEAN MOOR SOLAR FARM



Firma Energy

ib vogt

4.2 Draft SoCC issued for LPA consultation



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Dean Moor Solar Farm would contribute to local and national 'Net Zero' targets with an export capacity of up to 150 Megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. The annual output of the solar farm will provide enough clean electricity to meet the annual electricity demand of approximately 50,000 average family homes. This will have an annual displacement of approximately 137,350 tonnes (t) of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) compared with the same electricity generated by fossil fuel sources.

The Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) facility would be utilised to reinforce the power generated by the solar farm, storing energy at times of low demand and releasing to the grid in periods of higher demand or when solar irradiance is lower. The energy stored will also provide balancing services to maintain grid stability.

A full description of the physical characteristics of the whole Proposed Development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases will be set out in the Environmental Statement, Chapter 5: Development Description, which will accompany the application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO'). For the purposes of the statutory consultation this will be set out in the "Preliminary Environmental Information Report" (PEIR).



3. About us



Founded in 2021 by [REDACTED] Firma Energy is an independent management owned business, based in Leeds. The business has a focus on creating and delivering value from renewable energy developments with environmental and social benefits. Across the UK Firma Energy currently has over 260 megawatts (MW) of Solar Farm and 347MW of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in development.



ib vogt (IBV) is a leading developer specialising in utility-scale infrastructure for solar photovoltaic (PV) farms and BESS. With a 20-year history of global expertise, IBV has been a significant player in the UK solar industry, holding the position of the second-largest solar developer in the country from 2012 to 2017 and with over 40GW of development projects in the pipeline globally.

IBV are committed to sustainable energy and high-quality local development, a commitment solidified by their participation in the UN Global Compact. With over 490MWp of solar operations in the UK their projects are designed and delivered with consideration for communities at their core. Through transparent communication and investment in local employment, IBV strive to empower local resilience while addressing the global challenges of climate change. The focus on development and engineering excellence supports IBV's mission to create a greener future through renewable energy solutions.

4. Project overview

What is this document?

This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”), sets out how FVS Dean Moor Ltd will consult with the local community on its proposals for a utility scale solar farm at Dean Moor in Cumbria.

This version of the SoCC has been prepared in advance of the first round of consultation, which is non-statutory. The SoCC will be revised and published again prior to the statutory consultation stage.

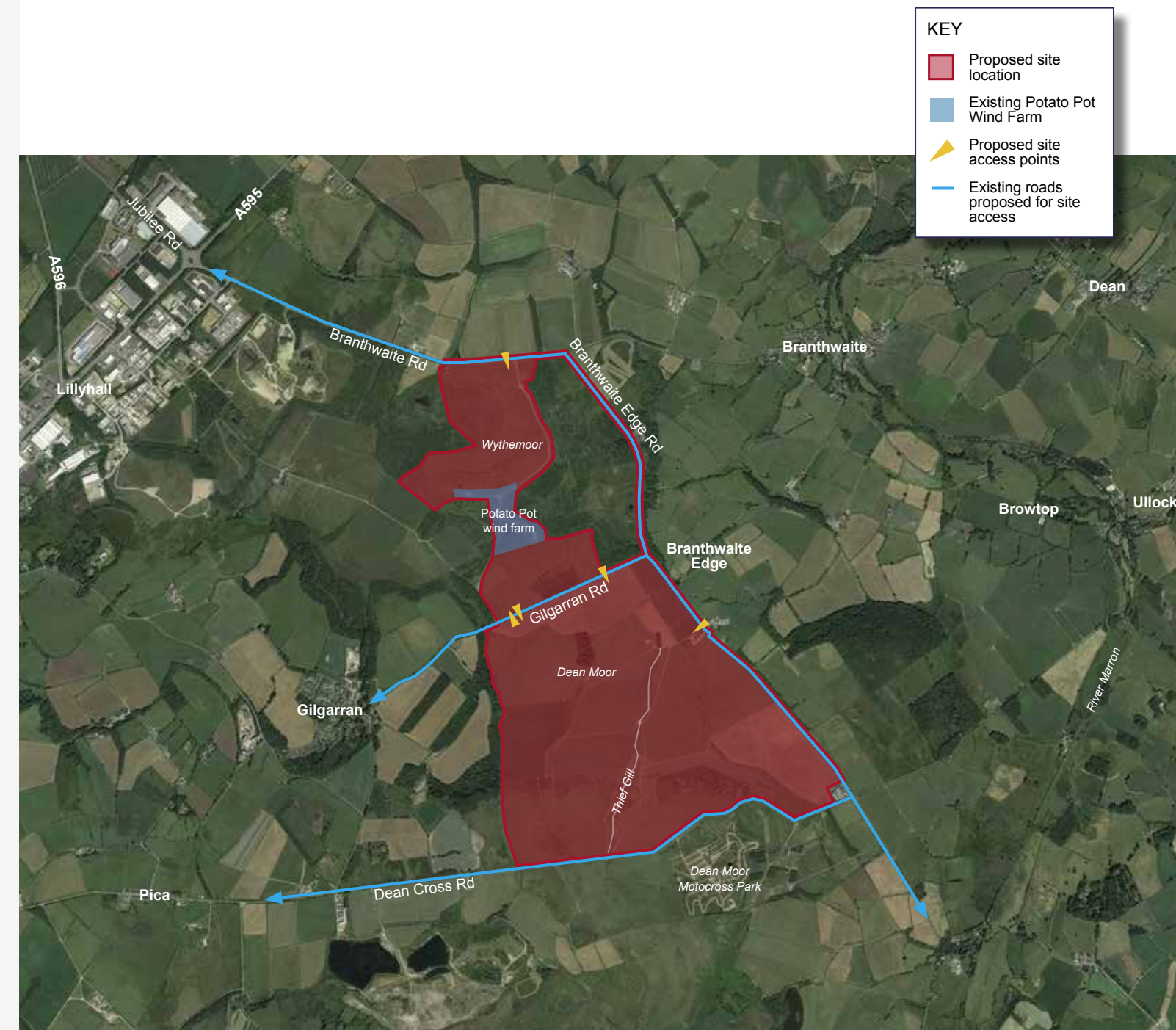
Feedback from this round of consultation and the statutory consultation will inform the final planning submission. It includes:

- A description of the planning process we must follow
- How we have developed our approach to consultation
- How we will be consulting the local community
- How we will publicise the consultation
- Next steps and further information

Why are we publishing this document?

The proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) under the 2008 Act. This means that, unlike conventional planning applications, which are determined by local planning authorities, we must apply to the Department for Energy Security and Climate Change (“DESNZ”) for our proposals.

Part of this process requires us to publish a statement of how we will consult with the local community – known as an SoCC. The consultation process is an opportunity to influence our proposals before we submit our ‘DCO’ application. We very much want feedback from the local community on our proposals during our consultation.



5. The planning process

We are developing the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm under the 2008 Act. This is because its proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts ("MW"), which means that, under the 2008 Act, Dean Moor Solar Farm constitutes an NSIP requiring a 'DCO'.

Unlike planning applications, which are considered by local authorities, 'DCO' applications are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS"). This independent body administers the application process on behalf of the relevant Secretary of State. In this case, the appropriate government department is the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Further information on the 'DCO' application process can be obtained from PINS Advice Note 8: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others. This is available on the PINS website at the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/>

Figure 1 on page 16 of this document shows each stage of the planning process for NSIPs. We anticipate submitting our application in the third quarter of 2024.



Indicative image of an energy storage container

6. The Planning Act 2008 and consultation

'DCO's are governed by a fixed, statutory process which requires us to consult with persons with an interest in the proposed land and certain bodies as prescribed under section 42 of the 2008 Act; the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act; and to publicise the proposals locally and nationally under section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("EIA Regulations"). It also provides a fixed role as consultees for those local authorities which host the development and means we will be following a well-established and clear process to engage on our proposals.

We are at the stage in 2023 developing our proposals where we will informally consult – this is known as a non-statutory consultation. We will use the feedback that we receive during the non-statutory consultation to help us develop our proposals for Dean Moor Solar Farm before commencing the statutory consultation period.

We anticipate reaching the formal statutory consultation stage during the first quarter of 2024. (see Figure 1). This stage is known as statutory consultation. We will use the feedback that we receive during the statutory consultation to help us further develop our final proposals for Dean Moor Solar Farm before submitting our 'DCO' application.

As part of our 'DCO' application, we will submit a Consultation Report detailing our approach to consultation, the feedback that we received during the non-statutory and statutory consultations, and how we have had regard to it. When considering our 'DCO' application, The Planning Inspectorate must consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate.

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

For the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, we are required to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") of our proposals as part of the planning process. This is by virtue of the proposed scheme being considered 'EIA development' for the purpose of the EIA Regulations.

This means we must assess the likely significant environmental effects of our proposals and, where appropriate, describe mitigation that is proposed to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any

significant adverse effects.

We will report on this process in a document called an Environmental Statement ("ES") when we submit our 'DCO' application.

During the statutory consultation process, we will be sharing, and seeking feedback on, the preliminary results of our ongoing environmental assessments. We do this via a document called a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR').

8. More information

You can find more information about the 2008 Act, PINS and its role and how to participate in the 'DCO' process on the PINS National Infrastructure Planning website - <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>, or by calling PINS on 0303 444 5000.



9. Our public consultation process

We are currently in the process of conducting consultations for Dean Moor Solar Farm. The feedback and comments we receive from stakeholders are of great importance as they will help shape the final design of the project, which will later be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for evaluation.

Our goal is to ensure that communities interested in this project can engage effectively without the need for duplicate feedback submissions. We strongly believe that this coordinated approach brings numerous benefits, such as:

- Efficiency for respondents
- Clarity for communities: clearly aligning programmes and providing information on the project in consultation literature allows us to clearly explain our project in single documents

Our consultation will consist of two phases of consultation for both projects, including:

- A non-statutory phase one consultation, lasting 30 days will be held from 3rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023.
- A statutory phase two consultation lasting for 6 weeks from **[DATES TO BE ADDED – Early 2024]**. This SoCC relates to the carrying out of the phase two statutory consultation.

Phase one consultation (3rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023)

This non-statutory consultation introduced our early-stage proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm to the local communities. We received feedback on our initial proposals and suggestions from the communities, based on local knowledge of the area. All of this feedback has been useful for us to understand and consider as we develop and refine our proposals.

Phase two consultation (Early 2024)

The statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act, will allow us to update interested parties on our proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm. We will consult on more detailed proposals alongside presenting the findings of the environmental studies that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The phase two consultation is the consultation that we must carry out by law. More details of what we will be consulting on are listed in Section 11 of this SoCC and the methods for how we will consult are listed in Section 13. As well as the community consultation in accordance with Section 47, this consultation also includes:

- Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under Section 42 of the 2008 Act);
- Consultation with host and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (under Section 43 of the 2008 Act);
- Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by the Project (under Section 44 of the 2008 Act); and general public consultation on the Project (under Section 48 of the 2008 Act)

During our phase two consultation, we will actively seek feedback on the findings of the PEIR. The full PEIR, along with a non-technical summary, will be accessible for review as part of the consultation process. To ensure convenient access, the PEIR will be made available electronically on our project website. Additionally, as part of our statutory notices, we will provide a service for requesting copies of the complete PEIR.

For the convenience of interested stakeholders, hard copies of our community consultation documents will be sent via post upon request. Please refer to Section 13 for more detailed information on this process.

Once we submit the 'DCO' application to the Planning Inspectorate, interested parties will have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm. The Planning Inspectorate will facilitate public engagement by inviting views on the proposals. Interested parties will have the ability to register and submit their representations for consideration during the examination process.

For guidance and further information on this process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate's website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>

Consultation reporting

As part of the 'DCO' application to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, planned for Winter 2024, we will publish a consultation report that:

- Describes our consultation process
- Explains how we have satisfied and adhered to legal requirements
- Details how we have worked with local authorities to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in this SoCC
- Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received
- Responds to the feedback we have received, including explaining how we have listened to feedback and how it has influenced our proposals

11. What will be consulted on?

During the consultation periods we will be asking for views on:

- The proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm
- The short term and long-term impacts of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm including:
 - Construction impacts
 - Environmental impacts
 - Operational impacts
 - Impacts from decommissioning
 - Other impacts during the construction, maintenance, and decommissioning periods, such as socioeconomic and cumulative impacts
- Proposed mitigation of these impacts
- The contribution that Dean Moor Solar Farm could make to the local community
- The PEIR (at statutory consultation only)

10. Timing



Figure 1: Proposed Timeline for Engagement and Submission



Indicative image of energy storage containers

12. Who will we consult?

We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation from any person or group who may be directly impacted by the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm. We have defined a series of ‘zones of consultation’ for the purpose of consulting with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act.

These recognise the fact that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography and inform the techniques we will use to consult.

Zone	Parameters
Zone 1	Any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.
Zone 2	Any person or group living in proximity to the site, but outside of Zone 1. This zone is defined by the boundaries of the parishes of Dean, Arlecdon & Frizington, Distington, and Winscales
Zone 3	People living and working in the host local authority area of Cumberland Council outside of consultation Zone 1.
Zone 4	Neighbouring district, county and unitary authorities within the administrative areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Westmorland and Furness CouncilLancaster District CouncilNorth Yorkshire CouncilNorthumberland Council

Table 1: Zones of consultation

These zones are set out in Table 1 and visible in Figures 2 & 3.

The launch dates for each stage of consultation will be announced and published at least 10 days before the start of that consultation stage. This will be done in a number of ways, which are outlined in Section 13.

Figure 2: Map of the Site and Zone 1 boundary

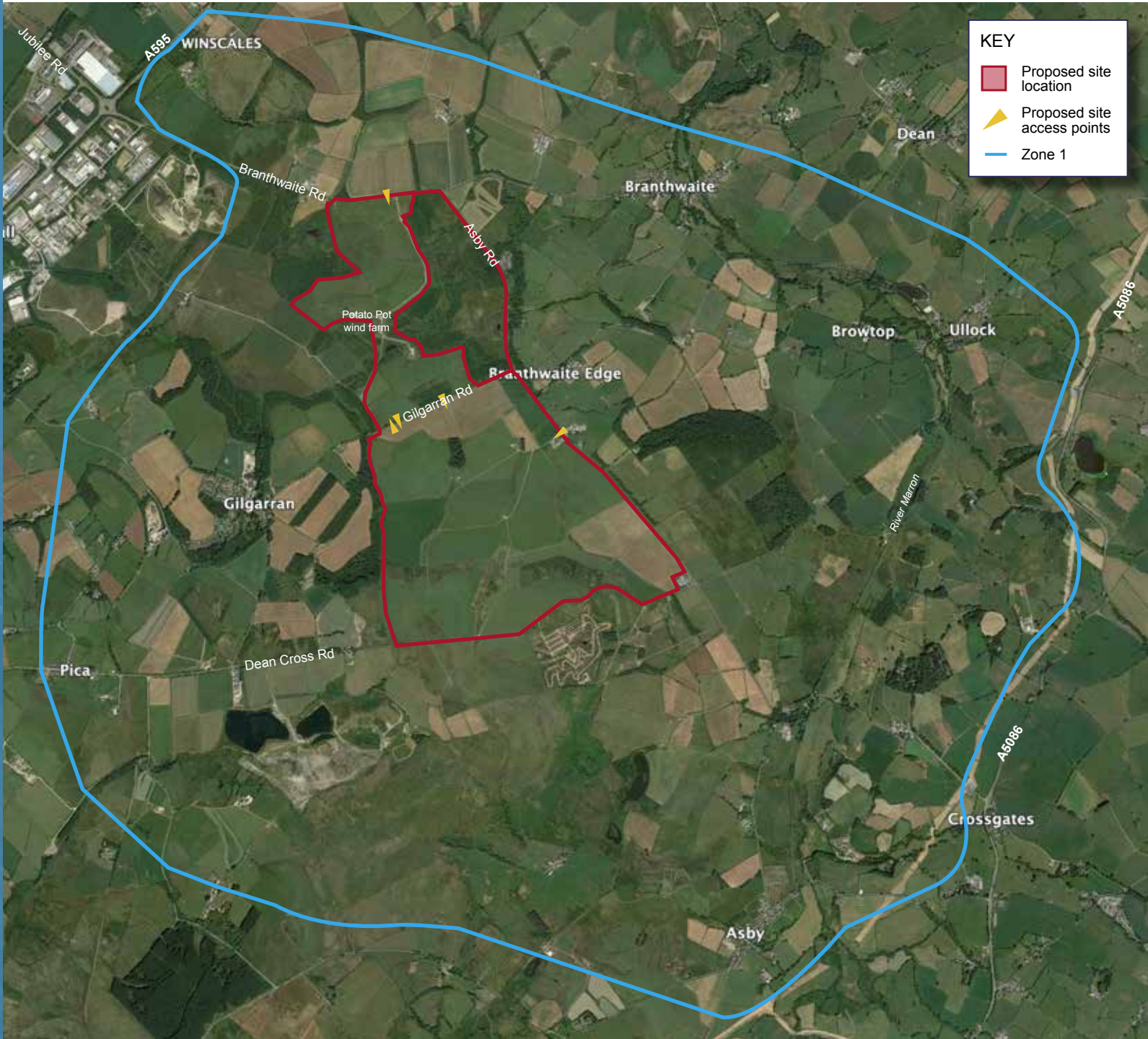
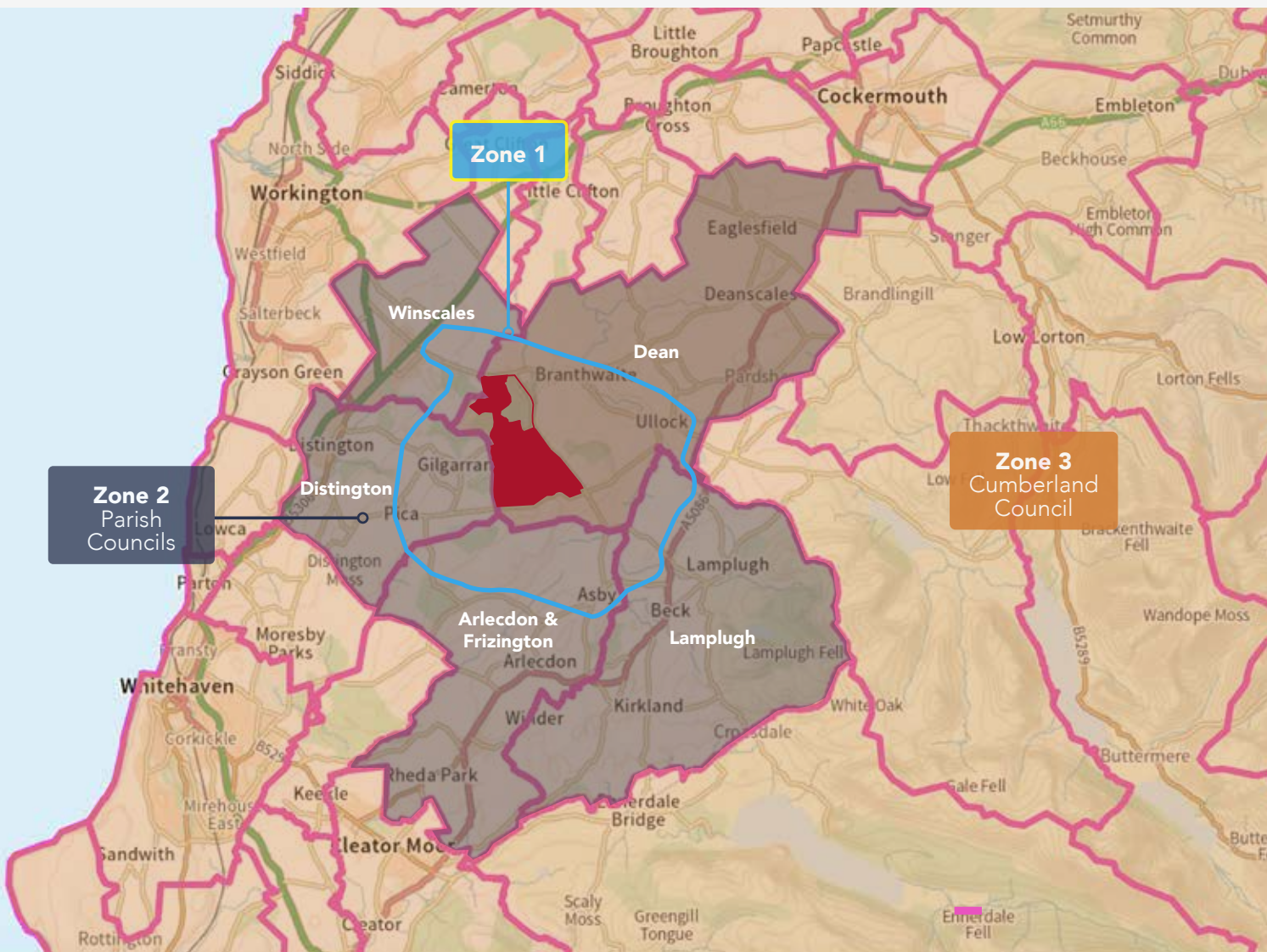


Figure 3: Map of the Site and Zone 1, Zone 2, and Zone 3



We will also consult and continue our engagement with a range of other statutory consultees as required by section 42 and section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm. These groups include, but are not limited to:

- Economic interest groups and organisations such as local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) and chambers of commerce
- Heritage consultees including Historic England and the National Trust
- Environmental consultees including Natural England and the Environment Agency
- Infrastructure providers such as National Highways and National Grid
- Conservation groups such as the RSPB, CPRE Cumbria, and the Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Ongoing engagement

Anybody is welcome to get in touch with us at any point before, during or between stages of consultation. Our contact details are listed in Section 18 of this SoCC. Feedback will be considered as part of the detailed design process and incorporated where possible. Where this is not possible for technical reasons, we will explain this in our Consultation Report. You will also have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm when the 'DCO' application is submitted to, and accepted by, the Planning Inspectorate.

Seldom heard groups

We have developed our consultation to be accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of organisations representing seldom heard groups in the consultation area. These organisations will be contacted ahead of phase two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members. We are hosting different formats of free-to-use communications channels to ensure our consultation is as accessible as possible. These formats include email, phone and post. We will also be using a combination of in person and digital formats such as in person events and webinars. We will also continue to notify them of consultation opportunities. Identified seldom heard groups include:

- Age UK West Cumbria
- Cumbria Deaf Association
- Triple A (All About Autism)
- Autism Support Allerdale and Copeland
- The WI Cumbria-Westmorland Federation
- Allerdale Disability Association
- Owl Blue Cumbria
- Cumbria Young Farmers Clubs
- West Cumbria Society for the Blind England
- Anti Racist Cumbria

13. How will we be consulting?

We will use a range of techniques to consult the community. These are designed to allow people with different needs across the community to take part in the consultation. These are set out as follows:

Zone	How we will publicise consultation within this zone	How we will consult within this zone
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing to all addresses within consultation zone 1 • Writing to elected representatives at a parish, Cumbria Council electoral division, and Parliamentary level, as well as community groups, within the zone with details of the consultation • Sharing a consultation information pack including Q&As and a poster with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone to allow them to promote the consultation through existing communications channels • Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star • Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West • Advertising the consultation via Facebook advertisements • Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending a letter providing at an early stage introduction to the proposals and the contact details of the project team. • Sending a copy of a consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, how to take part in the consultation, and proposed next steps to all addresses in consultation zone 1 • Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email. This will provide a variety of means for consultees to respond in a way convenient to them • Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars are included later in this document and will also be made available in consultation publicity • Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting • Inviting residents of consultation zone 1 to book an individual appointment to discuss the proposals by telephone or in person at an appropriate venue • Contacting community and voluntary organisations within consultation zone 1 to offer direct engagement • Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website. • Provision of copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for review, as well as copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire, at deposit points in the local area. The PEIR will also be available on the project website

Zone	How we will publicise consultation within this zone	How we will consult within this zone
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing to all addresses within consultation zone 2 • Writing to elected representatives at a parish, Cumbria Council electoral division, and Parliamentary level, as well as community groups, within the zone with details of the consultation • Sharing a consultation information pack including Q&As and a poster with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone to allow them to promote the consultation through existing communications channels • Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star • Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West • Advertising the consultation via Facebook advertisements • Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending a copy of a consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, how to take part in the consultation, and proposed next steps to all addresses in consultation zone 2 • Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email. This will provide a variety of means for consultees to respond in a way convenient to them • Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars are included later in this document and will also be made available in consultation publicity • Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting • Inviting residents of consultation zone 1 to book an individual appointment to discuss the proposals by telephone or in person at an appropriate venue • Contacting community and voluntary organisations within consultation zone 2 to offer direct engagement • Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website • Provision of copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for review, as well as copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire, at deposit points in the local area. The PEIR will also be available on the project website

Zone	How we will publicise consultation within this zone	How we will consult within this zone
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing to all division councillors at Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.• Writing to all parish councils within the consultation zone.• Sharing a consultation information pack designed to support stakeholders promoting consultation through their own existing communication channels such as social media feeds with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone.• Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star.• Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West.• Advertising the consultation online• Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars will be made available in consultation publicity.• Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting.• Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website.• Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing to the Leader and Chief Executive of local authorities within the zone• Publicising the consultation in the News and Star and the North-West Evening Mail• Advertising the consultation online• Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website• Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars are included later in this document and will also be made available in consultation publicity• Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email



14. Consultation information

We will produce a range of materials providing information as part of the consultation including:

- A consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm including key plans, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, proposed next steps, and how to find out more and view other consultation documents
- Presentations to be given as part of webinars, which will be recorded and made available for viewing after the event on the project website at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com.
- The PEIR, accompanied by a non-technical summary (for the statutory consultation)
- A consultation questionnaire designed to collect responses to the consultation
- The SoCC

The PEIR will also incorporate the results of the environmental surveys that we have completed to date and set out our preliminary conclusions on the likely significant effects of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm on the environment. It will also give information about some of the mitigation measures that may be proposed to reduce or avoid those effects, so as to assist respondents in making well-informed responses to the consultation.

Copies of consultation information will be made available for review free of charge online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com.

Hard copies of the consultation booklet, questionnaire and SoCC will also be made available free of charge on request. Consultation materials will include guidance on what respondents can influence through the consultation and how we will have regard to their responses.

15. Public information events

Non-statutory events (3rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023)

IN-PERSON:

- **Tuesday 17 October 2pm-7pm**
Dean Kirkstile Hall, Workington CA14 4TH
- **Wednesday 18 October 2pm-7pm**
Solway Lounge, Hunday Manor, Winscales, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4JF

WEBINAR:

- **Thursday 19 October 6pm-7pm**
- **Monday 30 October 6pm-7pm**

Statutory events (Spring 2024)

We will be conducting statutory consultation events in Spring 2024. Dates and locations of events will be communicated to stakeholders and residents in due course.

IN-PERSON:

- **TBC 2pm-7pm**
TBC
- **TBC 2pm-7pm**
TBC

WEBINAR:

- **TBC 6pm-7pm**
- **TBC 6pm-7pm**

16. Our documents

The following reports (listed below) will be prepared as part of the EIA and the 'DCO' process:

Scoping Report:

In August 2023, we published our Scoping Report, which presented the Project Envelope and outlined the processes we will undertake to assess potential impacts on the existing environment. Following feedback from Local Planning Authorities and statutory consultees, a Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate in September 2023. Both the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/dean-moor-solar-farm/?ipcsection=overview>.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR):

The PEIR will set out preliminary environmental findings and information and take account of the Scoping Opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate as well as feedback received during the non-statutory 'phase 1' consultation and stakeholder engagement. It will include the results of surveys and preliminary environmental assessments conducted thus far, providing consultees with a preliminary understanding of the potential impacts of the Dean Moor Solar Farm on the local environment.

The PEIR will also detail any project changes and proposed mitigation measures. During our phase two consultation, we will publish the PEIR for review and seek feedback. Please refer to Sections 9 and 14 for more detailed information.

Environmental Statement (ES):

Building upon the content of the PEIR and incorporating responses from the phase two consultation, stakeholder engagement, and survey results, the ES will outline the assessment and conclusions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Similar to the PEIR, it will describe any project changes and proposed mitigation measures. The ES will be an integral part of the Development Consent Order ('DCO') application for submission.

17. Community access points

Hard copies of this document and Phase Two consultation materials, including our leaflet, Feedback form and PEIR, will be available for public inspection at the locations to be agreed with the Council. We will provide copies of the consultation materials on a USB stick upon reasonable request and for a small charge.



Indicative image of an energy storage container



18. Contact details

If you would like to obtain further information about the Dean Moor Solar Farm, please feel free to get in touch. Our team can be reached through any of the communication channels listed below. For individuals requiring documents in large print, audio, or braille formats, kindly contact us using the provided details. Please note that all graphs and maps included in this document are purely for illustrative purposes.

 **info@deanmoorsolarfarm.com**

 **0800 041 8643**

 **FREEPOST: DEAN MOOR SOLAR FARM**



Firma Energy

 **ib vogt**

4.3 Letter sent to LPAs for SoCC consultation



Stantec UK Limited
7 Soho Square
London
W1D 3QB
UNITED KINGDOM

20 November 2023

Project/File: Dean Moor Solar Farm/ 33313464100

[REDACTED] opment
Cumberland Council
Allerdale House
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 3YJ

Dear [REDACTED]

Reference: Statement of Community Consultation

I am writing to you to regarding the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the Dean Moor Solar Farm Project. The document accompanies this letter as an enclosure.

The SoCC is generally consistent with the version Cumberland Council indicated that it agreed with on 10th of November 23. The main change is to Zone 1 of the 'zones of consultation', so that Gilgarran, Branthwaite, Browtop, Ullock, Pica and Asby are included.

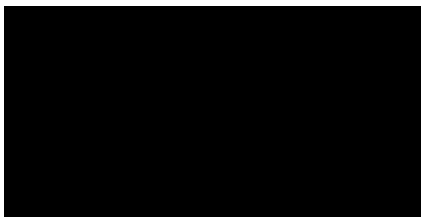
This letter constitutes formal notification that we are consulting you about what is to be contained within the SoCC, as stated in section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act). Cumberland Council is the local authority as defined by section 43(1) of the 2008 Act. On this basis, we would be grateful if you could provide us with any further comments on the SoCC by **19th December 2023**.

We aim to publish the SoCC in January, prior to statutory consultation commencing on the project in February 2023.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this with the project team, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

STANTEC UK LIMITED



Attachment: Statement of Community Consultation

Design with community in mind

Registered Office: Stantec UK Limited | Buckingham Court, Kingsmead Business Park, Frederick Place, London Road, High Wycombe HP11 1JU | Registered in England No. 01188070

4.4 Responses from LPA on SoCC consultation

From [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Dean Moor Solar Farm Statement of Community Consultation - Response needed by 19th of December

JL

See below comment on SoCC, perhaps a clarification needed.

[REDACTED]

Stantec
2nd Floor Ada Lovelace Building, Upper Richardson Road

[REDACTED]

The content of this email is the confidential property of Stantec and should not be copied, modified, retransmitted, or used for any purpose except with Stantec's written authorization. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete all copies and notify us immediately.

From [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Dean Moor Solar Farm Statement of Community Consultation - Response needed by 19th of December

[REDACTED]

A point to note.

[REDACTED]

Thriving Place and Investment
Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport | Cumberland Council
Allerdale House | Workington | Cumbria | CA14 3YJ

[REDACTED]

cumberland.gov.uk



Health and wellbeing is
at the heart of everything we do

Our values



Ambitious



Collaborative



Compassionate



Empowering



Innovative

[REDACTED]

Community Consultation - Response

needed by 19th of December

[REDACTED]

I have read through the document and I don't have any comments to make from a policy perspective.

Just one thing I did notice on page 23 right hand column bullet point 5. This describes the consultation process in zone 2 but bullet point five mentions "inviting residents of consultation **zone 1** to book individual appointments" Not sure that is a typo. Do they intend to offer individual appointments in zone 2?

kind regards

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Dean Moor Solar Farm Statement of Community Consultation - Response needed by 19th of December

[REDACTED]

Prior to this formal submission I consulted [REDACTED] and yourself on the draft. His response was supportive at the informal consultation with nothing substantive to add.

I was just wondering if there was anything that you wanted to respond on from the attached before the consultation period ends?

[REDACTED] likewise from a policy perspective anything to add on the SoCC?

Happy to discuss.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Thriving Place and Investment
Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport | Cumberland Council
Allerdale House | Workington | Cumbria | CA14 3YJ

[REDACTED]

cumberland.gov.uk



Health and wellbeing is
at the heart of everything we do

Our values



Ambitious



Collaborative



Compassionate



Empowering



Innovative

needed by 19th of December

WARNING: This email originated outside of Allerdale Borough Council.
DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

Hope you had a good weekend.

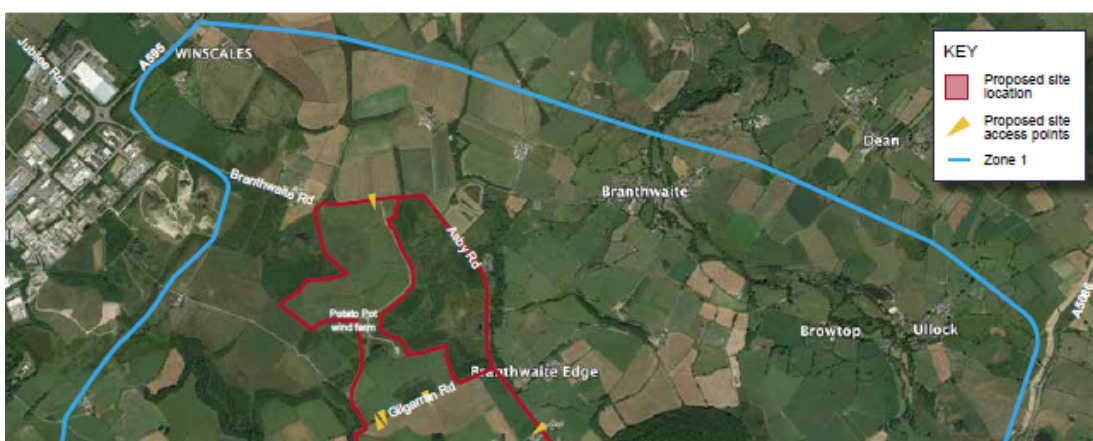
Thanks again for your previous feedback on the Dean Moor Solar Farm Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on the 10th of November (email below). Following this informal consultation, we are now required to formally consult you in accordance with [Section 47 of the Planning Act \(2008\)](#). **The Council has 28 days to respond, and therefore the consultation period would run up to the 19th of December 2023.**

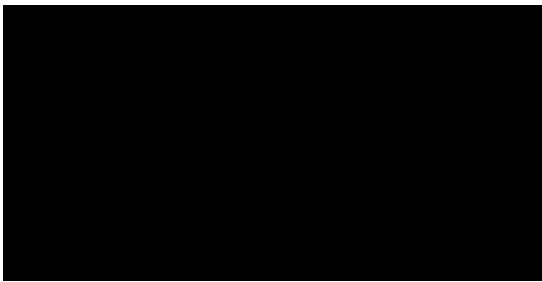
I have attached the SoCC, as well as a cover letter which formalises this notification to this email.

The only substantive change to the SoCC from the version which you previously agreed is to the 'zones of consultation' Zone 1 Study Area (see excerpt below). As I previously explained within my earlier email (below), due to the relatively sparsely populated area, for the non statutory consultation, we expanded Zone 1 beyond the 500m which would typically be included for such projects. Within this version of the SoCC, we have clarified the boundary, and on this basis Zone 1 now includes the villages of Gilgarran, Branthwaite, Browtop, Ullock, Pica and Asby. We have also included nearby farms, and properties in Winscales south of the A595, which may have views over the Site.

For context, the SoCC is a live document, and will be updated as the project progresses. This would include amendments to address any additional feedback you provide. We will publish it on our website ahead of the Statutory Consultation which is planned for February next year.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

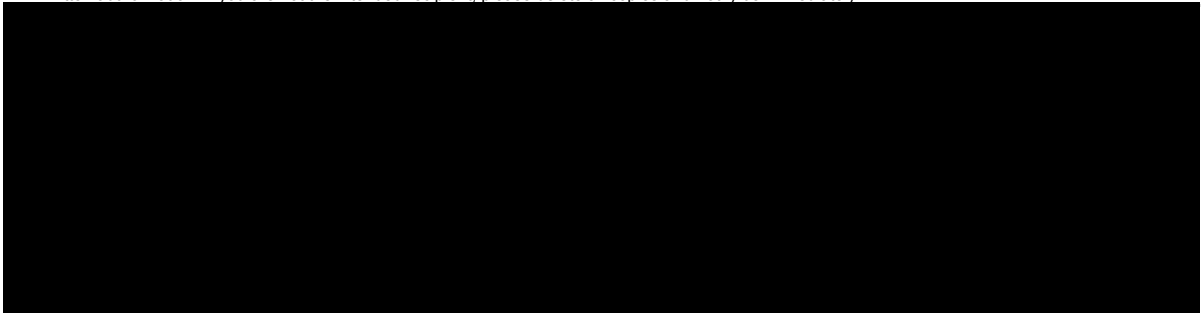




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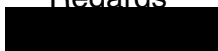
Hope all well and look forward to catching up on the scheme progress when we can.

I've had feedback from our deputy chief exec who looks at policy and comms and they suggest the draft SoCC is very comprehensive with nothing to add.

I would suggest informally that gives you a high degree of comfort that the council is satisfied with the approach. As a benchmark I'm assuming you have already reviewed the sovereign SCIs.

Hope this assists.

Regards



[REDACTED] Thriving Place and Investment
Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport | Cumberland Council
Allerdale House | Workington | Cumbria | CA14 3YJ

[REDACTED]
cumberland.gov.uk



[REDACTED]
RE: Dean Moor Solar Farm draft Statement of Community Consultation

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content is safe.

H [REDACTED]

Have you had a change to consider the below? As I say, would be good to have informal input on
the SoCC before we issue it formally.

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I hope this email finds you well.

As part of the preparation for our planned statutory consultation in early 2024, we have prepared the attached draft Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) for the Council to review. We are planning to formally consult the Council in two or three weeks time (mid November), but before doing this we would ideally have your informal input.

Request for Cumberland Council's input to the draft SoCC

I have highlighted the key areas we would particularly appreciate the Council's feedback on ahead of the formal consultation:

- Section 12 – Who we will consult, and the proposed Zones of Consultation
- Section 13 – How we will be consulting, and how this will be publicised

I note that for the purpose of the non Statutory Consultation, Zone 1 Study Area on Figure 2 in Section 12 was extended to include Gilgarran and Branthwaite. Zone 1 is the area where we write to people and/ or provide leaflet drops. Due to the relatively sparse population in the vicinity of the Site, we took the view that the 500m Zone 1 extent, which would typically used for such developments would have not included enough people to make it a meaningful consultation. We're still interested in hearing from people outside this area, but there are other means by which we will advertise the statutory consultation. Subject to your agreement, we're considering taking a similar approach going forward, so the Zone 1 boundary would be amended accordingly.

We're still working through the responses to the ongoing non statutory consultation, and as you'd expect there were a few people who would have liked to have received a leaflet, but did not. We're considering whether any adjustments are needed. We'll obviously contact people who provide their contact details by email in any case.

Non Statutory Consultation Update

For awareness, the consultation events in Branthwaite and at the Hunday Manor were reasonably well attended (44 people over two days) given the relatively sparsely populated area around the Site. We've also held a webinar, with 6 people who attended. It's available online to be viewed retrospectively.

In terms of feedback, so far there has been a good proportion of people who are supportive, or at least not in opposition.

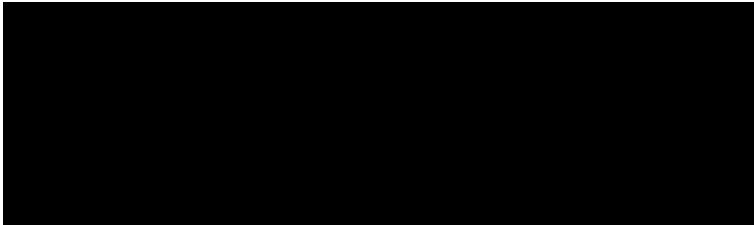
As you would expect, the people most concerned were those who were living nearest to the Site. It was good to see that those nearby residents with a potential direct visual impact were mostly in attendance at the events. They're obviously keen to see how we will be ensuring the project minimises its impact on their views.

It would helpful if you could come back to me on my email regarding the times to meet next week. Appreciate half term will be having an impact on workloads and availability

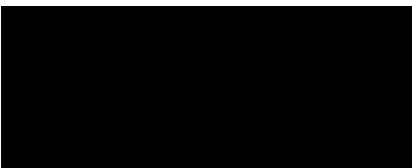
within the Council.

Your feedback on the draft SoCC is important to us, and we would be grateful for any insights you could provide at this stage of developing our approach to consultation. We aim to ensure that our statutory consultation aligns with the Council's expectations and requirements.

Kind Regards,

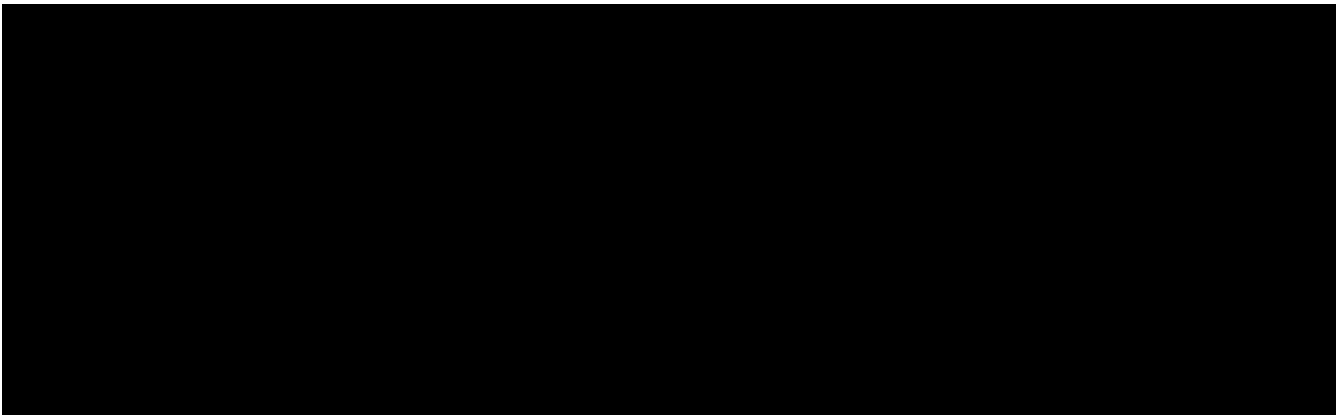


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Kind regards,



Subject: SoCC email to Council



I've been trying to set a meeting with Cumberland Council while on Site. [REDACTED] was reminding me that the Statutory consultation is planned for early November, and we'd ideally have some feedback from them in the short term.



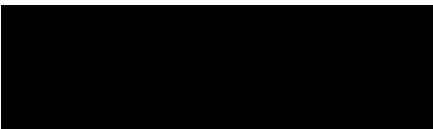
Cumberland weren't able to make our last proposed suggested this morning is after half term.

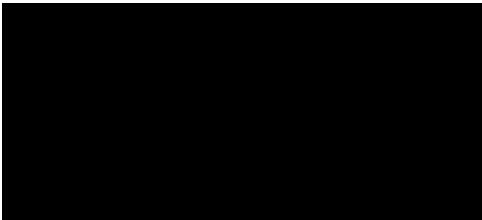


[REDACTED] has suggested that you would be able to prepare a short email to the key points for their agreement (on the study area, and general approach to public consultation). We could also attach a draft of the document.

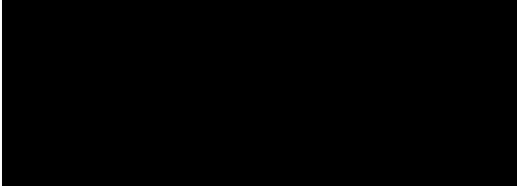


[REDACTED] with the even today, and with travelling back tomorrow, could you progress and I a draft?





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4.5 Published 2024 SoCC



Dean Moor Solar Farm and BESS

Statement of Community Consultation
on behalf of FVS Dean Moor Limited

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

February 2024

Prepared by Alpaca Communications
Document Reference: 6.01.



Firma Energy

 **ib vogt**

Following informal consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation with Cumberland Council in Autumn 2023, the following changes have been made to this document:

- Consultation Zone 1 has been expanded to include more local households. Figure 2 on page 19 reflects the updated Zone.
- Locations and dates of the statutory public consultation events have now been added.
- Deposit locations for consultation materials have now been added.

Contents

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5	2. Project description
7	3. About us
8	4. Project overview
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17	11. What will be consulted on?
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1. Introduction

FVS Dean Moor Ltd is inviting feedback from the local community on its proposals for Dean Moor Solar Farm as part of a public consultation in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 ('2008 Act'). Dean Moor Solar Farm would generate enough clean electricity to power approximately 50,000 typical family homes every year it is in operation. The solar farm will assist in tackling the climate emergency and to help the UK Government in meeting its target for net zero emissions by 2050.



2. Project description

The development of Dean Moor Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development') would involve the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a grid connected solar farm and Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS') ('the Project') on approximate 270 hectares ('ha') (420 acres) of land located between Gilgarran and Branthwaite in West Cumbria ('the Site'). The Proposed Development would include arrays of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, battery energy storage and associated infrastructure that will connect to the existing Distribution Network Operator (DNO) electricity network on the Site.

Dean Moor Solar Farm would contribute to local and national 'Net Zero' targets with an export capacity of up to 150 Megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. The annual output of the solar farm will provide enough clean electricity to meet the annual electricity demand of approximately 50,000 average family homes. This will have an annual displacement of approximately 137,350 tonnes (t) of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) compared with the same electricity generated by fossil fuel sources.

The Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) facility would be utilised to reinforce the power generated by the solar farm, storing energy at times of low demand and releasing to the grid in periods of higher demand or when solar irradiance is lower. The energy stored will also provide balancing services to maintain grid stability.

A full description of the physical characteristics of the whole Proposed Development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases will be set out in the Environmental Statement, Chapter 5: Development Description, which will accompany the application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO'). For the purposes of the statutory consultation this will be set out in the "Preliminary Environmental Information Report" (PEIR).



3. About us



Founded in 2021 by [REDACTED] Firma Energy is an independent management owned business, based in Leeds. The business has a focus on creating and delivering value from renewable energy developments with environmental and social benefits. Across the UK Firma Energy currently has over 260 megawatts (MW) of Solar Farm and 347MW of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in development.



ib vogt (IBV) is a leading developer specialising in utility-scale infrastructure for solar photovoltaic (PV) farms and BESS. With a 20-year history of global expertise, IBV has been a significant player in the UK solar industry, holding the position of the second-largest solar developer in the country from 2012 to 2017 and with over 40GW of development projects in the pipeline globally.

IBV are committed to sustainable energy and high-quality local development, a commitment solidified by their participation in the UN Global Compact. With over 490MWp of solar operations in the UK their projects are designed and delivered with consideration for communities at their core. Through transparent communication and investment in local employment, IBV strive to empower local resilience while addressing the global challenges of climate change. The focus on development and engineering excellence supports IBV's mission to create a greener future through renewable energy solutions.

4. Project overview

What is this document?

This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”), sets out how FVS Dean Moor Ltd will consult with the local community on its proposals for a utility scale solar farm at Dean Moor in Cumbria.

This version of the SoCC has been prepared in advance of the first round of consultation, which is non-statutory. The SoCC will be revised and published again prior to the statutory consultation stage.

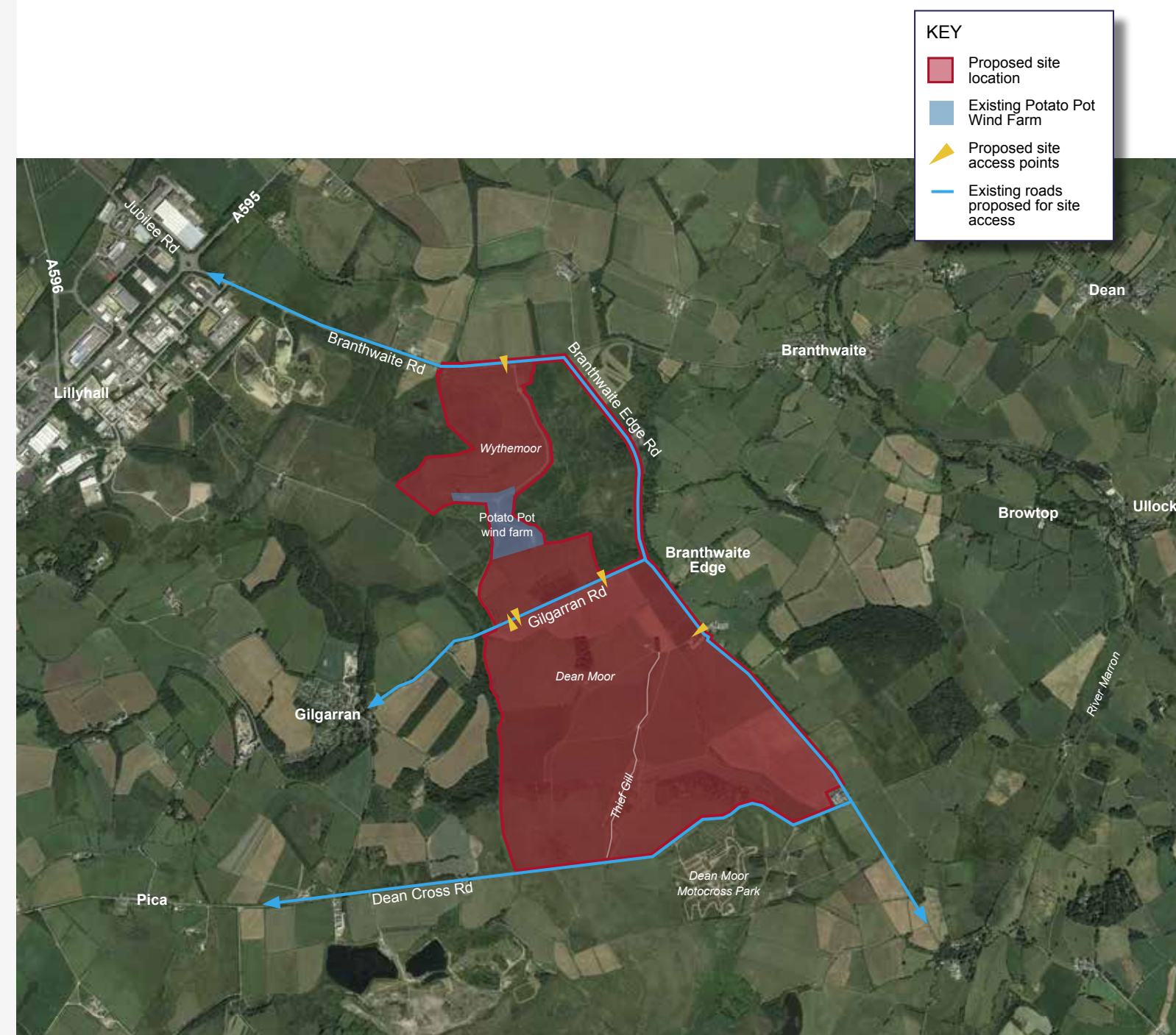
Feedback from this round of consultation and the statutory consultation will inform the final planning submission. It includes:

- A description of the planning process we must follow
- How we have developed our approach to consultation
- How we will be consulting the local community
- How we will publicise the consultation
- Next steps and further information

Why are we publishing this document?

The proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”) under the 2008 Act. This means that, unlike conventional planning applications, which are determined by local planning authorities, we must apply to the Department for Energy Security and Climate Change (“DESNZ”) for our proposals.

Part of this process requires us to publish a statement of how we will consult with the local community – known as an SoCC. The consultation process is an opportunity to influence our proposals before we submit our ‘DCO’ application. We very much want feedback from the local community on our proposals during our consultation.



5. The planning process

We are developing the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm under the 2008 Act. This is because its proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts ("MW"), which means that, under the 2008 Act, Dean Moor Solar Farm constitutes an NSIP requiring a 'DCO'.

Unlike planning applications, which are considered by local authorities, 'DCO' applications are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS"). This independent body administers the application process on behalf of the relevant Secretary of State. In this case, the appropriate government department is the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Further information on the 'DCO' application process can be obtained from PINS Advice Note 8: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others. This is available on the PINS website at the following link: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/>

Figure 1 on page 16 of this document shows each stage of the planning process for NSIPs. We anticipate submitting our application in the third quarter of 2024.



Indicative image of an energy storage container

6. The Planning Act 2008 and consultation

'DCO's are governed by a fixed, statutory process which requires us to consult with persons with an interest in the proposed land and certain bodies as prescribed under section 42 of the 2008 Act; the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act; and to publicise the proposals locally and nationally under section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("EIA Regulations"). It also provides a fixed role as consultees for those local authorities which host the development and means we will be following a well-established and clear process to engage on our proposals.

We are at the stage in 2023 developing our proposals where we will informally consult – this is known as a non-statutory consultation. We will use the feedback that we receive during the non-statutory consultation to help us develop our proposals for Dean Moor Solar Farm before commencing the statutory consultation period.

We anticipate reaching the formal statutory consultation stage during the first quarter of 2024. (see Figure 1). This stage is known as statutory consultation. We will use the feedback that we receive during the statutory consultation to help us further develop our final proposals for Dean Moor Solar Farm before submitting our 'DCO' application.

As part of our 'DCO' application, we will submit a Consultation Report detailing our approach to consultation, the feedback that we received during the non-statutory and statutory consultations, and how we have had regard to it. When considering our 'DCO' application, The Planning Inspectorate must consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate.

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

For the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, we are required to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") of our proposals as part of the planning process. This is by virtue of the proposed scheme being considered 'EIA development' for the purpose of the EIA Regulations.

This means we must assess the likely significant environmental effects of our proposals and, where appropriate, describe mitigation that is proposed to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any

significant adverse effects.

We will report on this process in a document called an Environmental Statement ("ES") when we submit our 'DCO' application.

During the statutory consultation process, we will be sharing, and seeking feedback on, the preliminary results of our ongoing environmental assessments. We do this via a document called a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR').

8. More information

You can find more information about the 2008 Act, PINS and its role and how to participate in the 'DCO' process on the PINS National Infrastructure Planning website - <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>, or by calling PINS on 0303 444 5000.



9. Our public consultation process

We are currently in the process of conducting consultations for Dean Moor Solar Farm. The feedback and comments we receive from stakeholders are of great importance as they will help shape the final design of the project, which will later be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for evaluation.

Our goal is to ensure that communities interested in this project can engage effectively without the need for duplicate feedback submissions. We strongly believe that this coordinated approach brings numerous benefits, such as:

- Efficiency for respondents
- Clarity for communities: clearly aligning programmes and providing information on the project in consultation literature allows us to clearly explain our project in single documents

Our consultation will consist of two phases of consultation for both projects, including:

- A non-statutory phase one consultation, lasting 30 days will be held from 3rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023.
- A statutory phase two consultation lasting for 10 weeks from Monday 11th March 2024 - Friday 24th May 2024. This SoCC relates to the carrying out of the phase two statutory consultation.

Phase one consultation (3rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023)

This non-statutory consultation introduced our early-stage proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm to the local communities. We received feedback on our initial proposals and suggestions from the communities, based on local knowledge of the area. All of this feedback has been useful for us to understand and consider as we develop and refine our proposals.

Phase two consultation (11th March 2024 - 24th May 2024)

The statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act, will allow us to update interested parties on our proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm. We will consult on more detailed proposals alongside presenting the findings of the environmental studies that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The phase two consultation is the consultation that we must carry out by law. More details of what we will be consulting on are listed in Section 11 of this SoCC and the methods for how we will consult are listed in Section 13. As well as the community consultation in accordance with Section 47, this consultation also includes:

- Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under Section 42 of the 2008 Act);
- Consultation with host and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (under Section 43 of the 2008 Act);
- Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by the Project (under Section 44 of the 2008 Act); and general public consultation on the Project (under Section 48 of the 2008 Act)

During our phase two consultation, we will actively seek feedback on the findings of the PEIR. The full PEIR, along with a non-technical summary, will be accessible for review as part of the consultation process. To ensure convenient access, the PEIR will be made available electronically on our project website. Additionally, as part of our statutory notices, we will provide a service for requesting copies of the complete PEIR.

For the convenience of interested stakeholders, hard copies of our community consultation documents will be sent via post upon request. Please refer to Section 13 for more detailed information on this process.

Once we submit the 'DCO' application to the Planning Inspectorate, interested parties will have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm. The Planning Inspectorate will facilitate public engagement by inviting views on the proposals. Interested parties will have the ability to register and submit their representations for consideration during the examination process.

For guidance and further information on this process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate's website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>

Consultation reporting

As part of the 'DCO' application to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, planned for Winter 2024, we will publish a consultation report that:

- Describes our consultation process
- Explains how we have satisfied and adhered to legal requirements
- Details how we have worked with local authorities to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in this SoCC
- Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received
- Responds to the feedback we have received, including explaining how we have listened to feedback and how it has influenced our proposals

11. What will be consulted on?

During the consultation periods we will be asking for views on:

- The proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm
- The short term and long-term impacts of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm including:
 - Construction impacts
 - Environmental impacts
 - Operational impacts
 - Impacts from decommissioning
 - Other impacts during the construction, maintenance, and decommissioning periods, such as socioeconomic and cumulative impacts
- Proposed mitigation of these impacts
- The contribution that Dean Moor Solar Farm could make to the local community
- The PEIR (at statutory consultation only)

10. Timing



Figure 1: Proposed Timeline for Engagement and Submission



Indicative image of energy storage containers

12. Who will we consult?

We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation from any person or group who may be directly impacted by the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm. We have defined a series of ‘zones of consultation’ for the purpose of consulting with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act.

These recognise the fact that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography and inform the techniques we will use to consult.

Zone	Parameters
Zone 1	Any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.
Zone 2	Any person or group living in proximity to the site, but outside of Zone 1. This zone is defined by the boundaries of the parishes of Dean, Arlecdon & Frizington, Distington, and Winscales
Zone 3	People living and working in the host local authority area of Cumberland Council outside of consultation Zone 1.
Zone 4	Neighbouring district, county and unitary authorities within the administrative areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Westmorland and Furness CouncilLancaster District CouncilNorth Yorkshire CouncilNorthumberland Council

Table 1: Zones of consultation

These zones are set out in Table 1 and visible in Figures 2 & 3.

The launch dates for each stage of consultation will be announced and published at least 10 days before the start of that consultation stage. This will be done in a number of ways, which are outlined in Section 13.

Figure 2: Map of the Site and Zone 1 boundary

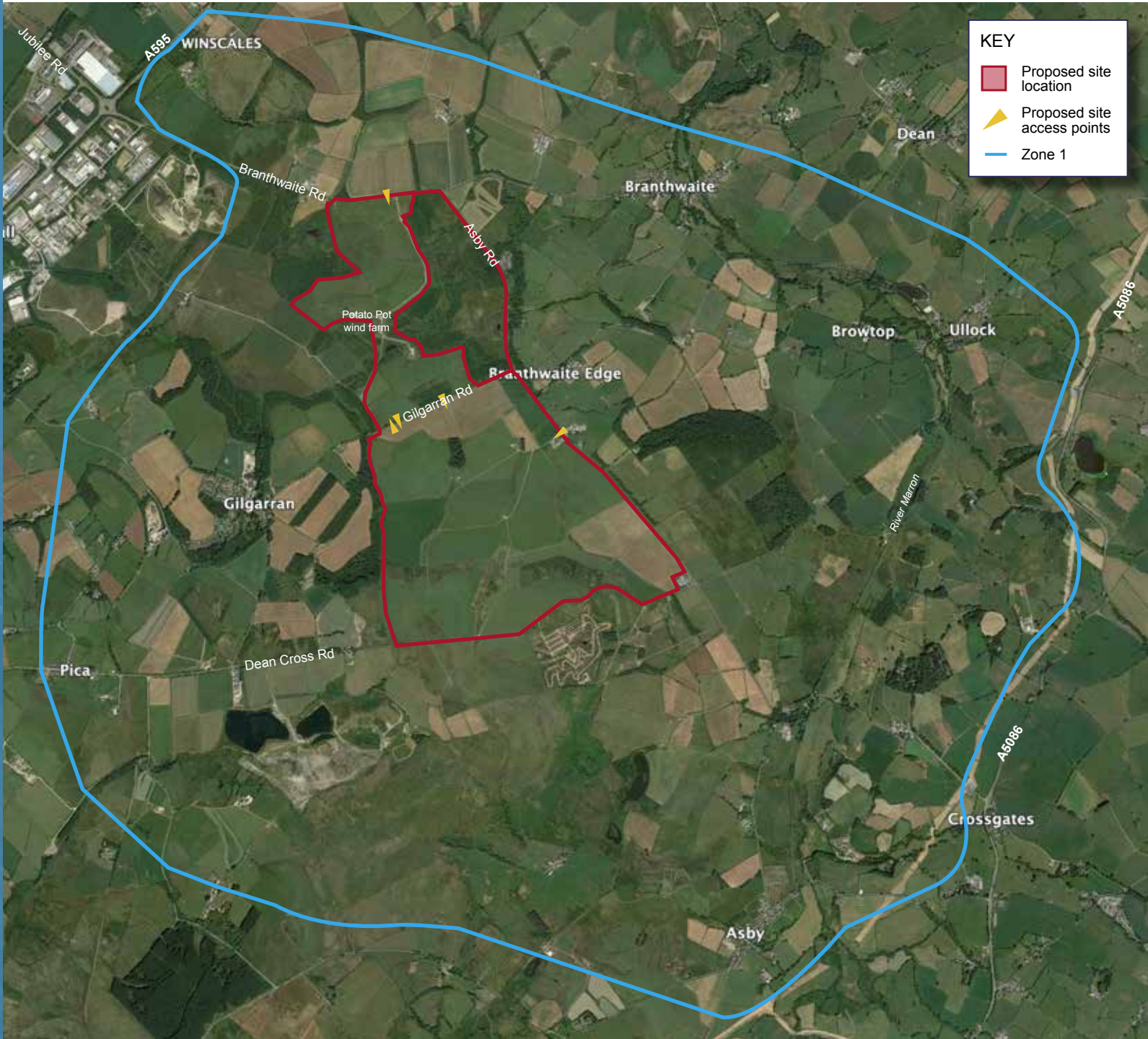
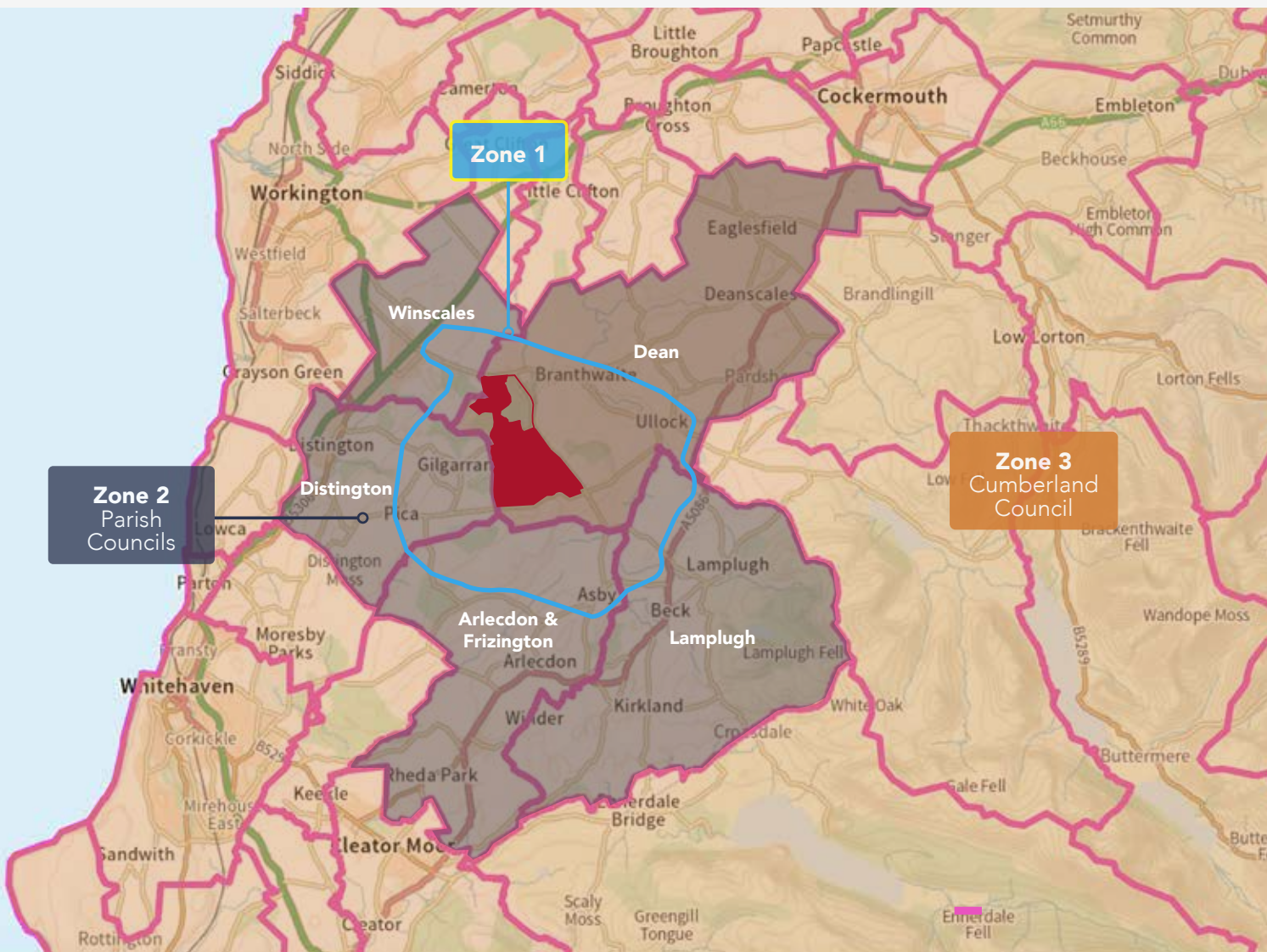


Figure 3: Map of the Site and Zone 1, Zone 2, and Zone 3



We will also consult and continue our engagement with a range of other statutory consultees as required by section 42 and section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm. These groups include, but are not limited to:

- Economic interest groups and organisations such as local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) and chambers of commerce
- Heritage consultees including Historic England and the National Trust
- Environmental consultees including Natural England and the Environment Agency
- Infrastructure providers such as National Highways and National Grid
- Conservation groups such as the RSPB, CPRE Cumbria, and the Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Ongoing engagement

Anybody is welcome to get in touch with us at any point before, during or between stages of consultation. Our contact details are listed in Section 18 of this SoCC. Feedback will be considered as part of the detailed design process and incorporated where possible. Where this is not possible for technical reasons, we will explain this in our Consultation Report. You will also have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for the Dean Moor Solar Farm when the 'DCO' application is submitted to, and accepted by, the Planning Inspectorate.

Seldom heard groups

We have developed our consultation to be accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of organisations representing seldom heard groups in the consultation area. These organisations will be contacted ahead of phase two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members. We are hosting different formats of free-to-use communications channels to ensure our consultation is as accessible as possible. These formats include email, phone and post. We will also be using a combination of in person and digital formats such as in person events and webinars. We will also continue to notify them of consultation opportunities. Identified seldom heard groups include:

- Age UK West Cumbria
- Cumbria Deaf Association
- Triple A (All About Autism)
- Autism Support Allerdale and Copeland
- The WI Cumbria-Westmorland Federation
- Allerdale Disability Association
- Owl Blue Cumbria
- Cumbria Young Farmers Clubs
- West Cumbria Society for the Blind England
- Anti Racist Cumbria

13. How will we be consulting?

We will use a range of techniques to consult the community. These are designed to allow people with different needs across the community to take part in the consultation. These are set out as follows:

Zone	How we will publicise consultation within this zone	How we will consult within this zone
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing to all addresses within consultation zone 1• Writing to elected representatives at a parish, Cumbria Council electoral division, and Parliamentary level, as well as community groups, within the zone with details of the consultation• Sharing a consultation information pack including Q&As and a poster with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone to allow them to promote the consultation through existing communications channels• Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star• Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West• Advertising the consultation via Facebook advertisements• Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sending a letter providing at an early stage introduction to the proposals and the contact details of the project team.• Sending a copy of a consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, how to take part in the consultation, and proposed next steps to all addresses in consultation zone 1• Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email. This will provide a variety of means for consultees to respond in a way convenient to them• Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars are included later in this document and will also be made available in consultation publicity• Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting• Inviting residents of consultation zone 1 to book an individual appointment to discuss the proposals by telephone or in person at an appropriate venue• Contacting community and voluntary organisations within consultation zone 1 to offer direct engagement• Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website.• Provision of copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for review, as well as copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire, at deposit points in the local area. The PEIR will also be available on the project website

Zone	How we will publicise consultation within this zone	How we will consult within this zone
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing to all addresses within consultation zone 2• Writing to elected representatives at a parish, Cumberland Council electoral division, and Parliamentary level, as well as community groups, within the zone with details of the consultation• Sharing a consultation information pack including Q&As and a poster with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone to allow them to promote the consultation through existing communications channels• Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star• Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West• Advertising the consultation via Facebook advertisements• Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sending a copy of a consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, how to take part in the consultation, and proposed next steps to all addresses in consultation zone 2• Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email. This will provide a variety of means for consultees to respond in a way convenient to them• Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars are included later in this document and will also be made available in consultation publicity• Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting• Contacting community and voluntary organisations within consultation zone 2 to offer direct engagement• Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website• Provision of copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for review, as well as copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire, at deposit points in the local area. The PEIR will also be available on the project website

Zone	How we will publicise consultation within this zone	How we will consult within this zone
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing to all division councillors at Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.• Writing to all parish councils within the consultation zone.• Sharing a consultation information pack designed to support stakeholders promoting consultation through their own existing communication channels such as social media feeds with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone.• Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star.• Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West.• Advertising the consultation online• Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars will be made available in consultation publicity.• Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting.• Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website.• Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing to the Leader and Chief Executive of local authorities within the zone• Publicising the consultation in the News and Star and the North-West Evening Mail• Advertising the consultation online• Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website• Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions. Dates for the webinars are included later in this document and will also be made available in consultation publicity• Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email



14. Consultation information

We will produce a range of materials providing information as part of the consultation including:

- A consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm including key plans, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, proposed next steps, and how to find out more and view other consultation documents
- Presentations to be given as part of webinars, which will be recorded and made available for viewing after the event on the project website at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com.
- The PEIR, accompanied by a non-technical summary (for the statutory consultation)
- A consultation questionnaire designed to collect responses to the consultation
- The SoCC

The PEIR will also incorporate the results of the environmental surveys that we have completed to date and set out our preliminary conclusions on the likely significant effects of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm on the environment. It will also give information about some of the mitigation measures that may be proposed to reduce or avoid those effects, so as to assist respondents in making well-informed responses to the consultation.

Copies of consultation information will be made available for review free of charge online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com.

Hard copies of the consultation booklet, questionnaire and SoCC will also be made available free of charge on request. Consultation materials will include guidance on what respondents can influence through the consultation and how we will have regard to their responses.

15. Public information events

Non-statutory events (3rd October 2023 - 3rd November 2023)

IN-PERSON:

- **Tuesday 17 October 2pm-7pm**
Dean Kirkstile Hall, Workington CA14 4TH
- **Wednesday 18 October 2pm-7pm**
Solway Lounge, Hunday Manor, Winscales, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4JF

WEBINAR:

- **Thursday 19 October 6pm-7pm**
- **Monday 30 October 6pm-7pm**

Statutory events (11th March 2024 - 24th May 2024)

We will be conducting statutory consultation events in Spring 2024. Dates and locations of events may be found below.

IN-PERSON:

- **Tuesday 19th March 2pm-6pm**
Distington Community Centre, Church Rd, Distington, Workington CA14 5TE
- **Wednesday 20th March 2pm-7pm**
Dean Kirkstile Hall, Dean, Workington CA14 4TH
- **Thursday 21st March 2pm-7pm**
Hunday Manor, Workington CA14 4JF

WEBINAR:

- **Tuesday 16th April, 6pm - 7pm**
- **Thursday 18th April, 6pm - 7pm**

16. Our documents

The following reports (listed below) will be prepared as part of the EIA and the 'DCO' process:

Scoping Report:

In August 2023, we published our Scoping Report, which presented the Project Envelope and outlined the processes we will undertake to assess potential impacts on the existing environment. Following feedback from Local Planning Authorities and statutory consultees, a Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate in September 2023. Both the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/dean-moor-solar-farm/?ipcsection=overview>.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR):

The PEIR will set out preliminary environmental findings and information and take account of the Scoping Opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate as well as feedback received during the non-statutory 'phase 1' consultation and stakeholder engagement. It will include the results of surveys and preliminary environmental assessments conducted thus far, providing consultees with a preliminary understanding of the potential impacts of the Dean Moor Solar Farm on the local environment.

The PEIR will also detail any project changes and proposed mitigation measures. During our phase two consultation, we will publish the PEIR for review and seek feedback. Please refer to Sections 9 and 14 for more detailed information.

Environmental Statement (ES):

Building upon the content of the PEIR and incorporating responses from the phase two consultation, stakeholder engagement, and survey results, the ES will outline the assessment and conclusions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Similar to the PEIR, it will describe any project changes and proposed mitigation measures. The ES will be an integral part of the Development Consent Order ('DCO') application for submission.

17. Community access points

Hard copies of this document and Phase Two consultation materials, including our leaflet, Feedback form and PEIR, will be available for public inspection at the locations below. We will provide copies of the consultation materials on a USB stick upon reasonable request and for a small charge.

Distington Library

- Monday: 10am – 2pm
- Tuesday: 10am – 2pm
- Wednesday: CLOSED
- Thursday: 10am – 2pm
- Friday: 10am-2pm
- Saturday: CLOSED

Workington Library

- Monday: 9am – 6pm
- Tuesday: 9am – 5pm
- Wednesday: 9am – 6pm
- Thursday: 9am – 5pm
- Friday: 9am – 5pm
- Saturday: 9am – 2pm

Frizington Library

- Monday: 2pm – 5pm
- Tuesday: CLOSED
- Wednesday: 2pm – 5pm
- Thursday: CLOSED
- Friday: 9.30am – 12pm
- Saturday: CLOSED

St Oswalds Church at Dean

- Monday: 9am – 6pm
- Tuesday: 9am – 6pm
- Wednesday: 9am – 6pm
- Thursday: 9am – 6pm
- Friday: 9am – 6pm
- Saturday: 9am – 6pm



Indicative image of an energy storage container





18. Contact details

If you would like to obtain further information about the Dean Moor Solar Farm, please feel free to get in touch. Our team can be reached through any of the communication channels listed below. For individuals requiring documents in large print, audio, or braille formats, kindly contact us using the provided details. Please note that all graphs and maps included in this document are purely for illustrative purposes.

 **info@deanmoorsolarfarm.com**

 **0800 041 8643**

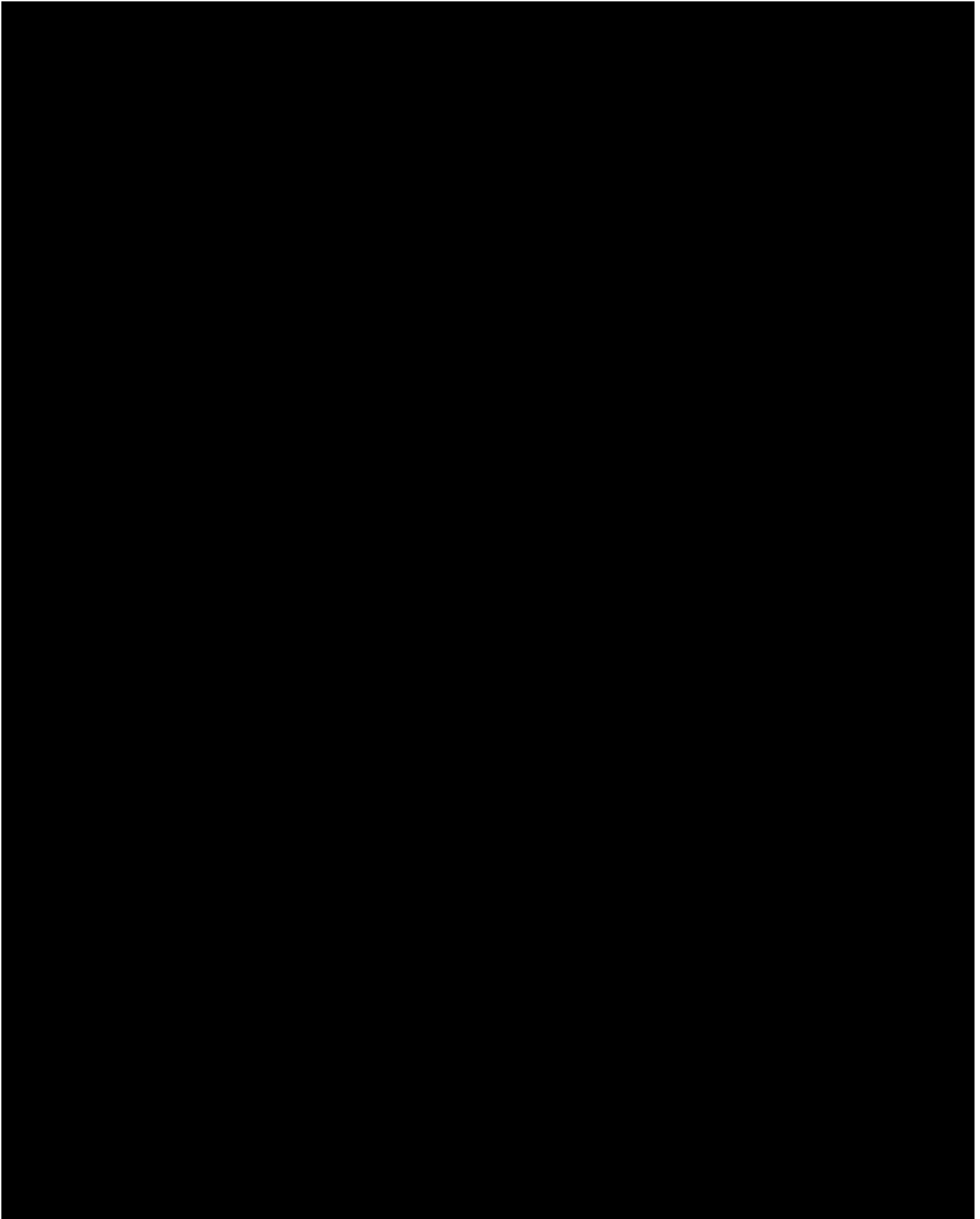
 **FREEPOST: DEAN MOOR SOLAR FARM**

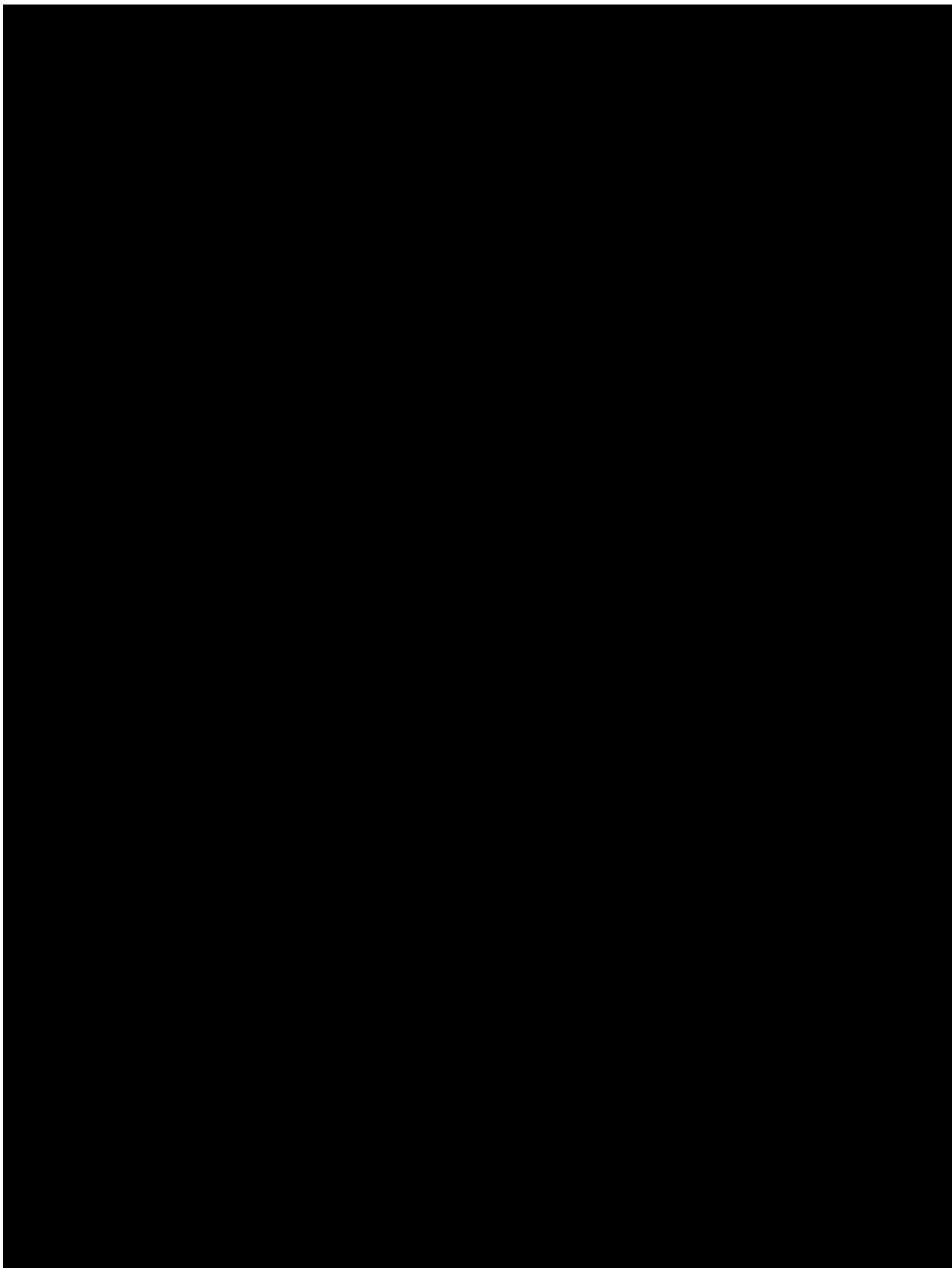


Firma Energy

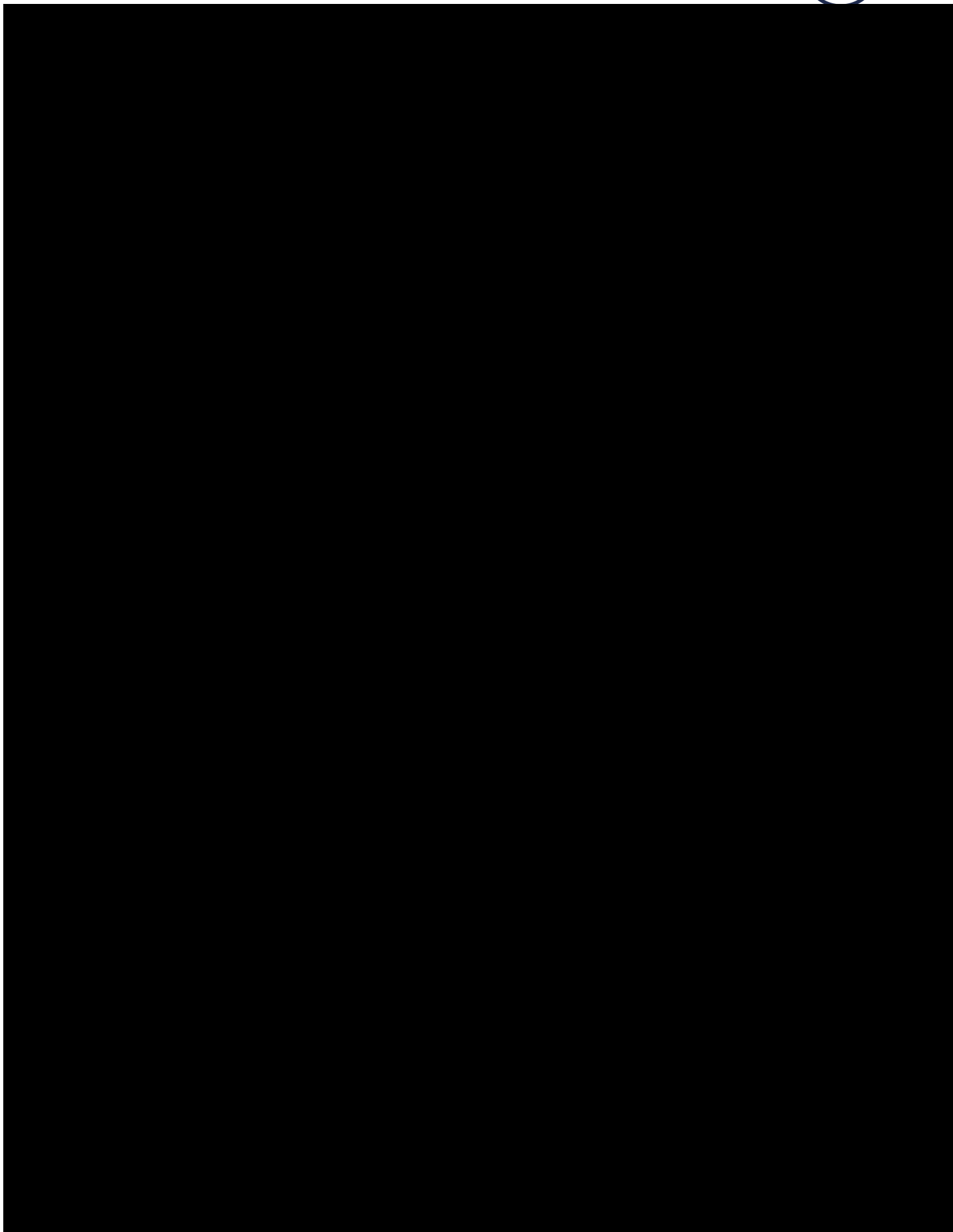
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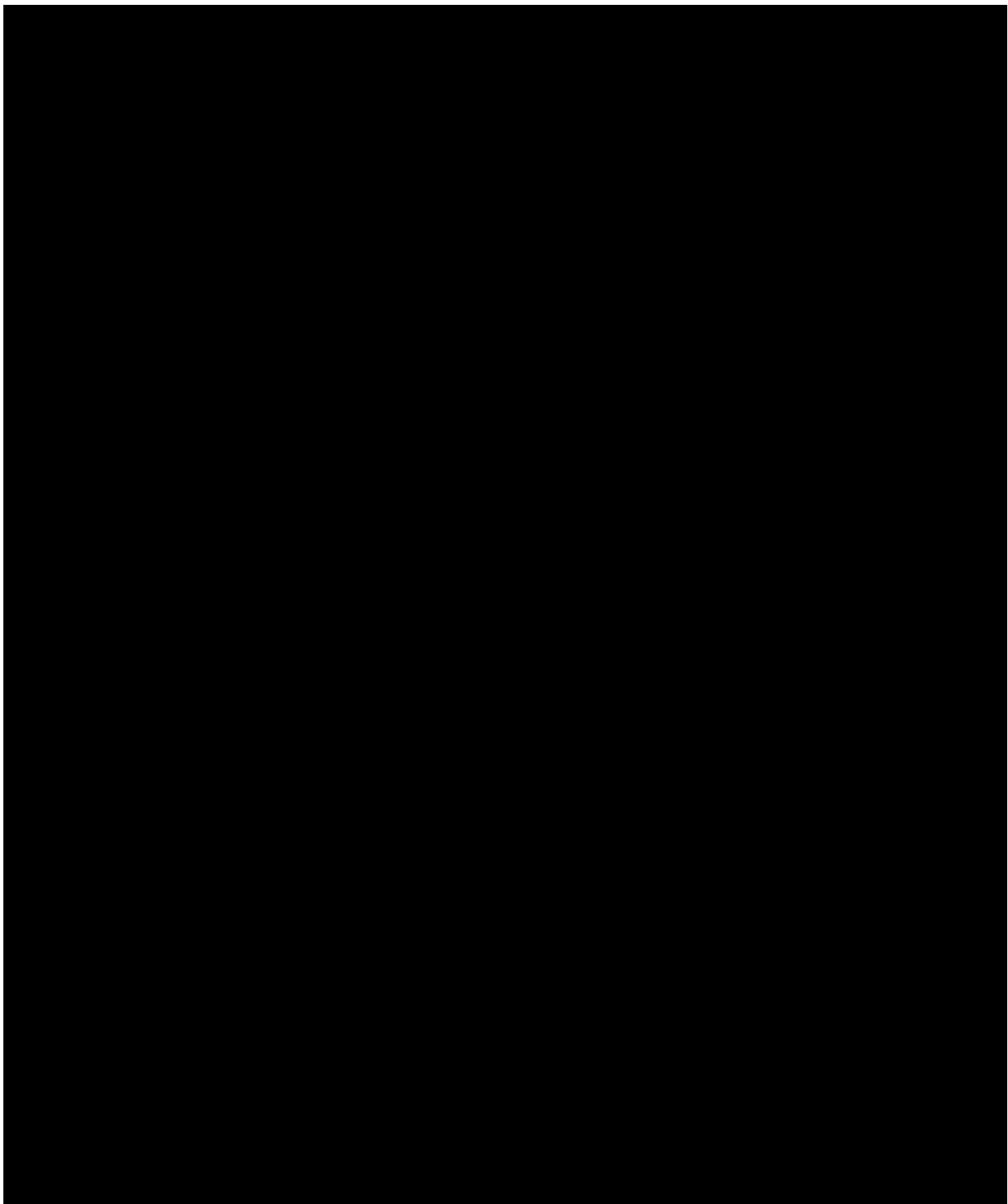
4.6 Published Section 47 notices



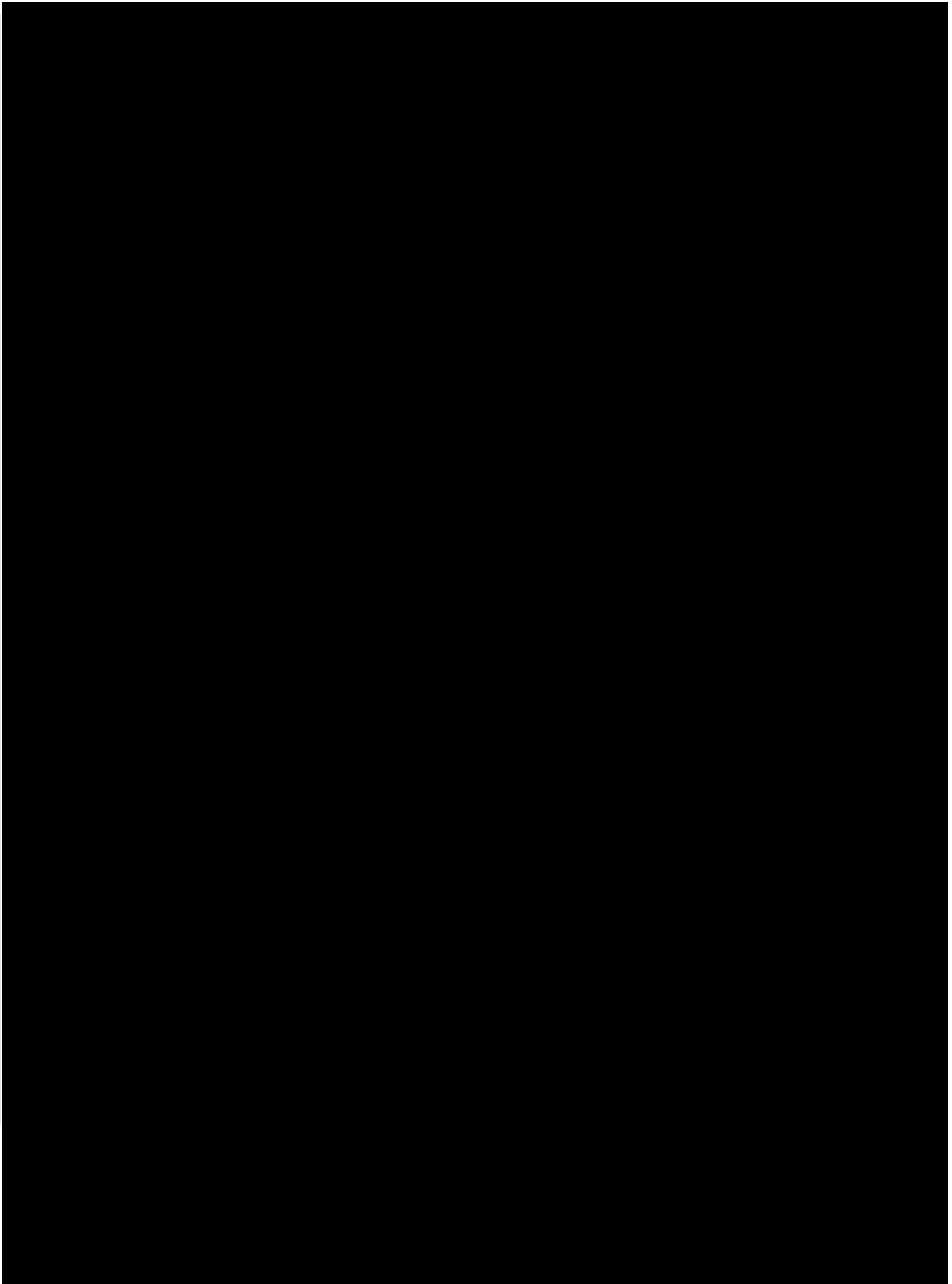


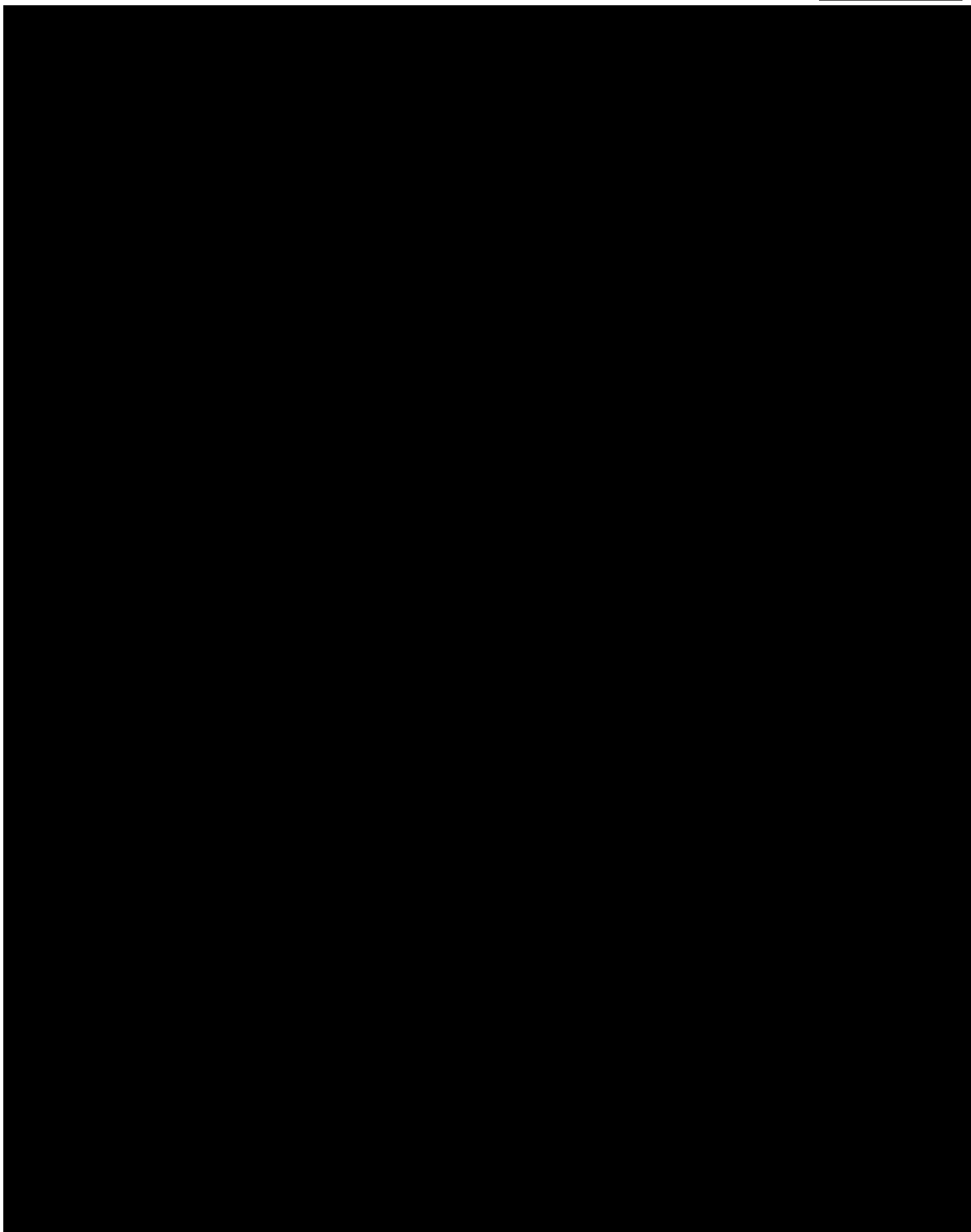


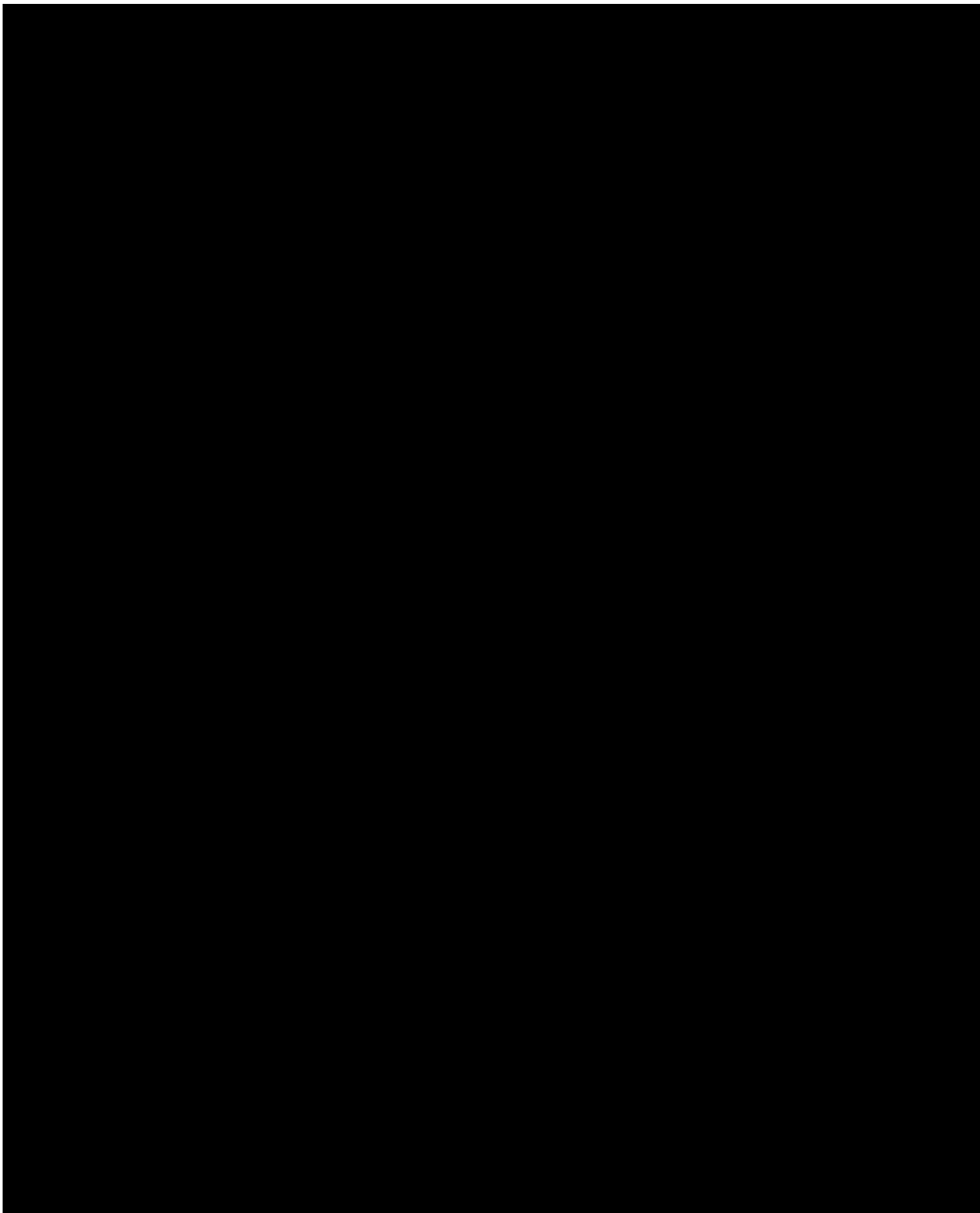


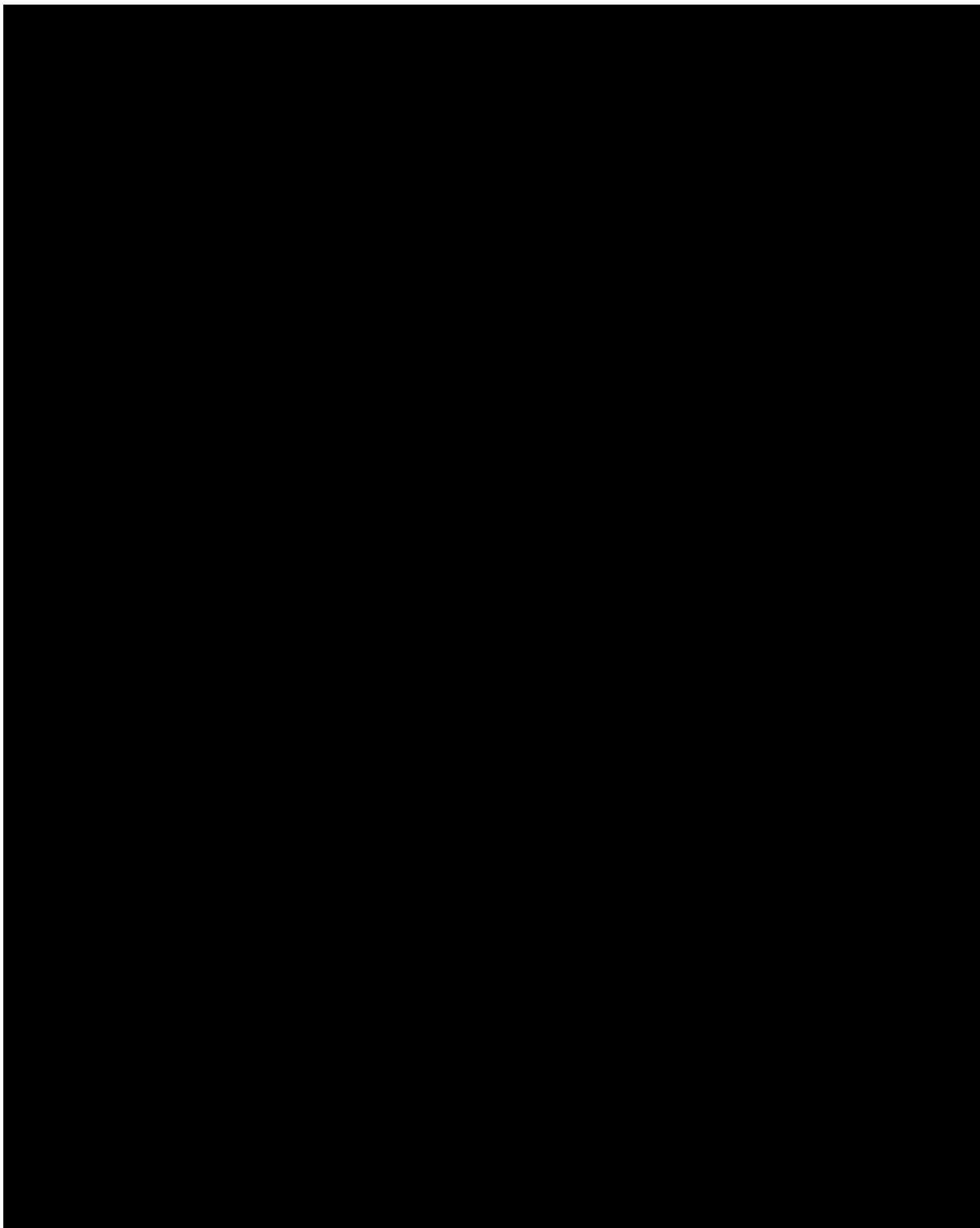


4.6.3 News and Star 28.03.24

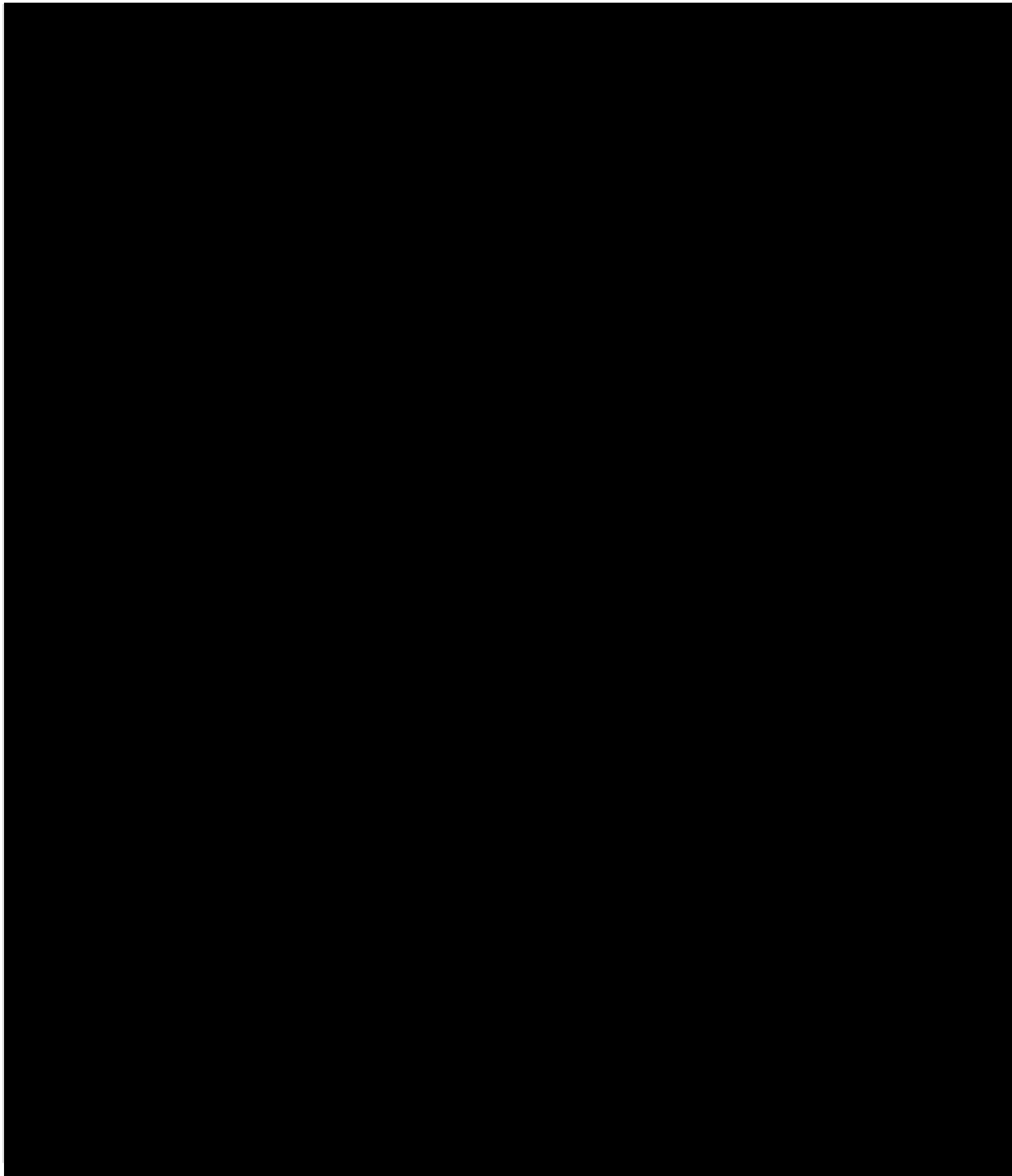


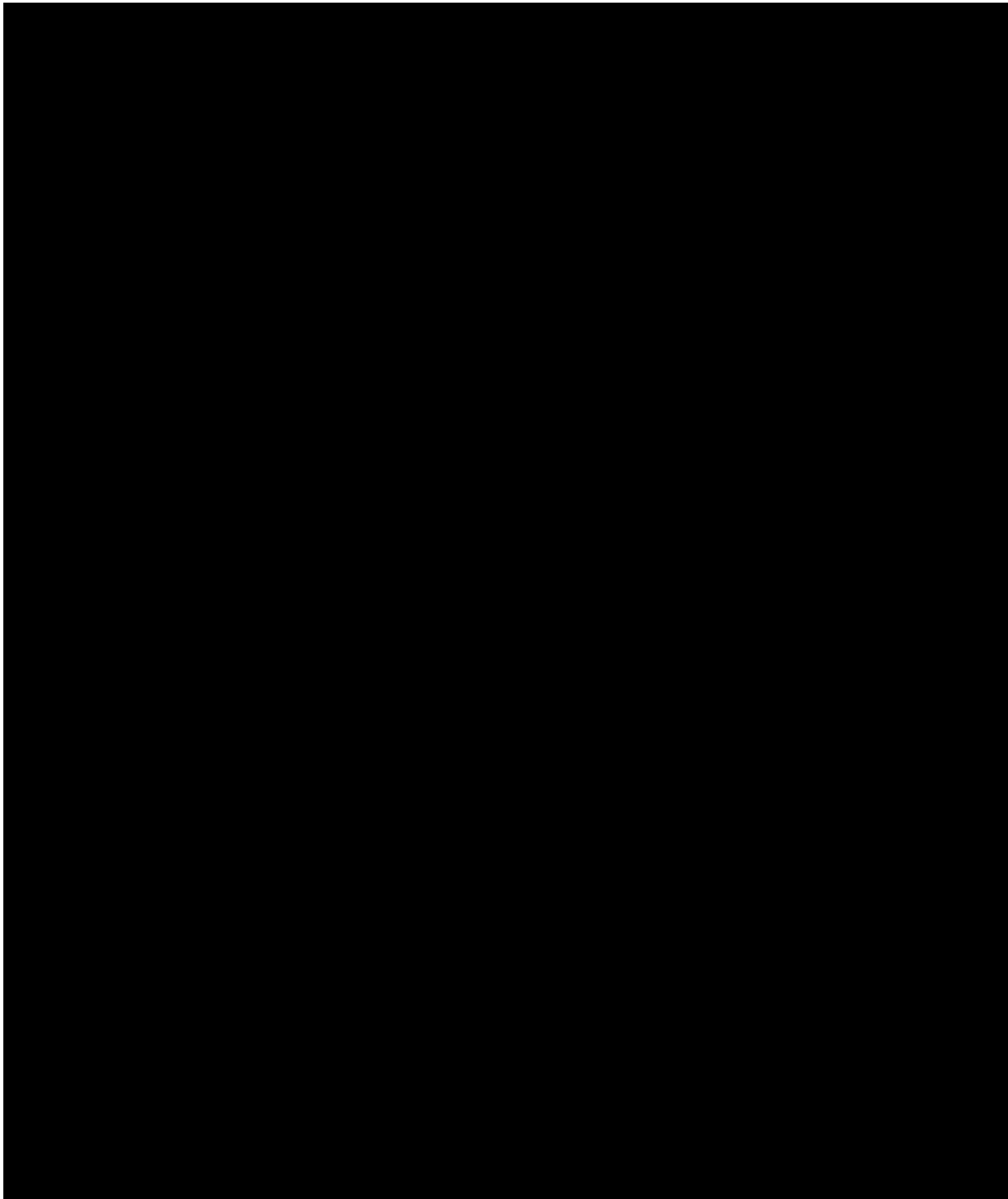




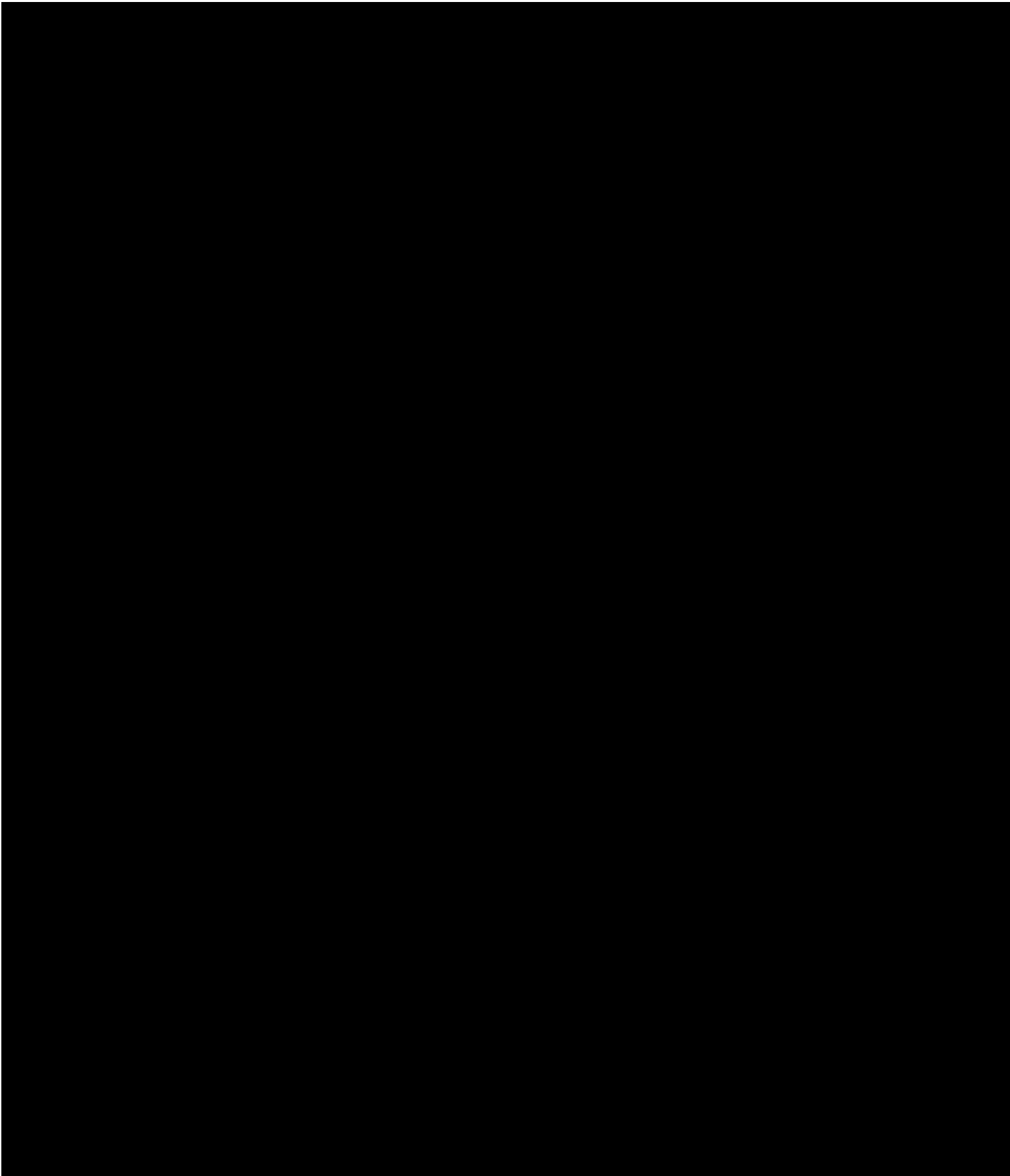


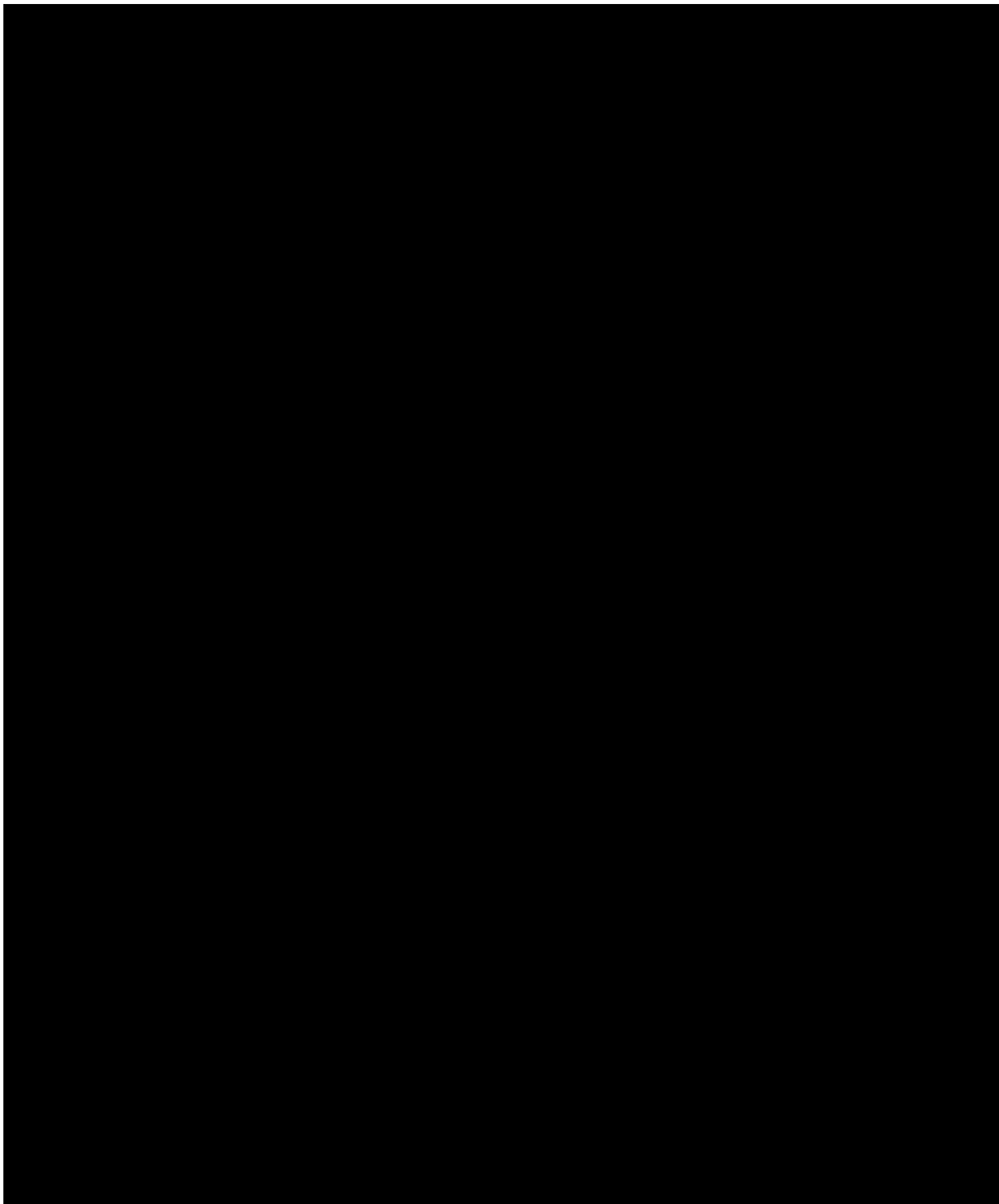
4.6.5. Times and Star 07.03.24



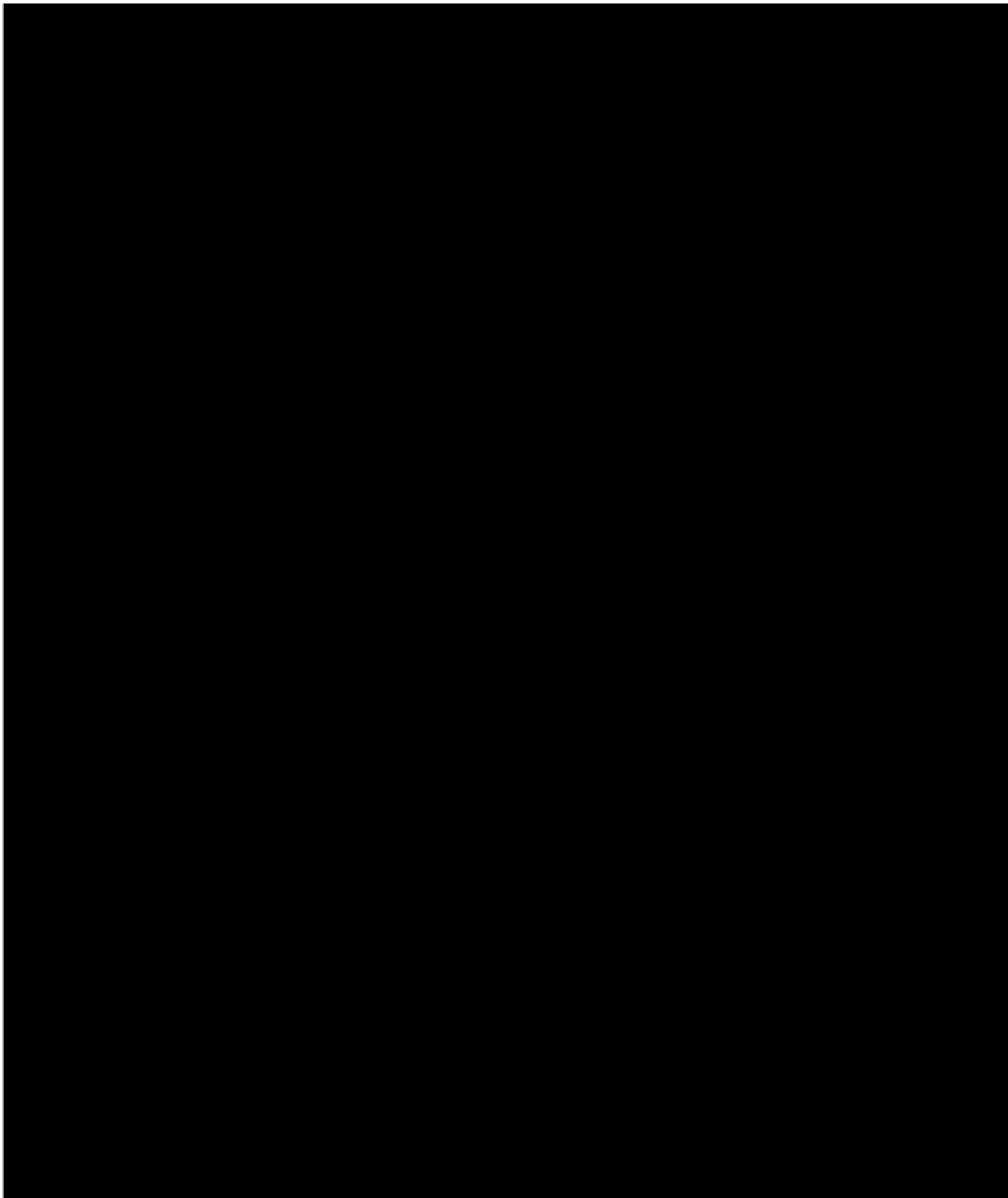


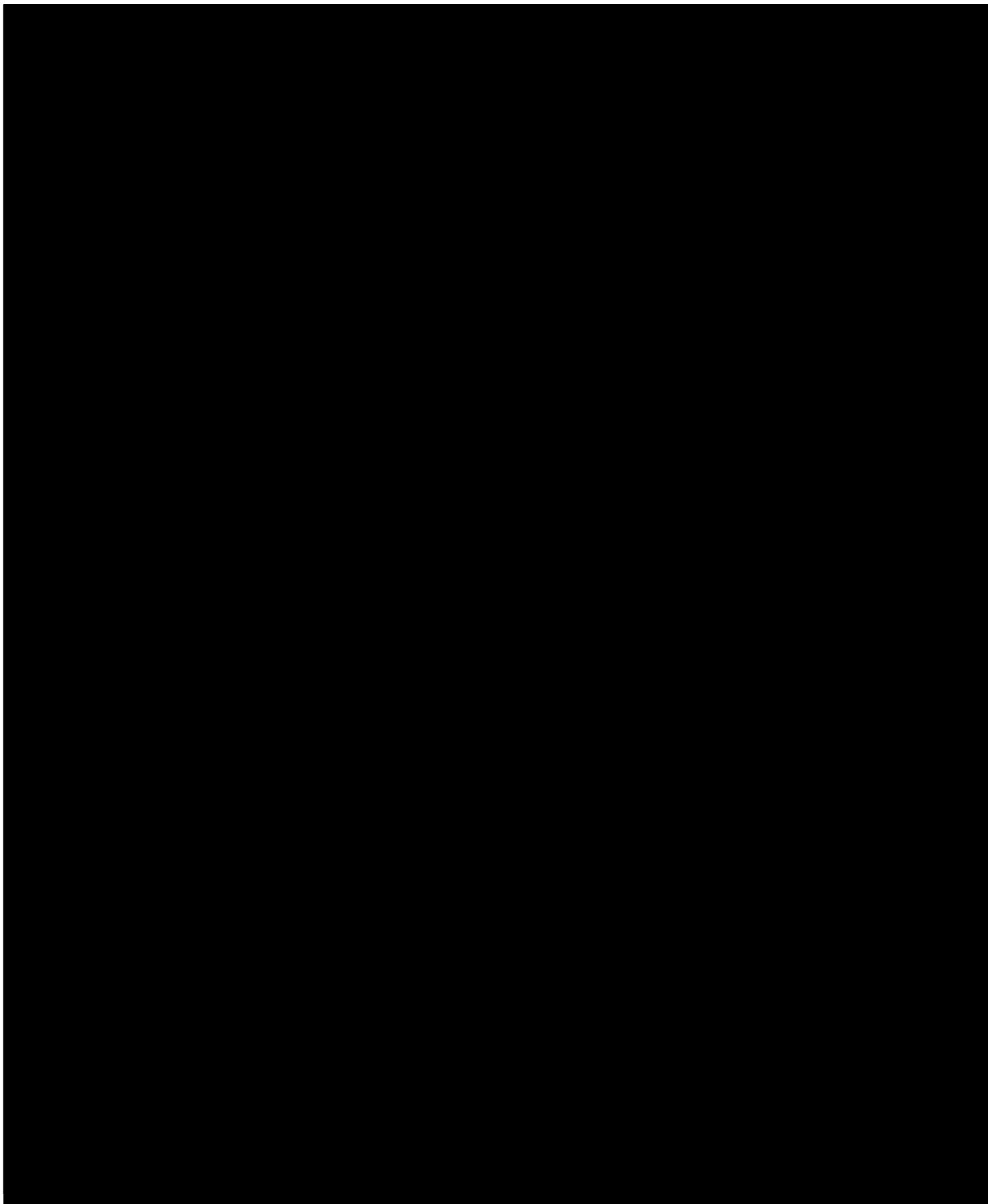
4.6.6. Times and Star 29.02.24



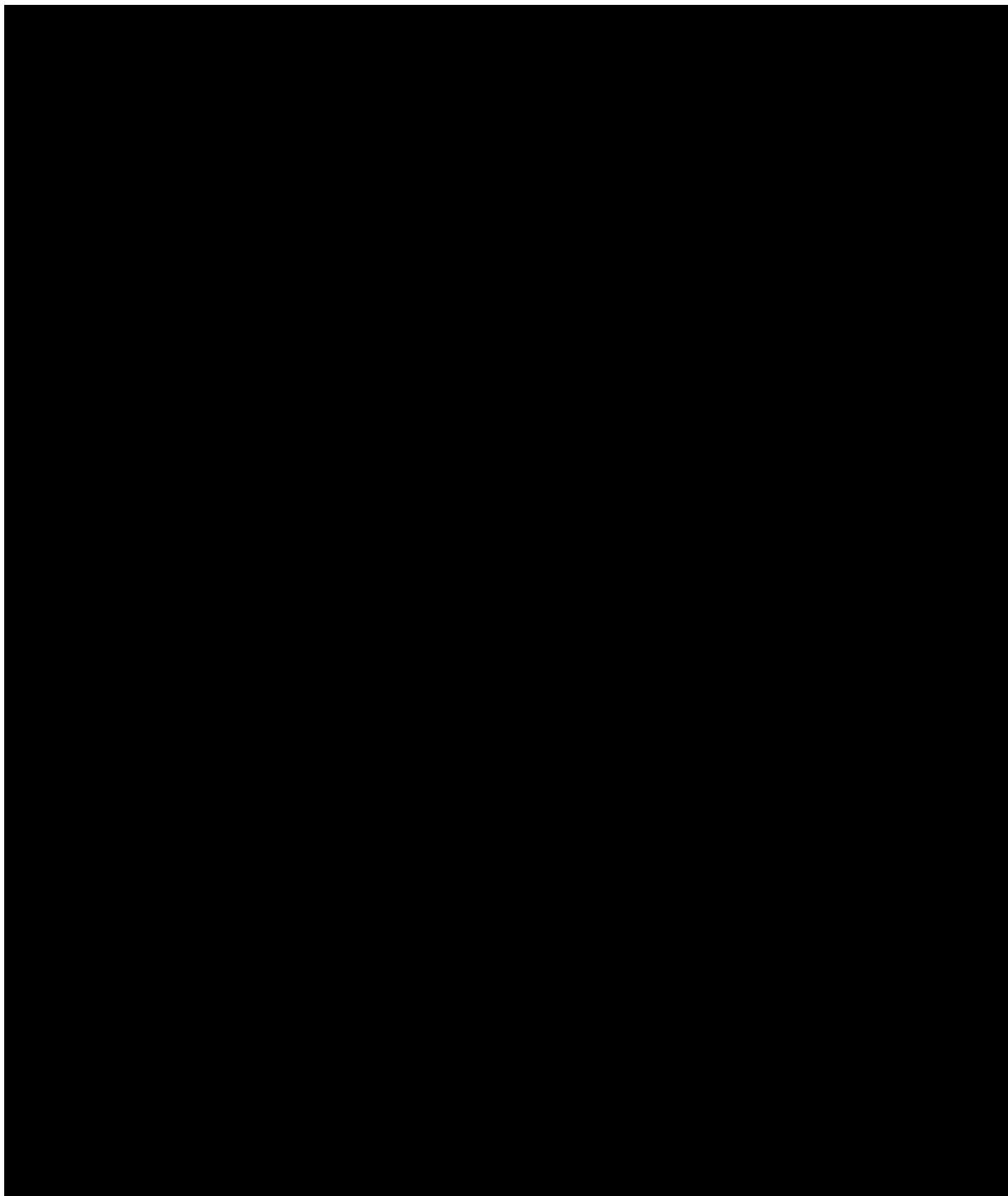


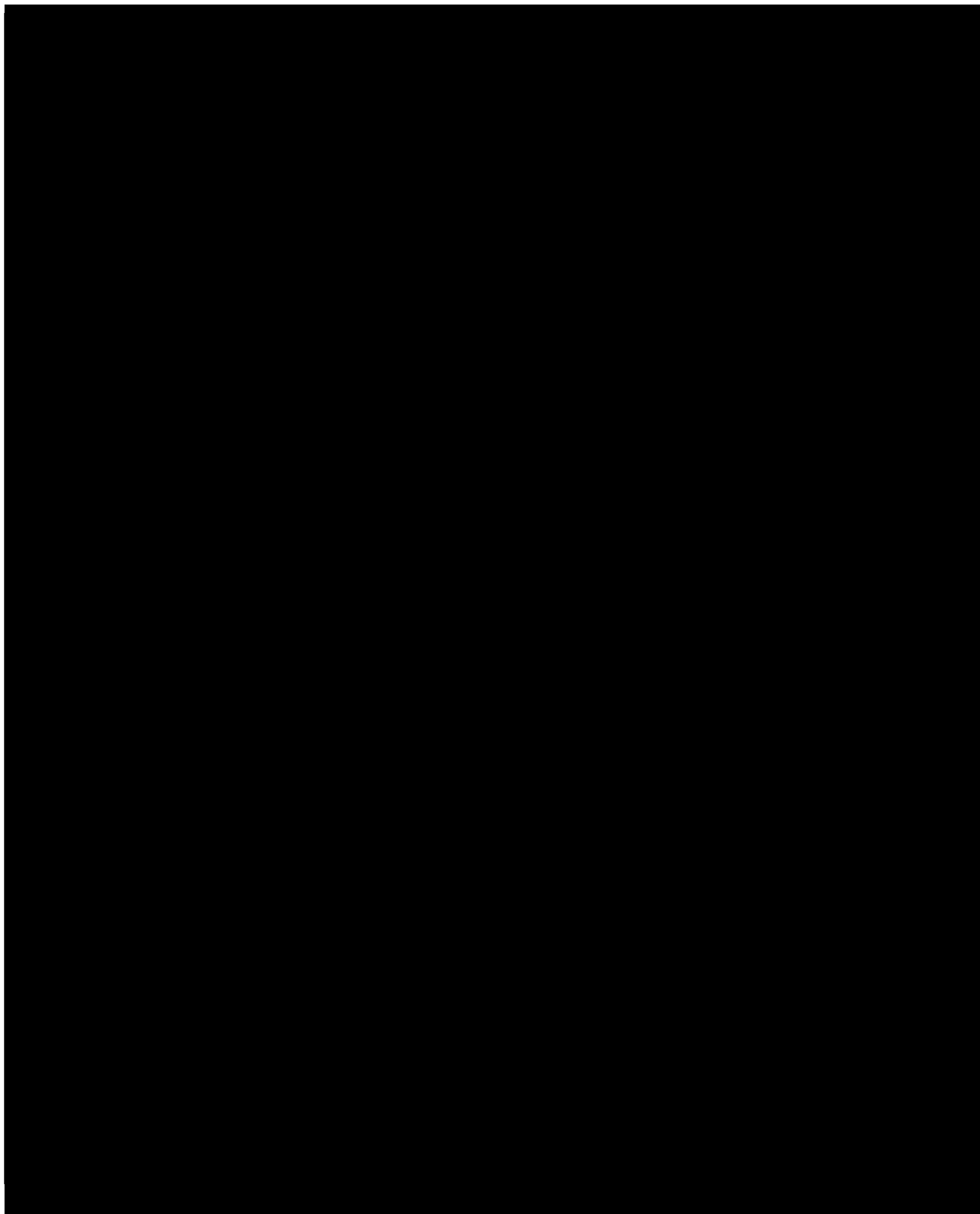
4.6.7. The Whitehaven News 28.02.24





4.6.8. The Whitehaven News 06.03.24





4.7 SoCC compliance table

SoCC reference (Chapter)	Commitment made in the SoCC	Evidence of compliance
12. Who will we consult? Page 18, paragraph 1	<i>We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation from any person or group who may be directly impacted by the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm. We have defined a series of 'zones of consultation' for the purpose of consulting with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act.</i>	Outreach was made to all parties as listed in the SoCC on 11 March 2024. Outreach directed viewers to the consultation materials placed on the website, at local deposit locations, and via the email, freephone and freepost address. The consultation zones were developed with Cumberland Council. Zone 1 extended to a minimum of 1km from the site, Zone 2 incorporated all site and neighbouring Parish Council boundaries, and Zone 3 constituted Cumberland Council area.
12. Who will we consult? Page 18, paragraph 4	<i>The launch dates for each stage of consultation will be announced and published at least 10 days before the start of that consultation stage.</i>	The statutory consultation was announced on the website on 26 February 2024 and advertised in local newspapers from 28 February 2024. The consultation then began at least 10 days afterward, on 11 March 2024.
12. Who will we consult? Page 21, paragraph 1	<p><i>We will also consult and continue our engagement with a range of other statutory consultees as required by section 42 and section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm. These groups include, but are not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Economic interest groups and organisations such as local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) and chambers of commerce</i> <i>Heritage consultees including Historic England and the National Trust</i> <i>Environmental consultees including Natural England and the Environment Agency</i> 	<p>To comply with the obligation to consult as stipulated in section 42(1)(a) of the 2008 Act, the Applicant assembled a list of relevant statutory consultees. The prescribed consultees are outlined in column 1 of Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations. The Applicant assessed the relevance of each consultee to the Proposed Development based on columns 2 and 3 of Schedule 1. A cautious approach was adopted, ensuring that a consultee was not excluded unless there was a substantiated reason for doing so. The definitive list of consultees who were actively consulted can be located in appendix 5.1.</p> <p>Emails were sent to identified potential interest groups in advance of the statutory consultation period on 9 March 2024. Letters were also sent to statutory consultees in advance of the statutory consultation period on 9 March. These emails and letters included details of the consultation period, the consultation website and documents therein (including</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Infrastructure providers such as National Highways and National Grid</i> • <i>Conservation groups such as the RSPB, CPRE Cumbria, and the Cumbria Wildlife Trust</i> 	<p>the PEIR), and the contact details for providing feedback to the project team. Owing to an issue with the addressing of the letters, which removed a portion of the address, letters were sent out again to addressees where the problem was identified on 18 March. These letters were sent out by Royal Mail, 1st Class Tracked post and were issued with a cover letter which explained the reason the letters were being re-issued.</p> <p>Further letters were issued on 3 April where confirmation was not provided of receipt of the letters sent on the 12th March, or the 18th March. These letters were sent by Royal Mail, 1st Class Tracked post, and were issued with a cover letter which confirmed an extension to the statutory consultation period to 3 May 2024 to ensure sufficient time to consider the proposals. For select consultees, letters were issued to a different address to the previous letters, either an address available online for the consultee, or the registered Companies House address, where an alternative address was used previously. Cover letters were enclosed to explain why an additional letter has been issued, and why a different address was used, where necessary.</p> <p>Additional letters were further issued by Royal Mail, 1st Class on 15 April to select consultees where proof of delivery could not be confirmed. These letters did not need to be signed for to ensure that someone did not need to be present to receive the letters. These letters were issued with a cover letter which granted an extension to 16 May.</p>
12. Who will we consult? Page 21, Paragraph 1	<i>We are hosting different formats of free-to-use communications channels to ensure our consultation is as accessible as possible. These formats include email, phone and post.</i>	Interested parties were able to contact the project team via a dedicated email address at info@deanmoorsolarfarm.com , by phone at 0800 041 8643, and by post at FREEPOST: DEAN MOOR SOLAR FARM with a target and typical response time of less than 5 working days. These inboxes were all monitored 9am-5pm Mon-Fri.

		Responses received outside of this period were incorporated into the feedback database at the earliest available opportunity.
12. Who will we consult? Page 21, Paragraph 2	<i>Identified seldom heard groups include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UK West Cumbria • Cumbria Deaf Association • Triple A (All About Autism) • Autism Support Allerdale and Copeland • The WI Cumbria-Westmorland Federation • Allerdale Disability Association • Owl Blue Cumbria • Cumbria Young Farmers Clubs • West Cumbria Society for the Blind England • Anti Racist Cumbria 	The listed groups were all contacted on 11 March 2024, with a copy of the brochure and feedback form. Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? Zone 1: How we will publicise consultation within this zone	<i>Writing to all addresses within consultation zone 1</i>	Consultation brochures were sent to all addresses within Zone 1 on 11 March 2024, along with a copy of the feedback form. Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3)	<i>Writing to elected representatives at a parish, Cumbria Council electoral division, and Parliamentary level, as well as community groups, within the zone with details of the consultation</i>	Elected representatives were contacted with a copy of the brochure and feedback form on 11 March 2024, inviting them to the statutory consultation events and offering them a one-to-one briefing. Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1, Zone 2)	<i>Sharing a consultation information pack including Q&As and a poster with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone to allow them to promote the consultation through existing communications channels</i>	An information pack including the PEIR, Non-Technical Summary, Guide to the Statutory Consultation, Consultation Brochures (Including Q&As), Consultation Feedback Forms, and posters was provided at the start of the consultation and made available upon request. Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.

13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3)	<i>Publicising the consultation in the following newspapers circulating in the consultation zone: the News and Star, the Whitehaven News, and the Times and Star</i>	Statutory notices advertising the statutory consultation were placed in the listed newspapers on 11 March 2024. Further details will be provided in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3)	<i>Publicising the consultation to regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Cumbria, BBC Look North (North East and Cumbria), BBC North West</i>	This was undertaken in advance of the start of the consultation period (11 March). Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3, Zone 4)	<i>Advertising the consultation via Facebook advertisements</i>	Facebook adverts were placed from 11 March 2024 – 26 April 2024, for the duration of the statutory consultation period. Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3, Zone 4)	<i>Publishing details of the consultation online at www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/</i>	Details of the statutory consultation were published on the project website. Documents published to the website will be listed in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1)	<i>Sending a letter providing at an early stage introduction to the proposals and the contact details of the project team.</i>	This was undertaken on 4 August 2023, in advance of the start of the consultation period. Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1)	<i>Sending a copy of a consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, how to take part in the consultation, and proposed next steps to all addresses in consultation zone 1</i>	Copies of the consultation booklet were sent by Royal Mail to all households in Zone 1 on 11 March 2024, advertising the statutory consultation and with details of the proposals. Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting?	<i>Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions.</i>	Two webinars occurred during the statutory consultation period, on Tuesday 16 April 6pm-7pm, and Thursday 18 th April 6pm-7pm.

(Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3, Zone 4)		
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3)	<i>Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting</i>	Local representatives were offered one-to-one briefings accompanying their invitation to the consultation. The Applicant received several responses, details of which will be included in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1)	<i>Inviting residents of consultation zone 1 to book an individual appointment to discuss the proposals by telephone or in person at an appropriate venue</i>	This was undertaken in advance of the start of the consultation period and during the consultation. Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1)	<i>Contacting community and voluntary organisations within consultation zone 1 to offer direct engagement</i>	Local organisations within Zone 1 were invited to have direct meetings with the project team in advance of the consultation period. Further details will be available in the Consultation Report.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3, Zone 4)	<i>Publication of consultation information online at the consultation website</i>	This was undertaken on 10 March 2024, in advance of the start of the consultation period.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 1)	<i>Provision of copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for review, as well as copies of the consultation booklet and questionnaire, at deposit points in the local area. The PEIR will also be available on the project website.</i>	Materials were deposited at the locations identified in the SoCC on the first day of the consultation: Distington Library, Frizington Library, Workington Library, and St Oswalds Church at Dean. Materials were deposited where possible in advance of 9.00 am. Where this was not possible (Distington Library, Frizington Library) materials were delivered at those locations opening times in the first day of consultation.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 2)	Writing to all addresses within consultation zone 2	This was identified as a typo within the published SoCC by the Applicant. The Applicant notified Cumberland Council of this error on 6 th August 2024. Changes were agreed with the Council to make clear that the Applicant would <u>not</u> be writing to residents in Zone 2. The SoCC, as published, was not changed, so it contained the commitment to write to

		<p>parties in Zone 2. However the Applicant consulted as agreed with the Council, and therefore did not write to addresses in Zone 2.</p> <p>The following actions were undertaken to inform the residents living in Zone 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entirety of Zone 2 was covered by online advertising via Facebook/Instagram, to the effect that these adverts had an estimated reach of 9,114 accounts across both Zone 1 and Zone 2; • Zone 2 was also covered by newspapers which contained notices of the proposed application; and • Two of the consultation events, at Hunday Manor and Distington Community Hall, were held within Zone 2 while the third event, at Dean Kirkstile Hall, was held in Zone 1. <p>The Applicant did, therefore, consult fully with the residents living in Zone 2, the issue being that this was not fully in accordance with the published SoCC. All residents had the opportunity to respond to the consultation. Of the 15 responses to consultation received, five responses were from residents in Zone 2.</p>
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 3)	Writing to all division councillors at Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.	This was undertaken on 11 March 2024, at the start of the consultation period.
13. How will we be consulting? (Zone 4)	<i>Writing to the Leader and Chief Executive of local authorities within the zone</i>	This was undertaken on 11 March 2024, at the start of the consultation period.
15. Public information events	<p><i>Statutory events (11th March 2024 - 26th April 2024)</i></p> <p><i>We will be conducting statutory consultation events in Spring</i></p>	<p>Consultation events were held at the times and locations as listed. Details on how the events were advertised will be found in the Consultation Report.</p> <p>A recording of the Tuesday 16 April webinar may be found on the project</p>

<p>2024. Dates and locations of events may be found below.</p> <p>IN-PERSON:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 19th March 2pm-6pm, Distington Community Centre, Church Rd, Distington, Workington CA14 5TE • Wednesday 20th March 2pm-7pm, Dean Kirkstile Hall, Dean, Workington CA14 4TH • Thursday 21st March 2pm-7pm, Hunday Manor, Workington CA14 4JF <p>WEBINAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 16th April, 6pm - 7pm • Thursday 18th April, 6pm - 7pm 	<p>website at https://www.deanmoorsolarfarm.com/public-consultation.</p>
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4.8 SoCC error correspondence

Subject: RE: Dean Moor Solar Farm - Issue with the Statement of Community Consultation

It was good to catch up on the project – much appreciated.

As we discussed the council planning team will continue to engage as practically possible and be your first point of contact.

Thriving Place and Investment
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Community Consultation

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It was good to meet with you earlier this week.

As discussed, I have provided the below summary of the issue which occurred regarding the consultation arrangements which are described within the Project's Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) . We'll issue a separate minute of our meeting.

What informed the consultation arrangements agreed with the Council

When developing the SoCC, we initially proposed (to the Council) that our Zone 1 consultation area (the area we would write to people) should be a 500m buffer around the Site. With residents within 500m (in Zone 1) receiving consultation information delivered to their homes. As the population within 500m was so sparse, prior to the consultation, we agreed with the Council to extend the boundary of Zone 1 to include a wider area, particularly the closest dwellings and villages (Branthwaite, Gilgarran, part of Winscales, Browtop, Ullock and Asby). The agreed boundary is shown in blue on the below excerpt from the SoCC below.

What actually happened

We updated the SOCC to reflect the agreed extended Zone 1, but did not update the SoCC in relation to Zone 2. The published SoCC included the earlier (and superseded) commitment, where we said we would send consultation information to addresses in Zone 2. For context, this meant that in the SoCC, Zone 2 had the same arrangements as Zone 1.

I can confirm that the following actions were undertaken to inform the residents living in Zone 2:

- The entirety of Zone 2 was covered by our online advertising via Facebook/Instagram, to the effect that these adverts had an estimated reach of 9,114 accounts across both Zone 1 and Zone 2;
- Zone 2 was also covered by newspapers which contained notices of the proposed application; and
- We also had broad engagement with people in Zone 2. Two of our consultation events, at Hunday Manor and Distington Community Hall, were held within Zone 2 while the third event, at Dean Kirkstile Hall, was held in Zone 1.

We did, therefore, consult fully with the residents living in Zone 2 , the issue being that this was not fully in accordance with the published SoCC. All residents had the opportunity to respond to the consultation and it is worth reporting that of the 15 responses to consultation received, five responses were from residents in Zone 2.

What we plan to do next

We will fully explain the above in our Consultation Report, which will accompany the application for development consent, so the Planning Inspectorate is aware of the position. We have drawn this matter to your attention now so you are aware of the position when you are invited, in due course, by the Planning Inspectorate, to comment on the adequacy of the consultation carried out by the applicant.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



12. Who will we consult?

We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation from any person or group who may be directly impacted by the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm. We have defined a series of 'zones of consultation' for the purpose of consulting with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act.

These recognise the fact that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography and inform the techniques we will use to consult.

These zones are set out in Table 1 and visible in Figures 2 & 3.

The launch dates for each stage of consultation will be announced and published at least 10 days before the start of that consultation stage. This will be done in a number of ways, which are outlined in Section 13.

Zone Parameters

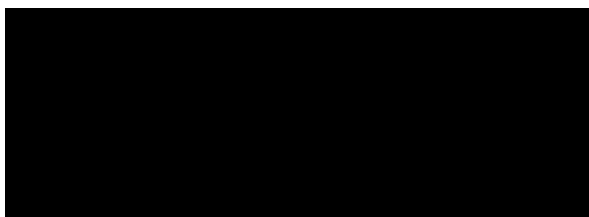
Zone 1	Any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Dean Moor Solar Farm by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.
Zone 2	Any person or group living in proximity to the site, but outside of Zone 1. This zone is defined by the boundaries of the parishes of Dean, Arlecdon & Frizington, Distington, and Winscales
Zone 3	People living and working in the host local authority area of Cumberland Council outside of consultation Zone 1.
Zone 4	Neighbouring district, county and unitary authorities within the administrative areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westmorland and Furness Council Lancaster District Council North Yorkshire Council Northumberland Council

Table 1: Zones of consultation

Figure 2: Map of the Site and Zone 1 bounda



Kind regards,



Stantec
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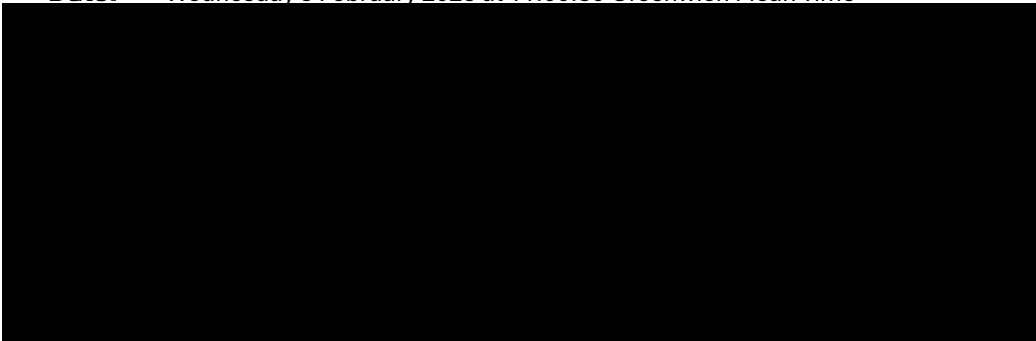
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4.9 Council response to Adequacy of Consultation

Subject: FW: Dean Moor - Draft Adequacy of Consultation Statement

Date: Wednesday 5 February 2025 at 11:00:30 Greenwich Mean Time



Subject: FW: Dean Moor - Draft Adequacy of Consultation Statement



Further to your previous emails and our meetings pre Christmas, [redacted] and I can confirm we are satisfied with the findings of the attached document 'Dean Moor Solar Adequacy of Consultation'.

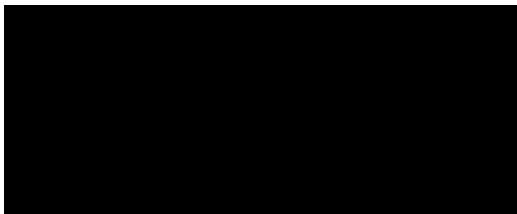
I also look forward to progressing arrangements for the NSIP CPD training.



ill update SMT on the project as there is now a new management structure.

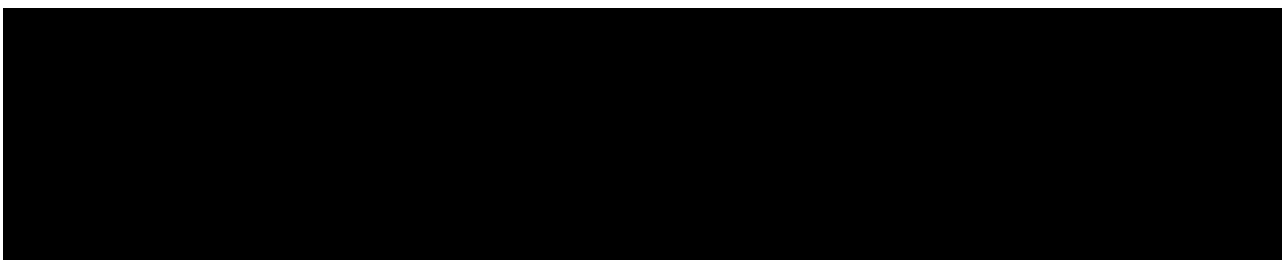
With regard to Community Benefits there maybe further discussions and briefings between the leadership team and we will update you as matters progress.

Kind regards

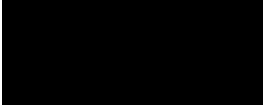


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Hope this email finds you well.

Following on recent consultation events, we have prepared the attached Adequacy of Consultation Document. It is meant to provide a short overview of consultation activities undertaken to date, as compared against the commitments that were made in the published Statement of Community Consultation.

We intend to submit the document to the Planning Inspectorate for review in the coming weeks but, before we do, we seek your feedback on the current version.

We would be grateful if you could please forward any comments as soon as possible and by 19 November, latest.

Kind regards,



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