



Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Consultation Report

Application Document Ref: EN010157/APP/5.1
February 2025

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

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Acronyms

Table 2 List of acronyms used within the Report

Acronym	Description
AoCM	Adequacy of Consultation Milestone
AILs	Abnormal Indivisible Loads
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
ASNW	Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands
BMV	Best and Most Versatile
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DEMP	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
dDCO	Draft Development Consent Order
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
EA	Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ERYC	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HE	Historic England
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
JLAF	Joint Local Access Forum
LEMP	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MP	Member of Parliament
MVA	Megavolt-amperes
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NGIH	National Grid Interconnector Holdings
NGN	Northern Gas Networks
NGT	National Gas Transmission
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NTS	Non-Technical Summary

OEMP	Operational Environmental Management Plan
OFGEM	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
ORPA	Other Routes with Public Access
PCZ	Primary Consultation Zone
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINs	Planning Inspectorate
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PV	Photovoltaic
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAFFA	Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975
SMP	Soil Management Plan
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoCG	Statements of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPZ	Source Protection Zones
SRN	Strategic Road Network
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WFD	Water Framework Directive

Glossary

Table 3 Glossary of definitions and terms

Term or Abbreviation	Definition
The Applicant	RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd.
DCO Application	Development Consent Order application.
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Host authority for the Proposed Development.
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	BESS is designed to provide peak generation and grid balancing services to the electricity grid. It will do this primarily by allowing excess electricity generated from the solar PV panels to be stored in batteries and dispatched when required. It may also import surplus energy from the electricity grid.
BMV agricultural land classification (ALC)	Best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land of excellent (ALC Grade 1), very good (Grade 2) and good (Subgrade 3 a) agricultural quality as defined under the National Planning Policy Framework.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	Approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.
Consultation Report	A report forming part of the DCO application, outlining the consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order granted by the Secretary of State permitting the development of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. DCO applications are made to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A statutory process by which information about environmental effects of a proposed development is collected, assessed and used to inform decision making. The EIA for the Proposed Development has been undertaken in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (hereafter referred to as the 'EIA Regulations').
EIA Regulations	The EIA Regulations relevant to the Proposed Development are the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended). The EIA Regulations specify which developments are required to undergo EIA.
Environmental Statement (ES)	A report forming part of the DCO application, it will report the process and final outcomes of the EIA and

	explain the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment once mitigation measures have been taken into account.
Examining Authority	The person(s) appointed by the Secretary of State (SoS) to assess the Application and make a recommendation on the decision to the SoS.
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A site-specific plan developed to ensure that appropriate environmental management practices are followed during the construction phase of a project.
Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)	A plan which sets out the Applicant's management practices for construction traffic and staff vehicles during the construction of the Scheme.
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)	A process to determine whether or not a development will have a negative impact on a protected European site.
Hectares (ha)	A metric unit of square measure, with one hectare equal to 10,000 square metres.
Host	A political stakeholder, including MPs, Parish Councils and District Council ward members, is referred to as a host when the Order Limits of the Proposed Development falls within the boundaries of that stakeholder's constituency.
Hybrid Pack(s)	<p>Hybrid pack(s) comprise four BESS units, one inverter (including transformer) and four DC-DC converters and are distributed across the various Land Areas.</p> <p>Hybrid packs are designed to provide peak generation and grid balancing services to the electricity grid. It will do this primarily by allowing excess electricity generated from the solar PV panels to be converted and stored in batteries and dispatched when required.</p>
Kilometre (km)	A metric unit of length equal to 1,000 metres.
Land Area	A site within the red line boundary that is proposed for solar panels, and associated infrastructure.
Local Planning Authority (LPA)	Local government body and consultee for the Proposed Development.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)	A tool used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from development both on the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity.
Mitigation	Measures including any process, activity, or design to avoid, prevent, reduce, or, if possible, offset any

	identified significant adverse effects on the environment.
Megawatt (MW)	Unit of power equal to one million watts.
National Policy Statements (NPS)	The government's policy for the delivery of energy infrastructure. NPS EN1 sets out the overarching policy statement for energy. NPS EN3 sets out the policies for renewable energy infrastructure.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)	NSIPs are large scale developments such as certain new harbours, power generating stations (including solar farms), highways developments and electricity transmission lines, which require a development consent under procedures governed by the Planning Act 2008.
Non-statutory consultation	An initial consultation, not designated in law, to introduce the Proposed Development and to provide an early opportunity to shape the evolving design.
Non-statutory consultee	Organisations or people that an applicant may choose to consult in relation to a Proposed Development who are not designated in law but are likely to have an interest in the Proposed Development.
Non-technical summary (NTS)	Document produced as a non-technical version of the PEIR.
Order Limits/'Indicative' Order Limits	Land shown on the Works Plans within which the Proposed Development can be constructed and operated. Presented as 'indicative' during pre-application stage.
Permissive Paths	A route which can be used by the public during the lifetime of the Proposed Development but will not become a permanent right of way.
Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008)	Primary legislation outlining the consent regime for major infrastructure projects in the fields of energy, transport, water, wastewater, and waste.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR provides a preliminary account of the likely significant environmental effects of Proposed Development to inform the consultation process. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable interested parties (including members of the public, local planning authorities and statutory bodies), to develop an informed view of the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and to help inform their consultation responses during the proposed statutory consultation.

Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.
Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	Rights across land exercisable by the public at all times.
Scoping	The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by an EIA. It is a method of ensuring that an EIA focuses on the important issues and avoids those that are considered to be less significant.
Scoping Boundary	The area scoped for the purpose of the EIA and included within the Scoping Report.
Scoping Report	Sets out the matters to be assessed in the EIA, to guide the EIA identification of likely significant effects from the development. ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4] is included as an appendix to the Environmental Statement.
Secretary of State (SoS)	Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	A formal conservation designation of particular interest to science due to rare species of fauna or flora it contains/important geological or physiological features.
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	Document produced by the Applicant to establish the way it will consult with the local community at the pre-application stage.
Statutory consultation	A consultation, pursuant to the Planning Act 2008, and undertaken by the Applicant in line with the SoCC.
Statutory consultees	Organisations that are required to be consulted by an applicant pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 in relation to an application for development consent.
Targeted consultation	A subsequent stage of non-statutory consultation on 19 revisions to the draft Order Limits which require additional land for construction and/or operation of the Proposed Development.
The Cable Route Corridor	The proposed Cable Route Corridor is within the Order limits, connecting the on-site substations within the north and south of the Proposed Development to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation.

Executive Summary

This Consultation Report ('the Report') relates to the proposed Peartree Hill Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development') being promoted by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd ('the Applicant'). As the Proposed Development will generate more than 50MW of power, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008')¹ and therefore requires a Development Consent Order ('DCO').

The Applicant is seeking development consent for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar and battery energy storage facility, and export connection to the national grid. The Proposed Development is located within the council area of East Riding of Yorkshire Council ('the host authority').

This Report has been prepared in accordance with section 37 of the PA 2008. This Report explains how the Applicant has complied with the consultation requirements set out in the PA 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations')², Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations')³ and The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024⁴. The Report sets out the consultation process, the feedback received and how the Applicant has had regard to responses received, including how feedback has influenced or been incorporated into the Proposed Development. This Report has been prepared in accordance with Planning Inspectorate Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report'⁵.

The Proposed Development has been informed by consultation and engagement between the Applicant and the local community, the host authority, Persons with an Interest in the Land ('PILs') and Prescribed Consultees. The Applicant has conducted extensive pre-application consultation in preparing the Application. This included early engagement with stakeholders to introduce the Proposed Development, a period of non-

¹ The Planning Act 2008, available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

² The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2264/contents/made>

³ The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/contents/made>

⁴ The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/332/contents/made>

⁵ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-consultation-report>

statutory consultation and a period of statutory consultation intended to meet the requirements set by the PA 2008.

A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how the Applicant proposed to consult with people living in the vicinity of the proposals was produced for the Spring 2024 statutory consultation. The Applicant consulted with the host local authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, about the SoCC prior to its publication. The Applicant also consulted Hull City Council, as a neighbouring authority which has the proposed grid connection cable route adjacent to its boundary line. The consultation was delivered in accordance with the SoCC.

In accordance with its duty to consult under section 42, the Applicant identified and consulted with the relevant prescribed bodies, local authorities and those with a land interest.

The Applicant publicised the Application in the prescribed manner in accordance with the requirements of section 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.

In total, 287 responses were received across the three stages of consultation. This included 102 responses received during the non-statutory consultation, 155 responses received during the statutory consultation and 30 responses received during the subsequent targeted consultation.

The Applicant undertook a careful and thorough review of the consultation responses received across the non-statutory, statutory and targeted consultations and has had regard to all responses in finalising its proposals.

Feedback from non-statutory consultation and ongoing design development led to a number of changes to the design presented at statutory consultation, including a reduction in the area proposed for solar panels and associated infrastructure. This enabled the addition of buffers to homes, villages and environmental features closest to the site. The Applicant also progressed the plans to increase the areas proposed for ecological mitigation, included new planting to screen views, and incorporated additional permissive paths. In addition, a number of permanent road improvements were incorporated to ensure safe access into parts of the site.

Updated proposals were presented at statutory consultation, alongside the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. The key changes made in response to feedback received at statutory consultation include:

- Area A Land South of High and Low Baswick was removed from the Order Limits following feedback on ecological receptors in the area from statutory parties and the community, as well as the results of flooding and transport assessments.

- Reduction in the height of proposed solar PV panels from up to 3.5 m to a maximum height of 3 m.
- Introduction of 12.6 km of new permissive paths, increased from up to 7 km of new paths presented at non-statutory consultation.
- Additional bird mitigation measures introduced, specifically in relation to feedback from Natural England.
- Changes to some access routes into the Proposed Development.
- A reduction in the land included within the Order Limits through Figham Common.

Feedback from the statutory consultation and further design and assessment work identified 19 proposed changes to the draft Order Limits which required additional land for the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Development. Feedback from the targeted consultation led to two small amendments to the proposed changes present-ed.

More information summarising the responses received and an explanation as to how the Applicant has had regard to those responses is explained in the Report.

Summary of three-stage approach to pre-application consultation:

Autumn 2023: A four-week non-statutory consultation took place between Monday 9 October and Monday 6 November 2023. The non-statutory consultation served to introduce the local community to the Proposed Development and to provide an early opportunity to shape the evolving design. Throughout the four-week consultation period, 102 responses were received.

Figure 1 Summary of non-statutory consultation



Spring 2024: A six-week statutory consultation took place between Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 26 June 2024. The statutory consultation set out the detailed elements of the solar and battery energy storage project, along with a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which presented the preliminary findings of the environmental impact assessment of the Proposed Development. Throughout the six-week consultation period, 155 responses were received.

Figure 2 Summary of statutory consultation



Autumn 2024: A four-week targeted consultation took place between Tuesday 8 October 2024 and Friday 8 November 2024 on 19 revisions to the draft Order Limits which require additional land for the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Development. In total, 30 responses were received during the targeted consultation.

Figure 3 Summary of targeted consultation



1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1.1 The Consultation Report ('the Report') has been prepared by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd ('we' or 'the Applicant') as part of the development of the application for a DCO for Peartree Hill Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is the leading power generator in the UK, generating enough power to meet the equivalent needs of approximately 12 million homes, with a diverse portfolio of wind, solar, hydro, biomass and gas.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development is defined as a NSIP under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008⁶ ('the PA 2008'), as it comprises:
- The construction or extension of an electricity generating station (Part 3, section 14(1)(a)); and
 - Its capacity is more than 50 MW (Part 3, section 15(2)(c)).
- 1.1.4 Therefore, an application for a DCO for the Proposed Development will be made to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero pursuant to the PA 2008. The DCO will include the necessary rights and powers to ensure delivery, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, including compulsory acquisition powers (if required).
- 1.1.5 This Report is submitted in accordance with section 37 of the PA 2008, which requires that any application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by a consultation report that provides details of:
- how the Applicant has carried out consultation in compliance with statutory requirements (namely sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008);
 - a summary of any relevant responses to consultation or publicity;
 - how any relevant responses have been taken into account (as per section 49 of the PA 2008); and
 - how the Applicant has had regard to pre-application guidance (as per section 50 of the PA 2008).

⁶ The Planning Act 2008, available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

- 1.1.6 This Report provides detail of the pre-application consultation activities carried out by the Applicant and demonstrates that the relevant statutory requirements have been complied with, including:
- Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA Regulations')⁷
 - Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 ('the APFP Regulations')⁸
 - Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 ('Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations')⁹
- 1.1.7 As evidenced throughout this Report, the Applicant considers that all statutory pre-application requirements have been met, and the Applicant has had due consideration to the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State ('SoS').
- 1.1.8 Copies of consultation documents, notices and materials produced in accordance with the PA 2008 or to support the consultation are included in a series of Appendices to this Report.

1.2 The Proposed Development

- 1.2.1 The Proposed Development is a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating and storage facility with an export capacity of 320 megawatts (MW) and associated infrastructure, located in East Riding of Yorkshire.
- 1.2.2 The Proposed Development comprises areas of solar PV modules connected by a series of underground cables. The Proposed Development would establish a grid connection via underground cabling to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation, which would transfer the electricity to the national electricity network.
- 1.2.3 The main elements of the Proposed Development include:
- Solar PV modules and associated mounting structures (groupings of solar PV modules are referred to as 'arrays');
 - On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, direct current (DC)-DC converters and switchgear;

⁷ The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/contents/made>

⁸ The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2264/contents/made>

⁹ The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024. Available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/332/contents/made>

- A BESS including batteries and associated enclosures, monitoring systems, air conditioning, electrical cables and fire safety infrastructure;
- Two on-site 132 kV substations, including transformers, switchgear, circuit breakers, control equipment buildings, control functions, material storage, parking, as well as wider monitoring and maintenance equipment;
- Low voltage and 33 kV interconnecting cabling within the Land Areas to connect the solar PV modules together and to transmit electricity from the solar PV modules and BESS to one of the two on-site 132 kV substations;
- 132 kV underground cables (two 132 kV export cables) connecting the on-site substations to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation;
- Works at the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation to facilitate the connection of the 132 kV underground cabling into the substation;
- Associated infrastructure including access tracks, parking, security measures, gates and fencing, lighting, drainage infrastructure, storage containers, earthworks, surface water management, maintenance and welfare facilities, security cabins and any other works identified as necessary to enable the developments;
- Highways works to facilitate access for construction vehicles, comprising passing places where necessary to ensure that heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) can be safely accommodated amongst existing traffic, new or improved site accesses and visibility splays;
- A series of new permissive paths connecting to the existing public right of way network;
- Environmental mitigation and enhancement measures, including landscaping, habitat management, biodiversity enhancement and amenity improvements; and
- Temporary development during the construction phase of the Proposed Development including construction compounds, parking and laydown areas.

1.3 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

- 1.3.1 As the Proposed Development is an NSIP, the Applicant is required to make an application for a DCO before it can lawfully construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Proposed Development. The PA 2008 provides that the SoS is responsible for determining the application for development consent. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the SoS, has responsibility for administering the examination of DCO applications and supporting the examining authority that will be appointed to make a recommendation to the SoS as to whether to grant development consent. If granted by the SoS, the DCO will provide the necessary authorisation to allow the Proposed Development to be constructed, operated, maintained and decommissioned.

- 1.3.2 The relevant SoS for the Proposed Development is the SoS for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- 1.3.3 The Proposed Development also falls within the definition of 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development' as defined within the EIA Regulations meaning that before consent is granted for the Proposed Development, an EIA must be undertaken. The Report sets out how the Applicant publicised and consulted on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.3.4 The pre-application consultation for the Proposed Development, and the preparation of this Report, has been carried out having had regard to:
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('the Pre-application Guidance') (published Tuesday 30 April 2024)¹⁰
 - Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (withdrawn Tuesday 30 April 2024 following the Pre-application Guidance being published)¹¹
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (August 2024)¹²
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024)¹³
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (September 2024)¹⁴
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus') (published May 2024)¹⁵

¹⁰ Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

¹¹ Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6630afc53579e7a8f398a9b3/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf

¹² Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on preparation and submission of application documents. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-preparation-and-submission-of-application-documents>

¹³ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-consultation-report>

¹⁴ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation>

¹⁵ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>

1.3.5 **Table 4** outlines the legislative requirements for statutory consultation as outlined in the PA 2008.

Table 4 Legislative requirements for statutory consultation

Statutory requirement	Details
Section 42 of PA 2008	Consult with prescribed parties (including environmental bodies, statutory undertakers etc.), local authorities hosting and bordering the proposed scheme and Category 1, 2 and 3 parties identified under section 44 of the PA 2008 (interests in the land affected by the proposed scheme, and those who may have a relevant claim for compensation).
Section 46 of PA 2008	Notify the Secretary of State and supply with information supplied to section 42 consultees.
Section 47 of PA 2008	Consult with the local community in accordance with the Statement of Community Consultation (this might include events, leaflets, website, letter drops and deposit points)
Section 48 of PA 2008	Publish notices in newspapers as required in the PA 2008.
Section 49 of PA 2008	Take account of responses to the consultation and publicity about the proposed scheme.
Section 37 (3)(c) of PA 2008	Prepare a Consultation Report demonstrating compliance with Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the PA 2008 and include details of any relevant responses, and the account taken of any relevant responses.
Section 50 of PA 2008	Prepare a Consultation Report demonstrating how the Applicant has complied with guidance throughout the pre-application process.

1.3.6 Both the Pre-application Guidance and the Prospectus set out the requirements and expectations in the preparation of an application for development consent.

- 1.3.7 The Pre-application Guidance and Prospectus introduce a new requirement for an adequacy of consultation milestone ('AoCM'). This is designed to give the Applicant an opportunity to provide the Planning Inspectorate with a written submission establishing the consultation undertaken to date, that the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation have been met, and a summary of consultation responses and how these responses have shaped the proposed application.
- 1.3.8 To inform the AoCM a written submission was prepared by the Applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on Thursday 29 August 2024. This enabled the Planning Inspectorate to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date on the Proposed Development. The AoCM Statement provided an overview of the engagement and consultation activity to date and how it has met with the requirements of the PA 2008. Section 51 advice was received from the Planning Inspectorate on Tuesday 17 September 2024 regarding the AoCM Statement. A copy of the AoCM can be found in **Appendix I-1**.
- 1.3.9 Under section 55(4)(b) of the PA 2008, at the acceptance stage the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from local authorities about the adequacy of consultation.

1.4 Summary of consultation activities

- 1.4.1 The Applicant took a proactive approach to engagement with key stakeholders, landowners and statutory bodies throughout the pre-application process.
- 1.4.2 **Table 5** provides a summary of the consultation activities carried out and where further details of those activities can be found in this Report.

Table 5 Summary of consultation activities carried out

Consultation activity	Date	Chapter of Report
Initial early engagement with local authorities and elected members	August to October 2023	Chapter 2
Non-statutory consultation	Monday 9 October to Monday 6 November 2023	Chapter 2

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) development and consultation	January 2024 to May 2024	Chapter 4
Statutory consultation	Wednesday 15 May to Wednesday 26 June 2024	Chapter 5 and Chapter 6
Targeted consultation	Tuesday 8 October to Friday 8 November 2024	Chapter 7
Engagement between statutory consultation and application submission	From July 2024 to January 2025	Chapter 8

1.5 Covering Letter and Completed Section 55 Checklist

- 1.5.1 A **Covering Letter [EN010157/APP/1.1]** and **Section 55 Checklist [EN010157/APP/1.4]** have been included within the DCO application for the Proposed Development. The checklist outlines compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA) 2017, APFP Regulations and the PA 2008.

1.6 Structure of this report

- 1.6.1 This Report is set out in chronological order in so far as it is possible, detailing the pre-application engagement and consultation activities that the Applicant has carried out in relation to the Proposed Development.
- 1.6.2 This Report is organised into Chapters; a short summary of what can be found in each is provided below:
- **Chapter 1 Introduction** – provides an introduction to the Report and the Proposed Development.
 - **Chapter 2 Non-statutory consultation and early engagement process** – provides details of the non-statutory consultation and early engagement.
 - **Chapter 3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultation** – provides an overview of the consultation and engagement activities undertaken with regard to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

- **Chapter 4 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)** – provides details of the development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in advance of the statutory consultation.
- **Chapter 5 Statutory consultation** – reports on the activities undertaken in respect of the statutory consultation in accordance with the SoCC and the requirements of sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.
- **Chapter 6 Summary of responses to statutory consultation** – provides a summary of feedback received in response to the statutory consultation and explains how the Applicant has had regard to this feedback in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008. This includes a summary of key changes made to the design of the Proposed Development following the consultation and why.
- **Chapter 7 Targeted consultation** – reports on the approach taken for the targeted consultation on changes to the Order Limits, responses to the consultation and the Applicant's response to issues raised.
- **Chapter 8 Approach to engagement between statutory consultation and application submission** – provides a summary of the engagement undertaken between statutory consultation and the submission of the development consent application. It also includes a section on how section 51 advice and Pre-Application Guidance has been considered, alongside details of how new interests in land have been identified and managed.
- **Chapter 9 Conclusion** – sets out the conclusions of this Report, and how the Applicant has undertaken a compliant, comprehensive and proportionate approach to pre-application consultation and engagement.
- **Appendices** – provides supporting evidence.

1.7 Data protection

- 1.7.1 In accordance with Planning Inspectorate Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report', the Applicant is aware that the Report will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website. As such, the Applicant has avoided the inclusion of personal data relating to individuals.
- 1.7.2 The Applicant must ensure that it complies with the Data Protection Act 2018, which came into force on Friday 25 May 2018 following the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation in 2016.
- 1.7.3 This means that information such as individuals' names and addresses in this Report have been replaced by a number for each consultee.

- 1.7.4 Personal details in this Report have been handled responsibly and where necessary redacted to ensure that the Applicant complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 in the production and publication of this Report.
- 1.7.5 Details of the Proposed Development's Privacy Policy can be found here:
<https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/privacy/>.

2 Non-statutory consultation and early engagement

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 **Chapter 2** provides an overview of the public launch of the Proposed Development, the non-statutory consultation undertaken, along with an overview of the main themes and summary of the feedback received and the engagement which took place.
- 2.1.2 This Chapter is best read alongside the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, found in **Appendix A-2** of the Report.
- 2.1.3 The non-statutory consultation served to introduce the local community to the Proposed Development and to provide an early opportunity to shape the evolving design.
- 2.1.4 The non-statutory consultation ran for four-weeks from Monday 9 October to Monday 6 November 2023. Inclusivity and accessibility were core objectives of the consultation. As such, a hybrid consultation approach was adopted, combining in-person events with digital engagement through the dedicated consultation website, social media and webinars. A telephone number was also provided for local people to ask questions, relay feedback or request printed materials.
- 2.1.5 The Applicant also offered briefings to introduce the Proposed Development to key stakeholders, including MPs, councillors and parish councils.

2.2 Engagement prior to launch of non-statutory consultation

Engagement with host authority

- 2.2.1 Ahead of the non-statutory consultation, an introductory meeting was held with East Riding of Yorkshire Council on Wednesday 23 August 2023 to discuss the preliminary proposals, and approach to community and stakeholder engagement.
- 2.2.2 Following this meeting, the Applicant shared with East Riding of Yorkshire Council a draft Consultation Strategy, requesting comments on the proposed approach to engagement. **Appendix C-1.1** includes a copy of the email issued

to East Riding of Yorkshire Council and **Appendix C-1.2** includes a copy of the draft Consultation Strategy shared. No comments were received from East Riding of Yorkshire Council on the draft Consultation Strategy.

Engagement with MPs and elected members

- 2.2.3 Key local stakeholders were contacted via letter and email to inform them of the proposals ahead of the non-statutory consultation, with an invitation to be briefed on the Proposed Development.
- 2.2.4 All host and neighbouring MPs were contacted on Tuesday 29 August 2023. Relevant East Riding of Yorkshire councillors and host parish councils were then contacted on Friday 8 September 2023. Briefings were offered to select East Riding of Yorkshire councillors deemed most relevant for the Proposed Development at the early stage. This included the Leader of the Council, two Cabinet members with an interest in Planning and Infrastructure, as well as host ward members. **Appendix A-1.1** includes a copy of the letter sent to MPs and **Appendix A-1.2** includes a copy of the letter issued to relevant councillors and parish councils. **Appendix A-1.3** includes a list of stakeholders offered a briefing ahead of non-statutory consultation.
- 2.2.5 By meeting these stakeholders at a preliminary stage, the Applicant was able to provide early information on the Proposed Development and consultation programme, while opening an ongoing communication channel with local representatives.
- 2.2.6 Meetings were conducted from September 2023, throughout the non-statutory consultation period to November 2023. A full list of meetings held can be found in the **Table 6**.

Table 6 Meetings held before and during statutory consultation

Stakeholder	Date
The office of David Davis, MP for Haltemprice and Howden	Wednesday 20 September 2023
Councillor Leo Hammond (Cabinet member for Planning, Communities and Public Protection) and the Director of Planning and Development Management	Friday 13 October 2023
Woodmansey Parish Council	Monday 16 October 2023
Tickton and Routh Parish Council	Monday 16 October 2023
Catwick Parish Council	Wednesday 18 October 2023
The office of Graham Stuart, MP for Beverley	Wednesday 18 October 2023
Cottingham Parish Council	Tuesday 24 October 2023

Leven Parish Council

Tuesday 7 November 2023

Engagement with technical stakeholders

- 2.2.7 As part of the technical design and environmental assessment work, the Applicant has engaged with a number of statutory parties since Summer 2023, including East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England. **Chapter 3** includes more information about engagement with these bodies.

Engagement with the Planning Inspectorate

- 2.2.8 An introductory meeting with the Planning Inspectorate took place on Thursday 27 July 2023 and subsequent meetings were held on Wednesday 4 October 2023, Thursday 11 January 2024 and Wednesday 3 July 2024. Under section 51 of the PA 2008, the Planning Inspectorate makes available a copy of the advice provided in meetings with the Applicant. This can be found on the Peartree Hill Solar Farm page on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/yorkshire-and-the-humber/peartree-hill-solar-farm/?ipcsection=overview>.
- 2.2.9 Details of how section 51 advice has been addressed through the pre-application process is outlined in **Appendix I-2** of this Report.

Engagement with landowners

- 2.2.10 As part of the initial works on the Proposed Development, the Applicant identified and engaged with landowners regarding land that could host the solar farm.
- 2.2.11 The Applicant maintained close communication with landowners that had agreed to host solar panels on areas of their land. This included sharing indicative layouts and details of the upcoming consultation, ahead of the launch of the non-statutory consultation. Throughout the consultation process, the Applicant ensured landowners were informed of any ongoing environmental assessments and surveys.
- 2.2.12 As part of the non-statutory consultation, a number of indicative grid connection cable route corridor options were presented, which would link the solar farm to National Grid Creyke Beck Substation, near Cottingham.
- 2.2.13 Landowners within these indicative cable corridors were identified and sent a letter on Tuesday 10 October 2023 informing them that the proposals being presented at non-statutory consultation included an option that passes through

land they own, or occupy, and inviting them to comment on the proposals. A copy of the letter sent to identified landowners can be found in **Appendix A-3.10**.

Early online presence

- 2.2.14 To ensure an online presence and consistency of messaging at an early stage, a website about the Proposed Development was launched on Wednesday 23 August 2023.
- 2.2.15 This initial online presence clarified the Applicant's ambitions to bring forward a solar and BESS project in the area, outlining the Land Areas under consideration, the core design principles and providing detail of the community contact channels.
- 2.2.16 Ahead of the non-statutory consultation launch, key consultation details were added to the website, including the launch date and details of the in-person and online events.
- 2.2.17 Upon launch of the non-statutory consultation on Monday 9 October 2023, the website was updated, to host information on the Proposed Development, consultation materials and a digital feedback form.

2.3 Non-statutory Consultation

- 2.3.1 The non-statutory consultation took place between Monday 9 October 2023 and Monday 6 November 2023 and introduced the emerging proposals for the Proposed Development to the wider local community.
- 2.3.2 To help gain responses reflective of the local population, the non-statutory consultation was promoted through a wide range of different mechanisms, including:
 - A newsletter was delivered to 11,516 local addresses, capturing all addresses within 2 km of proposed solar infrastructure, as well as those in proximity of the grid connection cable route corridor options. A copy of the consultation newsletter is available in **Appendix A-3.1**. The addresses the newsletters were issued by mail to can be viewed in the Non-statutory Consultation Report which can be found in **Appendix A-2**.
 - Key local stakeholders, including all host parish councils, host and neighbouring MPs and relevant East Riding of Yorkshire councillors were informed of the non-statutory consultation via mail and email ahead of and during the non-statutory consultation. A copy of the letter sent at the start of the consultation is available in **Appendix A-3.9**, a copy of the email issued at the start of consultation can be found in **Appendix**

A-3.12 and a copy of the reminder email sent midway through the consultation can be found in **Appendix A-3.13**.

- A poster distributed to all relevant local parish councils, accompanied by a letter requesting their display. A copy of the consultation poster is available in **Appendix A-3.4**.
- Press releases distributed to local media outlets as well as energy-focused publications, ahead of the non-statutory consultation launch and during. A copy of the press release issued at launch is available in **Appendix A-3.6**. A copy of the reminder press release, issued midway through the consultation to further notify of the opportunity to comment, is included in **Appendix A-3.7**. A list of media outlets that both press release was shared with can be found in **Appendix A-3.8**.
- Social media advertising, publicising the proposals and consultation via a dedicated Facebook page for the Proposed Development (<https://www.facebook.com/peartreehillsolarfarm>). Examples of the social media posts are available in **Appendix A-3.11**.

2.3.3 Consultation materials to facilitate the engagement process included a consultation newsletter which can be found in **Appendix A-3.1**, a consultation brochure which can be found in **Appendix A-3.2**, a consultation feedback form which can be found in **Appendix A-3.3**, a consultation poster which can be found in **Appendix A-3.4** and consultation banners which can be found in **Appendix A-3.5**.

2.3.4 Three in-person events were hosted at local venues in close proximity to the site. These events were scheduled to ensure inclusivity, with one event on a Saturday and two events on weekdays running into the evening. At these events, the Applicant had consultation banners presenting the information alongside technical plans of the proposals. All consultation material was available in hard copy for people to view and take away. The event details were as follows:

Table 7 Details of in-person events at non-statutory consultation

Date	Time	Location	Number of attendees
Saturday 14 October 2023	11am – 5pm	Tickton Village Hall, Main Street, Tickton, HU17 9RZ	52
Tuesday 17 October 2023	1pm – 7pm	Wawne Village Hall, 36 Main Street, Wawne, HU7 5XH	30
Wednesday 18 October 2023	1pm – 7pm	Leven Recreational Hall, 79 East Street, Leven, HU17 5NG	50

- 2.3.5 Two online webinars were offered as an alternative to those who couldn't attend the in-person events. The webinar details were as follows:

Table 8 Details of webinars at non-statutory consultation

Date	Time	Number of attendees
Thursday 19 October 2023	6.30pm – 8pm	8
Wednesday 25 October 2023	6.30pm – 8pm	14

- 2.3.6 Although there were a variety of channels to comment on the proposals, the feedback form served as the core tool for gathering community insights on the evolving proposals.
- 2.3.7 The feedback form incorporated a combination of multiple-choice and free-text questions to provide participants with the flexibility to express their views comprehensively. As well as general comment boxes, the form also directly requested feedback on key elements of the proposals, including land area specific comments, the community benefit fund and cable corridor options.
- 2.3.8 In addition to the online and paper feedback form, responses were welcomed through various alternative channels, including by email, the phonenumber, and traditional letter submissions.

Non-statutory Consultation Feedback

- 2.3.9 In total, 102 consultation responses were received during the non-statutory consultation. During the consultation, the Applicant received:
- 57 feedback forms, submitted via the online form, as well as hard copies completed at the events or returned by post;
 - 43 responses received via the dedicated email inbox, 15 of which were from statutory parties; and
 - 2 consultation responses were received via the phonenumber.
- 2.3.10 Respondents that chose to provide feedback via the feedback form were not required to answer all questions, allowing respondents to provide feedback only on the topics that interested them.
- 2.3.11 Key themes relayed within the responses received, include:
- The need for renewable energy developments to help tackle climate change

- Impact on, and loss of, agricultural land
- Impact on landscape and visual amenity
- Cumulative impact of solar developments on the local area
- Impact on local biodiversity and ecology

Summary of Changes to Proposed Development Following Non-Statutory Consultation

- 2.3.12 Following the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant reviewed all the responses received.
- 2.3.13 To analyse the responses received to the open questions and bespoke responses, a coding framework was used to capture and summarise these responses and identify themes and issues. The approach undertaken is consistent with Planning Inspectorate Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report'.
- 2.3.14 The Applicant read each written response, and a code was assigned to each issue raised by the respondent. A written response could receive multiple codes to highlight different issues covered by the response. To ensure quality assurance and consistency in the way codes are applied, a senior manager reviewed the analysis undertaken.
- 2.3.15 As part of the analysis of free text responses, the Applicant identified 'Change Requests' (specific requests to change elements of the proposed reinforcement design). These issues were sorted and considered as part of the design development process.
- 2.3.16 All issues raised from the feedback at non-statutory consultation were considered and responded to as part of the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, which was published in January 2024 on the consultation website. Appendix A-2 includes a copy of the Non-Statutory Consultation Report.
- 2.3.17 **Table 9** outlines the key changes to the Proposed Development implemented as a result of the feedback received at non-statutory consultation.

Table 9 Changes made in response to non-statutory consultation feedback

Comment Received	Changes made in response to non-statutory consultation feedback
The Applicant received comments regarding the size of the Land Areas	Within the Land Areas, the Applicant reduced the area proposed for solar panels, and associated infrastructure.

presented at non-statutory consultation and concerns regarding potential visual impact.	<p>This enabled the addition of buffers to homes, villages and environmental features closest to the site. Specifically:</p> <p>Land Area A: increased the environmental mitigation and enhancement area in the northern part of the Land Area, which also minimised potential impacts on identified below-ground archaeology and potential visual impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Area B: removed an area (0.44 hectares) in the southern part of Land Area B from being solar development. Land Area C: set back solar areas to reduce visual impact on local properties. Land Area D: set back solar areas to reduce visual impact on local properties and removed solar panels near Meaux Deserted Medieval Village to protect its setting. Land Area E: removed two fields from solar development to be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement, reducing the impact on nearby properties. Land Area F: removed solar panels from areas to minimise potential impacts on below-ground archaeology.
The Applicant received comments on land use and ensuring impacts on ecology are mitigated.	The Applicant increased the areas that are proposed for ecological mitigation, ecological enhancement and land retained for agricultural use. Together, these non-solar areas made up 10.2% of the total site presented at statutory consultation. The illustrative masterplan showed the proposed locations for outdoor classrooms, wildflower meadows and amenity spaces
The Applicant received comments about the visual impact of the solar farm.	The Applicant progressed plans to include new planting across the site to screen views of solar infrastructure from residential areas, roads and footpaths.
The Applicant received comments outlining the desire for Peartree Hill to include public rights of way, bridleways and new permissive paths.	The Applicant progressed plans to include new permissive paths, which could provide up to 7 km of new walking routes.
The Applicant received comments outlining the importance of locating	The Applicant progressed the site configuration to consider siting the two on-site substations in Land Areas C and E, alongside battery storage.

battery energy storage and on-site substations with consideration to location, visibility and noise.	
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2.4 Engagement following non-statutory consultation

- 2.4.1 Following the non-statutory consultation, on Wednesday 24 January 2024 the Applicant contacted by email key stakeholders (identified relevant councillors, host and neighbouring MPs and host Parish Councils), those that had responded to the consultation and selected to be updated, and those that had completed a 'Register for Updates' form on the consultation website.
- 2.4.2 This email provided an update on the status of the Proposed Development, a summary of the non-statutory consultation response and also signposted to the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, which had been published on the consultation website. A copy of the email can be found in **Appendix A-4** and a copy of the Non-Statutory Consultation Report can be found in **Appendix A-2**.
- 2.4.3 The email provided details of the community contact channels, which the Applicant continued to monitor following the non-statutory consultation, responding to all inbound questions.

3 Consultation under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 **Chapter 3** outlines how the Applicant has delivered engagement in accordance with the EIA Regulations. Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations states that an application for an order granting development consent for EIA development must be accompanied by an **Environmental Statement (ES)** [EN010157/APP/6.1-6.4]. The Proposed Development falls under paragraph 3(a) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations and therefore constitutes EIA development.
- 3.1.2 This Chapter provides a general overview of the pre-application engagement carried out by the Applicant relating to the EIA process. Full details of consultation and engagement activities of relevance to the EIA are provided in the ES.

3.2 EIA Scoping

- 3.2.1 Regulation 8(1) of the EIA Regulations requires the Applicant to undertake one of the following steps before carrying out statutory consultation under section 42 of the PA 2008:
- (a) “ask the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates; or*
- (b) notify the Secretary of State in writing that the person proposes to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development.”*
- 3.2.2 The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report, **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report** [EN010157/APP/6.4] to the Planning Inspectorate on Thursday 9 November 2023, supporting their request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations. Under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations, a cover letter was also submitted as a notification, to accompany the Scoping Report, which highlighted that the Applicant proposes to provide an Environmental Statement with an application for an order granting development consent. A copy of the covering letter is included in **Appendix B-2**.
- 3.2.3 An EIA Scoping Opinion, **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion** [EN010157/APP/6.4], was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on Wednesday 20 December 2023.

- 3.2.4 In accordance with Regulation 11(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, the Planning Inspectorate provided the Applicant with a list of consultation bodies notified under Regulation 11(1)(a), who were subsequently included in future consultation activities by the Applicant. A copy of the Regulation 11 list provided by the Planning Inspectorate is shown in **Appendix B-1**.
- 3.2.5 The Regulation 11(1)(b) list was subsequently used to inform the list of prescribed consultees to be consulted under section 42(a) of the PA 2008 during statutory consultation. Further detail is provided in **Chapter 5** of the Report.

3.3 Development of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

- 3.3.1 The adoption of the Scoping Opinion informed the next stage in the EIA process, namely the preparation of a PEIR.
- 3.3.2 The PEIR outlined the assessments of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development carried out to date. It was included as one of the consultation documents created for statutory consultation. The PEIR allowed the local community and those with an interest in the Proposed Development to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and in turn, informed their response to the statutory consultation.
- 3.3.3 In accordance with section 42 of the PA 2008, the Applicant carried out a statutory consultation between Wednesday 15 May 2024 and Wednesday 26 June 2024.
- 3.3.4 In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, on Monday 13 May 2024 a copy of the notice published under section 48 of the PA 2008 for the statutory consultation was sent to EIA consultation bodies, including those bodies listed by the Planning Inspectorate in the Scoping Opinion under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations. A copy of the letter sent to consultees is included in **Appendix D-2.1**.
- 3.3.5 A copy of the notice published under section 48 sent to the relevant consultation bodies is available in **Appendix C-8**.

3.4 Demonstrating regard to advice

- 3.4.1 Consultation and engagement during the EIA process is critical to the development of a comprehensive and proportionate ES. The views of statutory and non-statutory consultees are important to ensure that from the outset, the

EIA focuses on specific issues where significant environmental effects are likely, and where further investigation is required.

- 3.4.2 At non-statutory consultation, there were a number of issues raised around the environment and EIA process. These are outlined in the Non-statutory Consultation Report which can be found in **Appendix A-2**, alongside the Applicant's response to these issues at the time.
- 3.4.3 Issues raised at statutory consultation by section 42(1)(a) and section 42(1)(b) consultees, which includes EIA consultation bodies, and the Applicant's response are outlined in **Appendix G-1** and **Appendix G-2**. Some section 42(1)(d) and section 47 consultees raised issues relating to the environment in their responses, these are identified under environmental themes within **Appendix G-3**, **Appendix G-4** and **Appendix G-5**.
- 3.4.4 Issues raised at targeted consultation by section 42(1)(a) and section 42(1)(b) consultees, which include EIA consultation bodies, and the Applicant's response are outlined in **Appendix H-8.1** and **Appendix H-8.2**. Some section 42(1)(d) and section 47 consultees raised issues relating to the environment in their responses, these are identified under environmental themes within **Appendix H-8.3** and **Appendix H-8.4**.
- 3.4.5 In line with the Pre-application Guidance, the Applicant has undertaken proactive and ongoing engagement with EIA consultation bodies and a variety of representative local groups to further gather views to help develop the design of the Proposed Development.
- 3.4.6 **Table 10** below provides a summary of the Applicant's engagement with EIA stakeholders during the pre-application process and how regard to advice has been considered. Full details of meetings undertaken in regard to each discipline are covered in the relevant aspect chapters, **ES Volume 2, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.

Table 10 Summary of regard to advice from statutory bodies during the EIA process

Engagement	Issue	Regard had by the Applicant
East Riding of Yorkshire Council		

Engagement	Issue	Regard had by the Applicant
<p>Technical meetings with specialists and/or correspondence via email</p> <p>Monthly meetings from Wednesday 3 July 2024 with Planning Lead at Council to provide updates on the Proposed Development and discuss any issues.</p>	Air Quality	<p>The Applicant submitted the proposed air quality assessment scope and methodology to the Council for comment. The air quality assessment has been prepared in accordance with the agreed assessment approach.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
	Biodiversity	<p>The Applicant has engaged the Council over survey methodology and the approach to the assessment of cumulative effects.</p> <p>The Council also provided comments on the impact of battery storage on wildlife, invasive non-native species, veteran trees, screening, hedgerow and grassland restoration and enhancement, and biodiversity net gain, which have all been taken into consideration.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
	Land, soils and groundwater	<p>The Applicant engaged the Council regarding Agricultural Land Classification, land contamination, and mineral extraction and safeguarding. Where relevant, advice from the Council has been included within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.2] and the Outline Site Waste Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.10].</p> <p>It was agreed that mineral extraction and safeguarding could be scoped out of the ES, given that a Mineral Safeguarding Assessment has been undertaken and is appended to the Planning Statement [EN010157/APP/5.5].</p>

Engagement	Issue	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>The Applicant also requested information on contaminated land sites and Private Water Supplies from the Council.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
	Landscape and visual	<p>The Applicant has liaised with the Council on various topics, such as the landscaping proposals (including mitigation planting), and undertook a site walkover with the Council's appointed landscape consultants.</p> <p>The Council agreed with the proposed residential visual amenity assessment process and the proposed viewpoint locations for photomontages.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
	Noise and vibration	<p>The Applicant agreed with the Council the noise monitoring locations and assessment approach.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
	Cultural heritage	<p>The Applicant has liaised with the Council on a number of topics, for example to discuss the study areas for various heritage assets.</p> <p>The Council agreed to the proposed approach to archaeological trial trenching, and to which elements of archaeological investigation could be undertaken post-consent.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>

Engagement	Issue	Regard had by the Applicant
	Transport and access	<p>The Applicant has liaised with the Council regarding the proposed construction vehicle access locations, routes and indicative highway mitigation and traffic regulation measures. This included the potential for the Council to adopt highways improvements if completed to a suitable standard.</p> <p>The Applicant has taken the Council's comments on the Transport Assessment Scoping Report into consideration in ES Volume 4, Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4] and associated appendices.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Transport and Access [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
	Water	<p>The Applicant agreed the approach to surface water drainage in a meeting with East Riding of Yorkshire Council Lead Local Flood Authority and Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board.</p> <p>More information is included in ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.6: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4].</p>
	Cumulative effects	<p>The Applicant liaised with the Council over the list of existing and/or approved developments shortlisted for assessment.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
Environment Agency		

Engagement	Issue	Regard had by the Applicant
Technical meetings with specialists and/or correspondence via email	Water	<p>The Applicant engaged with the Environment Agency over the Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report and the Flood Risk Assessment, which is reflected in ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.5: Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4] and ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.6: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4] respectively.</p> <p>The Environment Agency agreed that Water could be scoped out entirely as a standalone ES chapter, given that relevant matters are covered in other documents submitted with the DCO Application, such as the two appendices listed above and ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p> <p>More information is included in ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010157/APP/6.1].</p>
	Land, soil and groundwater	<p>The Environment Agency indicated that potential risks from piling to groundwater/source protection zones need to be referred to. These points have been included within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.2]. ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.5: Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4] was produced in consultation with the Environment Agency and is submitted in support of the DCO Application.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
Natural England		

Engagement	Issue	Regard had by the Applicant
Technical meetings with specialists and/or correspondence via email	Biodiversity	<p>The Applicant has engaged with Natural England regarding ornithological survey methodology and approaches to assessments and mitigation. Where necessary, methodology or reporting have been amended in light of Natural England's advice.</p> <p>Natural England and the Applicant have also engaged over the approach to the Habitats Regulations Assessment, for example in relation to potential impacts on functionally linked land and the approach to mitigation, which have been considered in Habitats Regulations Assessment – Information to Inform the Appropriate Assessment [EN010157/APP/5.3] and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.5].</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
	Land, soil and groundwater	<p>The Applicant has liaised with Natural England over Agricultural Land Classification and impacts on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. An Outline Soil Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.8] has been produced for the Application.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
Historic England		
Technical meetings with specialists and/or correspondence via email	Cultural heritage.	<p>Historic England reviewed an initial draft of the Stage 1 Settings Assessment and the scope and methodology of the Detailed Settings Assessment (ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.4:</p>

Engagement	Issue	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>Detailed Settings Impact Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4]).</p> <p>The Applicant has had discussions with Historic England regarding community engagement. Discussions with Heritage England, Humber Field Archaeology and the landowner regarding the implementation of a community heritage project focussed on the local population's historic and present relationship to sunlight and wetland landscapes are ongoing.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
Hull City Council		
Technical meeting	Transport and access	<p>Whilst the Proposed Development falls outside Hull City Council's administrative boundary, construction traffic will utilise parts of Hull City Council's road network. It has been agreed between the Applicant and Hull City Council that the construction trip numbers would not be of concern.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Transport and Access [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>
National Highways		
Technical meetings with specialists and/or correspondence via email	Transport and access	<p>The Applicant has engaged with National Highways regarding construction traffic. The ES demonstrates that there is no significant effect on the Strategic Road Network.</p> <p>More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 14: Transport and Access [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p>

Engagement	Issue	Regard had by the Applicant
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust		
Technical meetings with specialists and/or correspondence via email	Biodiversity	The Applicant met with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, one of the issues discussed was the approach to Biodiversity Net Gain. More information is in ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010157/APP/6.2] .

3.4.7 **Table 11** demonstrates how the ES complies with the requirements for engagement and consultation in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

Table 11 Summary of compliance with Environmental Impact Assessment (Infrastructure Planning) Regulations 2017

Regulation within the EIA Regulations 2017	Requirement or provision of regulation	How the Applicant has complied
Regulation 8	Notify the SoS that an ES will be submitted with the DCO Application	Under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations, a cover letter was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a notification, to accompany the Scoping Report (see next paragraph), which highlighted that the Applicant proposes to provide an Environmental Statement with an application for an order granting development consent. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix B-2 . The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report, ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]
Regulation 10	Applicant may request a Scoping Opinion from the SoS on the information that should be included within the ES	

Regulation within the EIA Regulations 2017	Requirement or provision of regulation	How the Applicant has complied
		to the Planning Inspectorate on Thursday 9 November 2023, supporting their request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations.
Regulation 11	Planning Inspectorate to notify the consultation bodies that the Applicant intends to provide an ES for the Proposed Development	The list of consultation bodies attached to the Planning Inspectorates' Scoping Opinion referenced above was used to inform the prescribed consultees consulted under section 42(1)(a) during the statutory consultation. A copy of the Reg 11 list can be found in Appendix B-1
Regulation 13	The Applicant must publish the notice and send a copy of the section 48 notice to Regulation 11 consultation bodies	On Monday 13 May 2024, a copy of the section 48 Notice for the 2024 statutory consultation was emailed or posted by tracked First Class to all prescribed consultees required by section 42(a) of the PA 2008, including Regulation 11 bodies. A copy of the cover letter can be found in Appendix D-2.1 and a copy of the notice can be found in Appendix C-8 .

Regulation within the EIA Regulations 2017	Requirement or provision of regulation	How the Applicant has complied
Regulation 14	An application for an order granting development consent for EIA must be accompanied by an ES	An ES [EN010157/APP/6.1-6.4] has been prepared and submitted as part of the DCO Application.

4 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 **Chapter 4** includes details of how the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared, consulted on and published, pursuant to section 47 of the PA 2008, prior to commencing statutory consultation for the Proposed Development.

4.1.2 Section 47 of the PA 2008 states:

“(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.

(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.

(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.

(4) In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).

(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).

(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must — (za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land; (a) publish in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and (b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.

(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.”

4.2 Development of the draft SoCC

- 4.2.1 In August 2023, the Applicant engaged in early communications with the host local authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, with regards to the proposed approach to consultation and engagement on the Proposed Development. At this meeting on Wednesday 23 August 2023, the Applicant shared a high-level timeline for consultation and discussed the planned two-stage consultation approach. Alongside issuing notes from this meeting, the Applicant shared the draft Consultation Strategy with officers for information. A copy of the email issued to East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in **Appendix C-1.1** and the draft Consultation Strategy can be found in **Appendix C-1.2**. No comments were received on the draft Consultation Strategy.
- 4.2.2 Following the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant began the preparation of the draft SoCC. The draft SoCC provided information about how the Applicant would consult and engage with the local communities likely to be affected by the Proposed Development.

4.3 Consultation on the draft SoCC

- 4.3.1 An early draft SoCC was sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council, as the relevant host local authority under section 43(1) of the PA 2008, and Hull City Council, as a non-statutory neighbouring authority that had previously been consulted as part of the non-statutory consultation, on Monday 22 January 2024. A copy of the email sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in **Appendix C-2.1** and a copy of the email sent to Hull City Council can be found in **Appendix C-2.2**. The early draft SoCC can be found in **Appendix C-2.3**. Comments on the early draft SoCC were requested by Monday 5 February 2024.
- 4.3.2 The Applicant followed up with Hull City Council via email on Tuesday 6 February 2024 to query receipt of the early draft SoCC and check if it had any comments. A copy of the follow-up email sent to Hull City Council can be found in **Appendix C-2.4**. The Applicant also followed up with East Riding of Yorkshire Council via email on Monday 12 February 2024 to check if it had any comments on the early draft SoCC. A copy of the follow-up email sent to East Riding of Yorkshire can be found in **Appendix C-2.5**. No comments were received from East Riding of Yorkshire Council or Hull City Council on the early draft SoCC.
- 4.3.3 In line with the requirements of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook formal consultation on the SoCC with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the host local authority. Due to revisions to the draft Order Limits following the non-statutory consultation, Hull City Council was no longer a host authority. As the plans at non-statutory consultation had been relevant to Hull City Council, and remained

close to the local authority boundary, the Applicant deemed it appropriate to share with them the draft of the SoCC for comments. The draft SoCC was sent to both parties on Thursday 29 February 2024. The local authorities were given until Tuesday 2 April 2024 to provide comments. This was extended beyond the 28 days required by the PA 2008 to allow for the Easter bank holidays.

- 4.3.4 A copy of the email sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in **Appendix C-3.1** and a copy of the email sent to Hull City Council can be found in **Appendix C-3.2**. A copy of the draft SoCC shared with the local authorities for formal consultation can be found in **Appendix C-3.3**.
- 4.3.5 Comments were received from East Riding of Yorkshire Council on Friday 8 March 2024. A copy of the email with comments on the draft SoCC can be found in **Appendix C-4.1** and a copy of the marked up draft SoCC attached to their response can be found in **Appendix C-4.2**.
- 4.3.6 The Applicant followed up with Hull City Council via email on Monday 8 April 2024 during the SoCC consultation period reminding it of the opportunity to provide comments. A copy of the chaser email sent to Hull City Council can be found in **Appendix C-3.4**. No comments on the draft SoCC were received from Hull City Council.

4.4 Regard Had to Local Authority Responses to the Draft SoCC

- 4.4.1 **Table 12** outlines the comments received from East Riding of Yorkshire Council on the draft SoCC and the changes made to the SoCC.

Table 12 Amendments to the draft SoCC

Paragraph	Comment	Change made
6.4.2. What we are consulting on	From experience of other schemes, the more detail you can provide the public, the better. Those whose houses are close by will want to know what will be located close to their house, how tall panels will be. what road improvements are proposed etc, what landscaping is proposed etc. Will you also consult on supporting docs such as	No change made. The Applicant did not have a draft Traffic Assessment to share at the PEIR stage. The PEIR (which was issued as part of the statutory consultation) included Transport and Ecology chapters with corresponding figures and appendices.

	TA/Ecology information for consulting with He and NE etc?	<p>The Applicant has been sharing traffic data and preliminary assessments with key stakeholders including East Riding of Yorkshire Council Highways and Natural England to date and will continue to do so.</p> <p>A Transport Assessment is included as part of the ES, ES Volume 4, Appendix 14.1: Transport Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4]</p>
6.5 Consultation events	Suggest an event at Cottingham/Creyke Beck way in addition if possible as these are all east and some of the PCZ stretches further west	An additional consultation event was held at Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green, Cottingham on Tuesday 21 May 2024 from 1pm to 7pm.

4.4.2 The Applicant provided an updated SoCC back to East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council on Thursday 11 April 2024 outlining how comments had been considered, informing them that the consultation dates had been amended to Tuesday 7 May to Tuesday 18 June 2024 and to advise of two further changes made to the final SoCC:

- Statutory notices to publicise the SoCC and consultation, in accordance with section 48 and section 47 of the PA 2008, to be published as a joint notice.
- Amendment to the local papers the notice was to be placed in as The Beverley and Holderness Gazette does not exist, therefore notices would be placed in the Hull Daily Mail and Yorkshire Post, which both cover the area of the Proposed Development.

4.4.3 A copy of the email sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in **Appendix C-5.1** and a copy of the email sent to Hull City Council can be found in **Appendix C-5.2**. **Appendix C-5.3** includes a copy of the updated SoCC shared with the local authorities.

4.4.4 The consultation dates were further amended to Wednesday 15 May to Wednesday 26 June 2024, due to an additional week needed to finalise documents for consultation.

4.4.5 A final version of the SoCC was reissued to East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council on Monday 29 April 2024. A copy of the email sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in **Appendix C-6.1** and a copy of the email

sent to Hull City Council can be found in **Appendix C-6.2**. **Appendix C-7** includes a copy of the final SoCC shared with the local authorities.

4.5 Publicity under Section 47 of the PA 2008

- 4.5.1 The Applicant published a combined section 47/48 notice, which included information relevant to, and was publicised in accordance with, the requirements of both section 47(6) and section 48 of the PA 2008.
- 4.5.2 In compliance with the publicity requirements of section 47(6) of the PA 2008, the SoCC was made available for viewing for the duration of the statutory consultation, as detailed below:
- Adverts publicising locations where the SoCC could be viewed were placed in the following newspapers:
 - Hull Daily Mail on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024
 - Yorkshire Post on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024
 - Guardian on Tuesday 14 May 2024
 - London Gazette on Tuesday 14 May 2024
 - A paper copy of the SoCC was also placed at Beverley Library, Leven Library and Tickton Village Hall from Wednesday 15 May 2024.
 - A paper copy of the SoCC was available at each of the four consultation events held.
 - An electronic version of the SoCC was available to view on the consultation website, from Wednesday 15 May 2024. A screenshot showing the SoCC available to download on the website can be found in **Appendix C-9**.
- 4.5.3 **Appendix C-8** includes a copy of the newspaper notices published which explained the Proposed Development, dates for consultation, how feedback could be provided, and details of locations where materials could be viewed, including on the consultation website and at local deposit points.
- 4.5.4 **Chapter 5** of the Report details the statutory consultation. **Table 21** outlines how the consultation was undertaken in compliance with the published SoCC, as per the requirements of section 47(7) of the PA 2008.
- 4.5.5 An early version of **Table 21** was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report on Thursday 29 August 2024 and published on their website on Tuesday 17 September 2024.

5 Statutory Consultation

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 **Chapter 5** provides a summary of the activities undertaken by the Applicant to ensure compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008, EIA Regulations and the commitments made within the published SoCC. Evidence of this compliance is supplied in the Appendices, where relevant and appropriate, and is referred to throughout the Chapter.

5.2 Summary of activity

- 5.2.1 The Applicant held a six-week statutory consultation between Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 26 June 2024. This deadline for comments was extended in circumstances where consultees were notified following the consultation commencement date.
- 5.2.2 The PA 2008 requires the Applicant to:
- notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application on or before beginning statutory consultation (section 46);
 - prepare a statement in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, which describes how the Applicant proposes to consult the local community (section 47(1) and (2));
 - carry out consultation in accordance with the SoCC (section 47(7));
 - make the SoCC available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, publishing the statement and a newspaper notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected (section 47(6));
 - identify and consult statutory consultees, local authorities and all persons with land interests (sections 42, 43 and 44);
 - set a deadline for consultation responses not less than 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation (section 45);
 - publicise the proposed application in accordance with the APFP Regulations (section 48); and
 - have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation (section 49).
- 5.2.3 The Applicant sought feedback on all aspects of the Proposed Development, including the principle of solar development and renewable energy, the proposed grid connection cable route and the landscape and environmental design. The

Applicant also asked for comments on the proposed Community Benefit Fund that the Applicant is looking to establish as part of its corporate commitment to community investment.

- 5.2.4 The Applicant welcomed all views and has had regard to all comments and feedback when developing the design.
- 5.2.5 Under section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant has a duty to consult the local community. The SoCC detailed the approach to consultation as outlined in **Chapter 4**. In addition to the local community, the Applicant consulted with prescribed bodies and local authorities under section 42(1)(a) and (b) of the PA 2008. People with interest in land (PILs), under sections 42(1)(d) and 44 were also consulted.
- 5.2.6 **Table 13** summarises the activities which took place as part of the statutory consultation.

Table 13 Summary of statutory consultation activities

Activity	Date
Consultation newsletter posted to over 11,000 properties in the local community	Friday 10 May 2024
Section 46 notice issued to the Planning Inspectorate	Monday 13 May 2024
Writing to affected landowners and prescribed consultees	Monday 13 May 2024*
Press release announcing the consultation issued to local media	Wednesday 15 May 2024
Social media advertising about the consultation began	Wednesday 15 May 2024
Updating the consultation website with consultation details and all consultation documents	Wednesday 15 May 2024
Consultation document available at deposit points	Wednesday 15 May 2024

Section 47/48 notice	Wednesday 8 May, Tuesday 14 May and Wednesday 15 May 2024
Launch of the statutory consultation	Wednesday 15 May 2024
Publication of the SoCC, the PEIR, consultation brochure, feedback form and supporting materials	Wednesday 15 May 2024
Placement of documents in the deposit points	Wednesday 15 May 2024
In-person public consultation event	Tuesday 21 May 2024
In-person public consultation event	Wednesday 22 May 2024
Webinar	Tuesday 28 May 2024
In-person public consultation event	Saturday 1 June 2024
In-person public consultation event	Monday 3 June 2024
Webinar	Thursday 6 June 2024

* Some consultees were identified after Monday 13 May 2024 and were consulted at a later date. These are explained in **Section 5.4** of the Report.

5.3 Consulting with Prescribed Consultees under Section 42

5.3.1 Section 42(1) of the PA 2008 specifies those parties who require consultation about the proposed application. This includes:

- Section 42 (1) (a) - such persons as may be prescribed (covered in Section 5.4)
 - (aa) - the Marine Management Organisation
- Section 42 (1) (b) - each local authority that is within section 43 (covered in Section 5.5)
- Section 42 (1) (c) – the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London (covered in Section 5.6)
- Section 42 (1) (d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44 PA 2008 (covered in Section 5.7)

5.3.2 The following sections outline how consultees have been identified. A full list of consultees identified in accordance with section 42 can be found in **Appendix D-1**.

5.4 Consulting with Prescribed Consultees Under Section 42(1)(a) and Section 41(1)(aa)

5.4.1 Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 requires applicants to consult with all applicable 'prescribed' bodies. Persons prescribed under section 42(1)(a) are listed in column 1 of the Schedule to the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024. These Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations came into force on Tuesday 30 April 2024, replacing the table in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, with an updated table of prescribed consultees. The Applicant consulted all those identified in the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations.

5.4.2 The updated table of prescribed consultees in the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024 defines 'relevant' as: *"(a) "relevant", in relation to a body (except a Northern Ireland Department), shall mean the body which has responsibility for the location where the proposals may or will be sited or has responsibility for an area which neighbours that location."*

5.4.3 At the time the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations came into force, Planning Inspectorate Advice note 3 (EIA notification and consultation), which gives an explanation on how to interpret the 'relevance test', drew a distinction between projects in England and Wales and this was not amended in the revised Advice Note on Thursday 9 May 2024 to reflect the amendment to the definition of 'relevant' in the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations. This meant there was some ambiguity in relation to consultation requirements. Following the start of the consultation, the Applicant, on reflection of the updated position, sought to

undertake a precautionary approach and extended its list of statutory consultees to include all those who have a responsibility for an area which neighbours the location where the proposals are sited.

- 5.4.4 On Monday 13 May 2024, a consultation notification letter was sent by tracked First Class post to the section 42(1)(a) consultees set out in **Appendix D-1**, along with a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter sent to the consultees can be found in **Appendix D-2.1**. The section 47/48 notice can be found in **Appendix C-8** and the other consultation materials included can be found in **Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4**. Those the Applicant had email details for were also sent the letter via email on Wednesday 15 May 2024, including links to the relevant documentation on the website.
- 5.4.5 On Monday 24 June 2024 a consultation notification letter was sent by tracked First Class to the additional 'relevant' consultees identified. A copy of this letter and the list of consultees can be found in **Appendix D-2.4**. These consultees were sent the same information as those consulted on Monday 13 May 2024: a letter, a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. To ensure these consultees had sufficient time to consider the proposals, the consultation was extended for them until 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024.
- 5.4.6 Skirlaugh Parish Council was unintentionally omitted from the Monday 13 May 2024 and Monday 24 June 2024 mailings but was sent a consultation pack including a letter, copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope as soon as this was identified on Tuesday 2 July 2024. An email was also sent to Skirlaugh Parish Council on Tuesday 2 July with the letter, including links to the relevant documentation on the consultation website. To ensure this consultee had sufficient time to consider the proposals, the consultation was extended for them until 11:59pm on Monday 5 August 2024. A copy of this letter can be viewed in **Appendix D-2.6**.
- 5.4.7 In the consultation response received from the Canal & River Trust, it was suggested the Applicant should contact Driffield Navigation Trust. The Applicant sent them a consultation letter on Friday 26 July 2024, a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. The letter stated the online survey was closed but other response channels were available to make any representations. To ensure the Driffield Navigation Trust had sufficient time to consider the proposals, the consultation was extended for them until 11:59pm on Friday 30 August 2024. A copy of this letter can be viewed in **Appendix D-2.7**.

- 5.4.8 Section 42(1)(aa) requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). As this is an inland development the MMO was not consulted in respect of this Proposed Development.
- 5.4.9 A full list of the bodies consulted under section 42(1)(a) and the dates they were notified can be found in **Appendix D-1**.

5.5 Consulting with Prescribed Consultees Under Sections 42(1)(b) and 43

- 5.5.1 Section 42(1)(b) requires that each local authority within section 43 must be consulted. These are:
- A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area;
 - A local authority ("A") is within this section if: (a) the land is in the area of another local authority ("B"), (aa) B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area; and
 - If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council ("C"), a local authority ("D") is within this section if: (a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area.
- 5.5.2 East Riding of Yorkshire Council is the sole host authority for the Proposed Development and is a unitary authority.
- 5.5.3 Section 42(1)(b) local authorities are listed in **Table 14** and **Figure 4** shows the section 42(1)(b) local authorities on a map.
- 5.5.4 On Monday 13 May 2024, a consultation notification letter was sent to the S42(1)(b) consultees along with a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter can be found in **Appendix D-2.1**. The section 47/48 notice can be found in **Appendix C-8** and the other consultation materials included can be found in **Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3** and **Appendix F-4**. Those the Applicant had email details for were also sent the letter via email on Wednesday 15 May 2024, including links to the relevant documentation on the consultation website.

Table 14 Section 42(1)(b) local authorities

Local Authority Section	Local authority
"A" s43 Consultees (lower-tier local authority, national park, London borough, etc. that shares a boundary with a "B" (host) authority)	Hull City Council North Lincolnshire Council Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council City of York Council North Yorkshire Council
"B" s43 Consultees (a lower-tier district council or a Unitary Council who is a host authority for the development and any associated development)	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
"C" s43 Consultees (an upper-tier county council who is a host authority)	Not Applicable
"D" s43 Consultees (a local authority ("D") is within this section if: (a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area)	Not Applicable

Figure 4 Map of section 42(1)(b) local authorities



5.6 Consulting with Prescribed Consultees Under Section 42(1)(c)

- 5.6.1 Section 42(1)(c) requires consultation with the Greater London Authority (GLA) if the land is in Greater London. The Proposed Development is not within Greater London and therefore the GLA was not consulted.

5.7 Consulting people with interests in land Under Sections 42(1)(d) and 44

- 5.7.1 Section 42(1)(d) and section 44 of the PA 2008 sets out how an applicant must consult with people with interest in land (PILs) in respect of the Proposed Development, i.e. those who own, occupy, have an interest in, or who may be able to make certain claims for compensation in respect of land affected by a Proposed Development.

- 5.7.2 Under section 44, PILs are split into three categories:

- Category 1: Where the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land;
- Category 2: Where the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is interested in the land, or has power to sell and convey the land, or to release the land;
- Category 3: Where the applicant thinks that, if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim:
 - As a result of the implementing of the order;
 - As a result of the order having been implemented; or
 - As a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented.

- 5.7.3 Category 3 persons are those with potential claims under the above legislation should the proposed scheme be carried out. They mainly relate to those whose land may be injuriously affected (i.e. its value would be diminished) as a result of interference with a right or interest as a result of the proposed scheme, although the land in question is not acquired outright.

- 5.7.4 The Applicant carried out diligent inquiry using the following methods to identify and consult with those with an interest in the land affected by the Proposed Development.

- 5.7.5 Desktop referencing was undertaken through extraction of Land Registry data, requests for land interest information from landowners and other desktop activities to identify open spaces and rights of way.
- 5.7.6 Land interest questionnaires (LIQs) were posted in March and April 2024 to all parties to confirm their interest and request further information. LIQs were also sent to any subsequently identified new interests. The LIQs included a request for information about a recipient's own interests, associated third party interests and the spatial extent of the property. Included with the questionnaires were individual plans showing the extent of land ownership boundaries. An example of the cover letter can be found in **Appendix D-3.3** and chaser letter in **Appendix D-3.4**. An example of a LIQ can be found in **Appendix D-3.2**.
- 5.7.7 Site referencing was undertaken through site visits to understand the occupation details for properties (ownership, leases, tenants or occupiers) in addition to confirming details which had been gathered through desktop methods.
- 5.7.8 Where land ownership information could not be ascertained through desktop or site referencing methods, the land referencing team erected notices on site requesting information. The notice showed the land boundary in question and provided details of how to contact the land referencing team with any relevant information. These notices were checked weekly for six weeks. An example of a site notice for unknown land ownership can be found in **Appendix D-3.1**.
- 5.7.9 Through diligent inquiry, the Applicant considers that there are no persons who may be entitled to make a relevant claim as a Category 3 interest under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965, Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 or section 152(3) of the Planning Act in relation to the following matters: noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, light emissions, discharge of solid or liquid substances. The relevant factors considered by the Applicant that could have significance to proposals of this nature were noise and vibration. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]** sets out the scope of the noise and vibration assessments made. These assessments concluded there is a low likelihood of significant adverse noise and vibration impacts resulting from the operational phase of the Proposed Development. These matters are considered in detail in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010157/APP/6.2]**.
- 5.7.10 A total of 237 PILs under Categories 1 and 2 were identified and sent a letter on Monday 13 May 2024 notifying them of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. The letter was issued alongside a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter can be found in **Appendix D-2.2**. The section 47/48 notice can be found in **Appendix C-8** and the other consultation materials

included can be found in **Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4.**

- 5.7.11 Beverley Pasture Masters were unintentionally omitted from the Monday 13 May 2024 and Monday 24 June 2024 mailings but was sent a consultation pack including a letter, copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope, as soon as this was identified on Thursday 4 July 2024. Beverley Pasture Masters are elected from the Freeman of Beverley to oversee the wellbeing of Beverley's four pastures. To ensure this consultee had sufficient time to consider the proposals, the consultation was extended until 11:59pm on Monday 5 August 2024. A copy of this letter can be viewed in **Appendix D-2.5**. The section 47/48 notice can be found in **Appendix C-8** and the other consultation materials included can be found in **Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4.**
- 5.7.12 Site notices were also put up around the site on Tuesday 14 May 2024 and were checked weekly throughout the consultation period to help identify any additional land interests. The notices were taken down on Friday 12 July 2024.
- 5.7.13 More information on the process for identifying land interests can be found in the **Statement of Reasons [EN010157/APP/4.1]** and the list of land interests is included in the **Book of Reference [EN010157/APP/4.2]**.

5.8 Notifying the Secretary of State Under Section 46

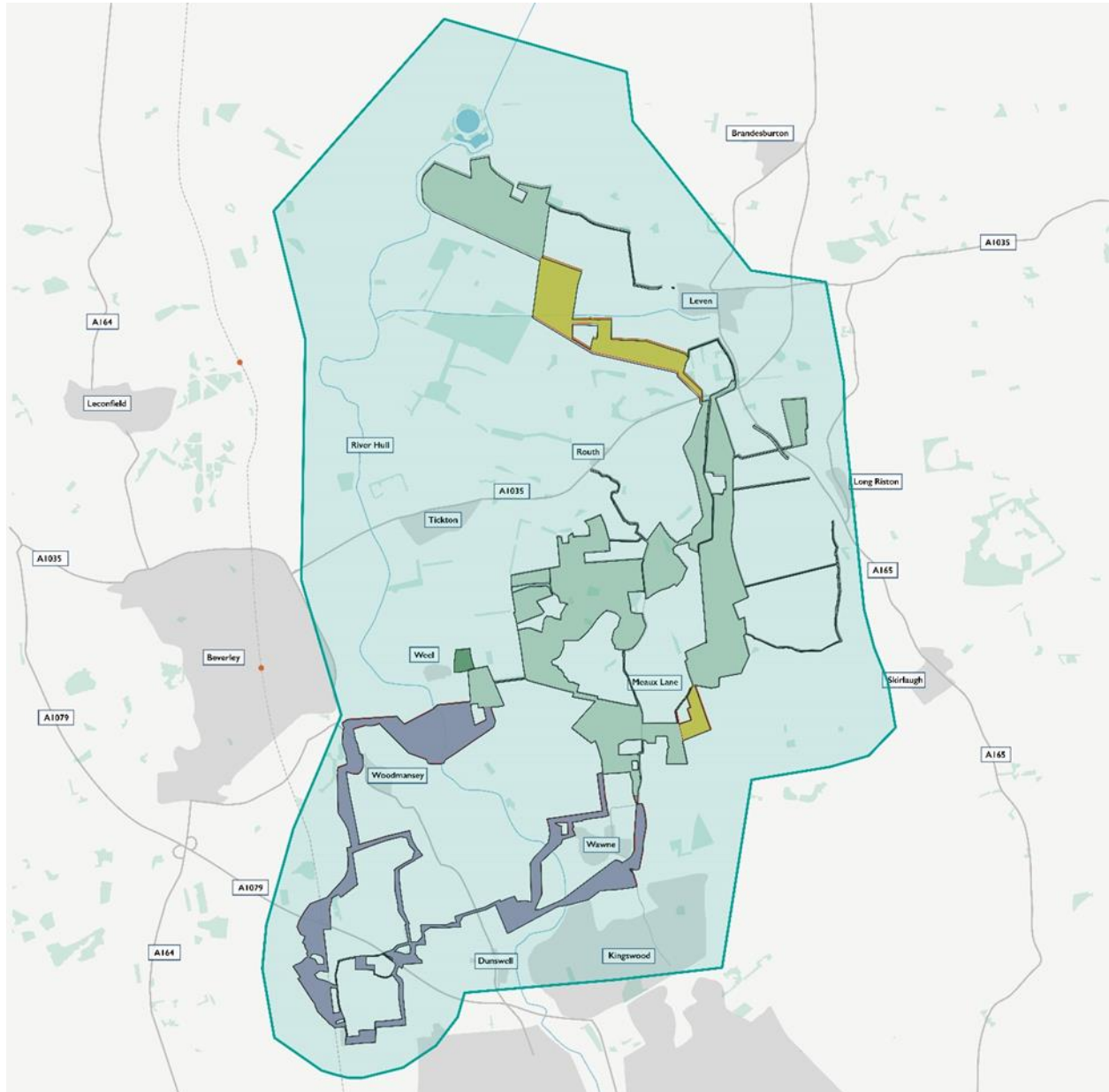
- 5.8.1 Section 46 of the PA 2008 requires an applicant to notify the SoS of the proposed application for development consent. This must be done on, or before, the commencement of the statutory consultation under section 42, and the SoS must be supplied with the same information as is proposed to be used for the section 42 consultation.
- 5.8.2 On Monday 13 May 2024, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate under section 46 of the PA 2008 of the statutory consultation by post and by email, formatted as a letter. A copy of the letter can be found in **Appendix D-4.1** and a copy of the email can be found in **Appendix D-4.2**. Both contained a password protected link to downloadable copies of:
- Template of letter sent to section 42(1)(a-c) and 42(1)(d) consultees
 - Section 47 and 48 notice
 - Consultation newsletter
 - Consultation brochure
 - Feedback form and Freepost envelope

- 5.8.3 A screenshot of the password protected website with downloadable copies of the documents can be found in **Appendix D-4.3**.
- 5.8.4 The Applicant received email confirmation of receipt from the Planning Inspectorate on Wednesday 15 May 2024, which can be found in **Appendix D-4.6**. A copy of the section 46 notification and a section 46 Acknowledgement of Receipt of Information was published on the Planning Inspectorate's website on Wednesday 15 May 2024.

5.9 Consulting the local community under section 47

- 5.9.1 As outlined in **Chapter 4**, the Applicant produced a SoCC setting out how it would consult the local community and made the statement available for inspection on the Applicant's website and at deposit points, and published in a local newspaper notice of where and when the SoCC could be inspected.
- 5.9.2 The SoCC identified commitments made by the Applicant in relation to carrying out the community consultation. **Section 5.18** of the Report outlines how the consultation was conducted in accordance with commitments made in the SoCC.
- 5.9.3 Residents, businesses and organisations located in the vicinity of the Proposed Development were sent via post a consultation newsletter, which notified them of the consultation and invited them to provide their feedback. The consultation newsletter was sent to addresses within the identified primary consultation zone (PCZ) (which was agreed with the local authorities as part of the SoCC consultation). A map of the PCZ is provided in **Figure 5**.
- 5.9.4 The PCZ was identified by extending a minimum distance of approximately two kilometres from the proposed Land Areas, within which the solar PV panels, energy storage system, on-site substations and supporting infrastructure would be located. The PCZ also extends one kilometre from the grid connection cable route corridor connecting to National Grid Creyke Beck substation.
- 5.9.5 The PCZ was amended beyond these criteria, in certain areas, to consider:
- Existing physical features, such as main roads
 - Capturing entire communities rather than excluding small numbers of properties
 - Where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications

Figure 5 Primary Consultation Zone for the Project



5.9.6 The Applicant committed in the SoCC to consult the following groups and individuals in the PCZ:

- Parish councils
- Members of Parliament
- Elected representatives in local authorities within the PCZ

relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups

'Seldom heard' groups, representing people who are unlikely to respond to traditional consultation techniques and may need additional support to access materials

- 5.9.7 The Applicant notified local elected representatives of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. A list of the elected representatives contacted can be found in **Appendix E-1.1**. A letter was issued on Monday 13 May 2024, ahead of the consultation launch, and an email was issued on the day the consultation launched on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Both the letter and email included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter can be found in **Appendix E-1.2** and a copy of the email can be found in **Appendix E-1.3**. The consultation materials included in the mailing can be found in **Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4**. These stakeholders were also issued a further email on Wednesday 12 June 2024, to remind them of the time remaining until the consultation response deadline. A copy of the reminder email can be found in **Appendix E-1.4**.
- 5.9.8 The Applicant notified local community organisations of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. A list of the community organisations can be found in **Appendix E-2.1**. A letter was issued on Monday 13 May 2024, ahead of the consultation launch, and an email was issued on the day the consultation launched on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Both the letter and email included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter can be found in **Appendix E-2.2** and a copy of the email can be found in **Appendix E-2.3**. The consultation materials included in the mailing can be found in **Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4**. These stakeholders were also issued a further email on Wednesday 12 June 2024, to remind them of the time remaining until the consultation response deadline. A copy of the reminder email can be found in **Appendix E-2.4**.
- 5.9.9 The Applicant identified seldom heard groups in the local community and notified them of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. A list of the seldom heard groups can be found in **Appendix E-3.1**. A letter was issued on Monday 13 May 2024, ahead of the consultation launch, and an email was issued on the day the consultation launched on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Both the letter and email included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter can be found in **Appendix E-3.2** and a copy of the email can be found in **Appendix E-3.3**. The consultation materials included in the mailing can be found in **Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4**. These stakeholders were also issued a further email on Wednesday 12 June 2024, to remind them of the time

remaining until the consultation response deadline. A copy of the reminder email can be found in **Appendix E-3.4**.

- 5.9.10 The Applicant contacted by email all interested parties that had responded to the non-statutory consultation (and opted to be kept informed about the Proposed Development), or had completed the 'Register for Updates' form on the consultation website, to inform them of the statutory consultation and opportunity to provide a response. The Applicant issued an email on Wednesday 15 May 2024 to inform the interested parties of the consultation launch. A copy of the email can be found in **Appendix E-4.1**. The Applicant also issued an email on Wednesday 12 June 2024 to inform the interested parties that there were two weeks remaining to provide a comment on the consultation. A copy of the reminder email can be found in **Appendix E-4.2**.

5.10 Duty to publicise under Section 48

- 5.10.1 Section 48 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to publicise its proposed application for development consent in the Prescribed Manner. This is defined in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations. The Applicant issued a combined section 47 and section 48 notice. A copy of this notice can be found in **Appendix C-8**.
- 5.10.2 As per the requirements of Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, a notice pursuant to section 48 of the PA 2008 was published:
- (a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the proposed development would be situated;*
 - (b) once in a national newspaper;*
 - (c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and*
 - (d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development—*
 - (i) once in Lloyd's List; and*
 - (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.*
- 5.10.3 The Proposed Development does not relate to offshore development; therefore Regulation 4(2)(d) does not apply.
- 5.10.4 The Proposed Development does not affect land in Scotland and therefore was not published in the Edinburgh Gazette.
- 5.10.5 **Table 15** summarises the newspapers in which the section 47/48 notice was published.

Table 15 Details of newspapers section 47/48 notice was published in

Newspaper	Date(s)	
National Newspaper		
Name:	Week 1:	Week 2 (local only):
The Guardian	14/05/24	
The London Gazette	14/05/24	
Local Newspaper(s)		
Name	Date	Date
The Hull Daily Mail	08/05/24	15/05/24
The Yorkshire Post	08/05/24	15/05/24

- 5.10.6 A copy of the section 47/48 notice was made available on the consultation website, at: <http://www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk> from the start of statutory consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024.
- 5.10.7 Additionally, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the section 47/48 notice was issued to the consultees identified under Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations. This list of consultees under s42(a-c) that received this can be found in **Appendix D-1**.

5.11 Consultation Documents

- 5.11.1 A suite of documents was developed to support the statutory consultation. These documents aimed to provide comprehensive information to all those with an interest in the Proposed Development.
- 5.11.2 All the consultation documents were available at the consultation events. All documents were made available to view and download on the consultation website <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/documents/> from the start of consultation. The Applicant has kept the documents on the consultation website. Consultation documents were also available at local deposit points, with more information provided in **Section 5.12**.
- 5.11.3 The Applicant received four separate requests for hard copies of these consultation documents and received no requests for any of the consultation documents to be made available in alternative formats.
- 5.11.4 A summary of these documents and their content is provided below.

Consultation brochure

5.11.5 The consultation brochure was a 24-page booklet designed to serve as the primary consultation document. It provided detailed information for those interested in the Proposed Development, helping interested parties to make informed responses to the consultation. This brochure was available to view at the consultation events, the deposit points and online. It was sent directly to section 42 consultees, relevant elected representatives, community organisations and seldom heard groups. It was also available to request as a hard copy for free via the Applicant's community contact channels, including email and phone. The brochure was also taken to, and handed out, at several Parish Council meetings.

5.11.6 The brochure included the following:

- An overview of the Proposed Development and the objectives of the consultation.
- A summary of the feedback received from the community in the previous consultation phase and how this had informed the updated design.
- Descriptions of the main elements of the solar farm, such as solar panels, inverters, and substations.
- Information on the potential benefits for the local community, including economic, social, and environmental aspects.
- Illustrative masterplan and plans of the Land Areas.
- Details about the proposed grid connection cable routes.
- An overview of the environmental studies conducted to date.
- The proposed timeline for the Proposed Development and information on the DCO process.
- A schedule of upcoming consultation events and webinars for community engagement.
- Instructions for interested parties on how to submit their feedback and participate in the consultation process.

5.11.7 This brochure aimed to ensure that all stakeholders had access to the necessary information to engage with the consultation and provide meaningful feedback on the Proposed Development.

5.11.8 On Tuesday 14 May 2024, the Applicant became aware that the consultation brochure contained an error, namely the incorrect land area plan was printed on page 11 for 'Land Area B: Land North West of Long Riston'. The statutory consultation commenced on Wednesday 15 May 2024. To rectify this issue, the Applicant did the following:

- The consultation brochure was corrected so that the correct version was available on the consultation website <http://www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk> from the start of consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024.
- A correction letter was sent to all section 42 consultees on Wednesday 15 May 2024 alongside a corrected version of page 11 from the consultation brochure with the correct land area plan for Land Area B. A copy of this letter can be found in **Appendix D-2.3**.
- A correction letter was issued to relevant elected representatives, community organisations and seldom heard groups on Wednesday 15 May 2024 alongside a corrected version of page 11 from the consultation brochure with the correct land area plan for Land Area B. A list of the elected representatives can be found in **Appendix E-1.1**, a list of the community organisations can be found in **Appendix E-2.1** and a list of the seldom heard groups can be found in **Appendix E-3.1**. A copy of the correction letter issued can be found in **Appendix E-5**.
- New copies of the corrected consultation brochure were printed for deposit points and in time for the all in-person consultation events. While these new copies of the consultation brochure were being processed, the Applicant manually added an insert into the consultation brochures left at deposit points of the corrected page 11, indicating clearly with a label that page 11 within the consultation brochure has an error.
- A letter was sent to the Planning Inspectorate on Wednesday 15 May 2024 outlining the action undertaken to rectify the situation. A copy of this letter can be found in **Appendix D-4.4** and a copy of the email can be found in **Appendix D-4.5**.

5.11.9 A copy of the consultation brochure is provided in **Appendix F-2**.

Consultation newsletter

5.11.10 The newsletter was a four-page leaflet providing a brief overview of the Proposed Development and the statutory consultation process.

5.11.11 The newsletter included:

- A summary of the proposed solar farm, its objectives, location, and benefits.
- Illustrative masterplan.
- Information on the consultation process and how to participate.
- A schedule of upcoming in-person events and webinars.
- Contact details and ways to provide feedback.

5.11.12 The newsletter aimed to inform local stakeholders and encourage community involvement in the consultation process.

5.11.13 A copy of the consultation newsletter can be found in **Appendix F-1**.

Feedback form and Freepost envelope

5.11.14 A feedback form was developed in order to capture community and stakeholder feedback on the Proposed Development. The feedback form was provided alongside a Freepost envelope to make it easy for interested parties to share their views and contribute to the consultation process. The feedback form featured 13 questions, signposting to the relevant pages within the consultation brochure where necessary. The questions were a mixture of multiple choice and free text.

5.11.15 The questions asked on the feedback form were as follows:

- How would you describe your interest in Peartree Hill Solar Farm?
- Do you agree or disagree with the following five statements? (With the options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know)
- Climate change is an important issue
- Energy security is an important issue
 - Moving away from fossil fuels is important
 - The UK needs more renewable energy
 - The UK needs more energy storage
- How supportive are you of our proposal for Peartree Hill, which would generate clean, affordable energy, helping the UK to reach its decarbonisation goals? (with the options: Strongly support, Support but with concerns, Neutral, Oppose, Strongly oppose and Don't know)
- Do you have any comments on the overall layout of Peartree Hill?
- Do you have any comments on the specific Land Areas? Including and comments on supporting infrastructure necessary for the operation of a solar farm, including battery storage, substations, electrical equipment and security measures. Please tick the relevant area(s) and add comments below.
- Land Area A: Land South of High and Low Baswick
- Land Area B: Land North West of Long Riston
 - Land Area C: Land West of Arnold
 - Land Area D: Land South of the A1035
 - Land Area E: Land East of Weel
- Land Area F: Land North of Wawne

- All areas
- We have shared our updated options for cable corridors to connect Peartree Hill to Creyke Beck Substation via underground cables. Please see page 16 of our consultation brochure. Do you have any comments on the cable corridor options presented?
- Do you have any comments on the methodology and/or preliminary assessments in the PEIR? Where possible, please specify the environmental topic area(s) you are commenting on.
- Do you have any comments on our Peartree Hill Illustrative Masterplan and proposed environmental mitigation? Please make your comments in relation to each of the topics below where applicable.
 - Landscape and visual
 - Biodiversity
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Heritage assets
 - Construction impacts
 - Cumulative impacts
 - Other
- Are there any other on-site community benefits that you would like to see incorporated into plans for Peartree Hill?
- RWE is committed to providing a community benefit fund to support local community groups or initiatives. What organisations or local initiatives would you like to see us contribute to as part of our proposals for Peartree Hill?
- Do you have any further comments on our proposals for Peartree Hill?
- How did you find out about this consultation?
- How informative have you found our consultation?

5.11.16 The online feedback form was available to complete on the consultation website, alongside a downloadable version that could be printed. Hard copies of the feedback form and Freepost envelopes were also available at the consultation events, deposit points, and available to request for free via the Applicant's community contact channels, including email and phone.

5.11.17 A copy of the feedback form is available in **Appendix F-3**.

5.11.18 A copy of the Freepost envelope is available in **Appendix F-4**.

PEIR and Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

- 5.11.19 The PEIR was developed to provide detailed preliminary environmental information regarding the Proposed Development. This comprehensive document included an analysis of potential benefits, effects, and impacts of the development. Additionally, the PEIR outlined proposed mitigation measures to address any identified adverse effects.
- 5.11.20 A hard copy of the PEIR was made available for viewing at the deposit points at Beverley Library, Leven Library and Tickton Village Hall, as well as at in-person consultation events. The PEIR was also available to view on the consultation website. A hard copy could be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and postage costs. No requests for a hard copy of the document were received.
- 5.11.21 A non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR was developed to provide an accessible version of the detailed information contained within the PEIR. The NTS aimed to present the key environmental aspects of the Proposed Development in a clear and concise manner, making it easier for the general public to understand the scope of the Proposed Development, potential impacts, and benefits.
- 5.11.22 The NTS was available to view and take away from the deposit points at Beverley Library, Leven Library and Tickton Village Hall, as well as at the in-person consultation events during the statutory consultation. It was also available digitally, to download, or view on the consultation website. Hard copies were available to request for free via the Applicant's community contact channels, including email and phone. No requests were made for a hard copy of the NTS.
- 5.11.23 A copy of the NTS can be found in **Appendix F-5**.

Consultation banners

- 5.11.24 In total, 12 consultation banners were created to display information about the proposals and provide an overview of the key components of the Proposed Development at the in-person events.
- 5.11.25 The consultation banners were designed to assist in the understanding of the Proposed Development at the in-person consultation events and supported discussions with the Applicant during public information events and other meetings.
- 5.11.26 A copy of the consultation banners can be found in **Appendix F-7**.

Maps and plans

- 5.11.27 Technical maps and plans were provided on the consultation website, at deposit points and at the in-person consultation events. Key maps were also included within the consultation brochure. These included Illustrative Masterplan maps, which depicted the overall layout of the Proposed Development, Land Area plans and grid connection cable route corridor options.
- 5.11.28 Visualisations comparing existing views with projected views for Year 1 and Year 15 of the Proposed Development, illustrating the anticipated changes to the landscape over time were also made available on the website and printed versions were available to view at consultation events.
- 5.11.29 Additionally, overlay plans showing how the specific Land Area plans had changed since the non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023 were available on the consultation website (with a digital slide feature to compare the plans presented at non-statutory consultation and the plans presented at statutory consultation). Physical versions were also available to view at the consultation events, using transparent overlays. The digital version of the overlay maps is available to view on the consultation website: <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/proposals/>.

Poster

- 5.11.30 A poster was designed to advertise the statutory consultation, the in-person consultation events and webinars. The poster was produced in A3 and A4 sizing and distributed to all host Parish Councils, as well as identified local venues.
- 5.11.31 A copy of the poster is available to view at **Appendix F-6.1** and a list of the Parish Councils and locations the poster was sent to is provided in **Appendix F-6.2**.

5.12 Deposit points

- 5.12.1 Deposit points were identified, providing public access to view the consultation documents. These were: Beverley Library and Leven Library. Consultation documents were also located at Tickton Village Hall, to view during its opening hours, which are not regular. The opening times are presented in **Table 16**.
- 5.12.2 Each of the deposit points included copies of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, NTS, consultation feedback forms and Freepost envelopes. All of which could be taken away. The deposit points also included Land Area plans and a copy of the PEIR, which could not be removed from the deposit location.

Table 16 Opening times of the deposit locations during consultation

Location	Address	Opening times
Beverley Library	Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE	Monday 9:30am–5pm Tuesday 9:30am–8pm Wednesday 9:30am–5pm Thursday 9:30am–8pm Friday 9:30am–5pm Saturday 9am–4pm Sunday Closed
Leven Library	Recreation Hall, East Street, Leven, Beverley HU17 5NG	Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm, 3:30-7pm
Tickton Village Hall	Main Street, Tickton, HU17 9RZ	Irregular hours, available when open

5.12.3 Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in **Appendix F-9**.

5.13 Feedback channels

5.13.1 There were several channels available for feedback to be provided on the Proposed Development. These channels included:

- **Post:** Participants could return a feedback form, or provide an open text response, by mail using the Freepost address: Freepost Peartree Hill Solar Farm.
- **Online:** An online feedback form was available on the consultation website, allowing participants to submit their comments electronically.
- **In-person:** Participants could complete a hard copy of the feedback form provided at one of the in-person consultation events, or bring one they had completed at home, and hand it to a member of staff at the event or insert it into the dedicated feedback box provided at the events.
- **Email:** Interested parties could provide feedback by sending an email to info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk.

5.13.2 The Applicant encouraged all respondents to feedback via the above channels. The Applicant would also accept formal feedback responses over the phone. No feedback was received over the phone during the statutory consultation.

5.14 Consultation events

5.14.1 A hybrid approach was adopted to consultation events including a mix of in-person, and online events.

In-person consultation events

5.14.2 Four in-person consultation events were held for communities to find out information about the Proposed Development and speak to the Applicant. The consultation events were held at suitable, publicly accessible venues near to the Proposed Development.

5.14.3 Copies of all relevant consultation materials were made available to view at each consultation event. In total, 12 consultation banners were used to present the proposals for the Proposed Development, as well as a series of printed maps, plans and imagery available on tables.

5.14.4 Details of the in-person consultation events are available in **Table 17**.

Table 17 Details of in-person consultation events

Date	Time	Location	Number of attendees
Tuesday 21 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Cottingham Civic Hall Market Green, Cottingham, HU16 5QG	25
Wednesday 22 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Leven Village Hall North Street, Leven, Beverley, HU17 5NF	60
Saturday 1 June 2024	11am-3pm	Tickton Village Hall Main Street, Tickton, East Yorkshire, HU17 9RZ	39

Monday 3 June 2024	1pm-6.30pm	Wawne Village Hall Main Street, Wawne, Hull, HU7 5XH	29
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5.14.5 Across the four events, there were a total of 153 attendees. Photos of each of the consultation events can be found in **Appendix F-8**.

Online consultation events

5.14.6 In addition to the in-person consultation events, two webinars were held during the statutory consultation for any member of the public to join. One webinar was conducted at the start of the consultation and the other towards the end, offering an alternative option for those who were unable to attend the in-person events. These sessions were scheduled in the evening to accommodate various schedules. Individuals were able to register for the webinars via the consultation website.

5.14.7 During the webinars, the Applicant delivered a presentation that featured the same information that was available on the consultation banners at the in-person events. Following the presentation, the Applicant invited attendees to ask any questions they had about the Proposed Development, which the Applicant responded to.

5.14.8 A copy of the slides presented during the webinar can be found in **Appendix F-12**.

5.14.9 A recording of each webinar was made available on the consultation website for those who were unable to attend the live sessions. This ensured that all interested parties had the opportunity to access the information and provide their feedback on the Proposed Development. Recordings of both webinars are available to view on the consultation website: <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/documents/>.

5.14.10 In total, seven people attended the live sessions of the webinars. Details of the webinars can be found in **Table 18**.

Table 18 Details of webinar events

Date	Time	Number of attendees
------	------	---------------------

Tuesday 28 May 2024	6.30pm-8pm	4
Wednesday 12 June 2024	6.30pm-8pm	3

5.15 Advertising and publicity of the consultation

- 5.15.1 On Friday 10 May 2024, the four-page consultation newsletter was distributed to all 11,444 properties and businesses within the PCZ. The newsletter was also included in the consultation packs sent to statutory consultees, and to wider consultees via email, including relevant elected representatives, community organisations and seldom heard groups. The list of consultees can be found in **Appendix D-1**, the list of relevant elected representatives can be found in **Appendix E-1.1**, the list of community organisations can be found in **Appendix E-2.1** and the list of seldom heard groups can be found in **Appendix E-3.1**.
- 5.15.2 Briefings on the Proposed Development were held with several key political stakeholders, representing wards, constituencies and parishes before, during and after the consultation period. A list of stakeholder meetings held can be found in **Table 20**.
- 5.15.3 In accordance with the SoCC, a press release was sent at the start of consultation to publicise the launch of the consultation, and another was issued during the consultation to remind local people of the opportunity to make comments. The press releases were sent to identified local and regional media outlets such as Hull Daily Mail, Business Live, and Yorkshire Post at the start of the consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024 and midway through the consultation on Wednesday 5 June 2024. A copy of the consultation launch press release can be found in **Appendix F-13.1** and a copy of the midway reminder press release can be found in **Appendix F-13.2**. The list of media outlets both press releases were issued to can be found in **Appendix F-13.3**.
- 5.15.4 During the statutory consultation, the Proposed Development and opportunity to make comments, was covered in Yorkshire Bylines and Solar Power Portal. The coverage in Yorkshire Bylines was published on Wednesday 19 June 2024 and coverage in Solar Power Portal was published on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Coverage in both media outlets can be found in **Appendix F-13.4**.
- 5.15.5 Statutory notices to publicise the SoCC and consultation, in accordance with section 48 and section 47 of the PA 2008, were published as a joint notice in The Guardian and The London Gazette on Tuesday 14 May 2024 (for one week), and

in local circulating papers, The Hull Daily Mail and Yorkshire Post on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 (across two successive weeks).

- 5.15.6 Posters, including details of the consultation and how to access information about the Proposed Development, were sent to all host parish councils and identified local venues to help raise awareness of the consultation. These were sent on Wednesday 15 May 2024. A copy of the poster can be found in **Appendix F-6.1** and a list of locations this was issued to can be found in **Appendix F-6.2**.
- 5.15.7 The Applicant also used the project Facebook page (<https://fb.com/peartreehillsolarfarm>) to promote the consultation. During the statutory consultation period, paid-for social media advertising was used to publicise the consultation programme and proposals. **Table 19** shows the impact of social media during the consultation.
- 5.15.8 Examples of social media posts posted during the statutory consultation can be found in **Appendix F-10**.

Table 19 Facebook engagement metrics during statutory consultation

Metric	Quantity
Number of organic posts (non-paid)	11
Number of paid advertisements	5
Total page visitors	3.3K
Total users reached by posts	38,977
Total link clicks on posts	1,315

5.16 Engagement with seldom heard groups

- 5.16.1 The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the consultation was accessible and inclusive for all stakeholders, including 'under-represented' or 'seldom heard'

groups and individuals who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation methods.

5.16.2 These groups and individuals that may find it harder to be involved in the consultation, and/or need additional support to access materials include:

- Geographically isolated communities
- Young People
- Old People
- Disabled people and those with learning disabilities
- People who do not have English as a first language

5.16.3 The Applicant took deliberate and varied steps to engage with seldom heard groups throughout the consultation process, demonstrating a commitment to inclusivity.

5.16.4 For older people, the approach included directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all addresses within the PCZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents. Options were provided to engage with the Applicant and the consultation through conventional communications channels, including by Freepost and the information phonenumber. Important information was provided in both digital and non-digital formats and alternative formats such as large print (upon request) were offered. The option for feedback to be provided via a Freepost address was provided. Consultation events were held at four accessible locations within the PCZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.

5.16.5 For disabled people and those with learning disabilities, similar accessibility measures were taken, providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and publicising the opportunity to request materials in alternative formats, such as large print and braille. Options were provided to engage with the Applicant and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by Freepost, email and the information phonenumber. Ahead of consultation events, the Applicant ensured that all event spaces had disabled access and facilities, and the layout of the consultation room provided space for those with wheelchairs to be mobile.

5.16.6 Geographically isolated communities within the PCZ received the consultation newsletter by mail. This included details of how to access hard copies of the consultation documents, details of the online consultation webinars, and how to contact the Applicant via the community contact channels, which included a phonenumber, email and Freepost address for additional support.

- 5.16.7 Webinars were held for interested parties to join and learn about the Proposed Development, from a location suitable for them. Details and office hours of the project phonenumber were publicised in the consultation newsletter and on the consultation website, encouraging those with further questions to speak with the Applicant, regardless of location.
- 5.16.8 For young people, online engagement methods were utilised, including social media advertising, to encourage younger people to learn about the Proposed Development and engage with the consultation.
- 5.16.9 The Applicant identified seldom heard groups in the local community and notified them of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. A list of the seldom heard groups can be found in **Appendix E-3.1**. A letter was issued on Monday 13 May 2024, ahead of the consultation launch, and an email was issued on the day the consultation launched on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Both the letter and email included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter can be found in **Appendix E-3.2** and a copy of the email in **Appendix E-3.3**. The consultation materials included can be found in **Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3** and **Appendix F-4**. These seldom heard groups were also issued a further email on Wednesday 12 June 2024, to remind them of the time remaining until the consultation response deadline. A copy of the reminder email can be found in **Appendix E-3.4**.

5.17 Stakeholder meetings

- 5.17.1 Host Parish Councils, host and neighbouring MPs and relevant local councillors were contacted ahead of the statutory consultation launch to offer a briefing on the Proposed Development.
- 5.17.2 A list of the stakeholders that the Applicant met with is available in **Table 20**.

Table 20 Stakeholders who were briefed ahead of and during the statutory consultation

Stakeholder	Date
Cllr Phillip Redshaw, Cottingham North Ward Councillor	Monday 15 April 2024
Graham Stuart MP's Office	Monday 15 April 2024
Cllr John Holtby, Mid Holderness Ward Councillor	Friday 3 May 2024
Cllr Samantha Whyte, Mid Holderness Ward Councillor	Friday 3 May 2024

Cllr Amanda Talbot, Mid Holderness Ward Councillor	Wednesday 8 May 2024
Cllr Leo Hammond, Cabinet member Planning, Communities and Public Protection, ERYC	Wednesday 8 May 2024
Tickton and Routh Parish Council	Monday 20 May 2024
Skidby Parish Council	Tuesday 4 June 2024
Cottingham Parish Council	Tuesday 4 June 2024
Riston Parish Council	Wednesday 5 June 2024
Catwick Parish Council	Wednesday 19 June 2024
Riston Parish Council public session	Monday 24 June 2024
Beverley Parish Council	Monday 8 July 2024
Woodmansey Parish Council (rearranged from June 2024)	Monday 16 September 2024

5.17.3 Following a meeting with Riston Parish Council on Wednesday 5 June 2024, the Parish Council asked the Applicant to hold an additional public meeting for the residents. This request was facilitated by the Applicant, with an open public session with Riston Parish Council held on Monday 24 June 2024.

5.18 Adherence with the SoCC

5.18.1 **Table 21** outlines how the consultation was undertaken in accordance with the commitments outlined in the SoCC.

Table 21 Adherence with the SoCC

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
6.1.1.	We will undertake a statutory consultation in accordance with section 47 of the PA 2008 for six weeks starting on Wednesday 15	The Applicant ran the Statutory Consultation (in compliance with section 47) between Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 26 June 2024.

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	May 2024. The deadline for accepting consultation responses is 11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024. All responses to the consultation must be received by the closing date.	For any statutory consultees sent the consultation materials after the start of the consultation, the deadline for those responses was extended to allow them at least 30 days in which to provide their responses.
6.1.3	<p>As well as the community consultation in accordance with Section 47, this consultation will also include:</p> <p>Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under Section 42 of the PA 2008).</p> <p>Consultation with host and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (under Section 43 of the PA 2008).</p> <p>Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by The Proposed Development (under Section 44 of the PA 2008); and general public consultation on the Proposed Development (under Section 48 of the PA 2008)</p>	<p>All statutory consultees were notified and provided at least 30 days to respond to the consultation. Details of this are outlined in Chapter 5 of the Report.</p> <p>A list of stakeholders consulted under section 42 of the PA 2008 can be found in Appendix D-1. These stakeholders were issued a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter sent to the consultees can be found in Appendix D-2.1. Additional section 42 consultees were identified and were each provided 30 days to respond to the consultation, these letters outlining deadlines can be found in Appendix D-2.4, Appendix D-2.6 and Appendix D-2.7.</p> <p>A list of local authorities consulted under section 43 of the PA 2008 can be found in Table 14. These stakeholders were issued a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter can be found in Appendix D-2.1.</p> <p>The Applicant carried out diligent inquiries to identify and consult with those with an interest in the land</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>affected by the Proposed Development, under section 44 of the PA 2008. A total of 237 PILs under Categories 1 and 2 were identified and sent a letter notifying them of the start of consultation and the deadline for responses. The letter was issued alongside with a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter can be found in Appendix D-2.2. An additional section 44 consultee was identified and provided 30 days to respond to the consultation. This additional letter can be found in Appendix D-2.5.</p> <p>Under section 48 of the PA 2008, the Applicant issued a combined section 47 and section 48 notice. A copy of this notice can be found in Appendix C-8. To meet the requirements of Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, a notice pursuant to section 48 of the PA 2008 was published in newspapers on the dates listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hull Daily Mail on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Yorkshire Post on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Guardian on Tuesday 14 May 2024 • London Gazette on Tuesday 14 May 2024 <p>Further to this, a copy of the section 47/48 notice was made available on the consultation website from the start of</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		statutory consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Additionally, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the section 47/48 notice was issued to the consultees identified under Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations. This list of consultees under s42(a-c) that received this can be found in Appendix D-1 .
6.2.2 and 6.2.3	<p>We have identified a primary consultation zone (PCZ) for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the PA 2008. The PCZ has been identified by extending a minimum distance of approximately two kilometres from the proposed Site Boundary – within which the solar PV panels, energy storage system and on-site substation and supporting infrastructure would be located. The PCZ also extends one kilometre from the cable route corridor connecting to Creyke Beck substation.</p> <p>The PCZ has been amended beyond these criteria, in certain areas, to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing physical features, such as main roads Capturing entire communities rather than excluding small numbers of properties <p>Where we propose to undertake additional works to enable</p>	<p>The PCZ identified included more than 11,000 addresses and covered all main settlements around the panel areas and cable route. The PCZ was developed using all the principles bulleted in the SoCC.</p> <p>On Friday 10 May 2024, the consultation newsletter was distributed to all 11,444 properties and businesses within the identified PCZ, which was agreed with the local authorities as part of the SoCC consultation.</p> <p>The PCZ can be viewed in Figure 5.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications	
6.2.4 and 6.2.5	<p>Within the PCZ, we will be consulting any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the Proposed Development by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ, Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the PCZ elected representatives in local authorities within the PCZ and <p>relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups</p>	<p>On Friday 10 May 2024, the Applicant issued the consultation newsletter to all 11,444 properties and businesses within the identified PCZ, which was agreed with the local authorities as part of the SoCC consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant notified host and neighbouring Parish Councils, host and neighbouring MPs, identified relevant local elected representatives, local community organisations and identified seldom heard groups of the consultation and opportunity to comment. A list of section 42 consultees including Parish Councils can be found in Appendix D-1, a list of elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.1, a list of the community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.1 and a list of the seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.1.</p> <p>A copy of the letter issued to Parish Councils, as section 42 consultees, can be found in Appendix D-2.1. A copy of the letter issued to identified relevant local elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.2. A copy of the letter issued to identified relevant local community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.2. A copy of the letter issued to identified seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.2. The mailing included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and Freepost envelope. A copy of these consultation</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		materials can be found in Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4.
6.2.6	We are also committed to making sure that individuals and organisations outside of the PCZ are given the opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation.	<p>In accordance with the SoCC, the Applicant promoted the consultation outside the PCZ via media releases shared with local press and social media advertising and accepted all responses to the consultation, regardless of postcode provided.</p> <p>To publicise the Proposed Development and consultation outside of the PCZ, a press release was sent on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at the launch of consultation. To generate further publicity, a reminder press release was sent on Wednesday 5 June 2024 midway through the consultation period to notify interested parties of the opportunity to provide comments. A copy of the consultation launch press release can be found in Appendix F-13.1 and a copy of the midway reminder press release can be found in Appendix F-13.2. The list of media outlets both press releases were issued to can be found in Appendix F-13.3. Clippings of media coverage can be found in Appendix F-13.4.</p> <p>The Applicant also used the project Facebook page (https://fb.com/peartreehillsolarfarm) to promote the consultation. During the statutory consultation period, paid-for social media advertising was used to publicise the consultation programme and proposals. Examples of social</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>media posts posted during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-10.</p> <p>More detail about promotion outside of the PCZ can be found in Section 5.15.</p>
6.3.1	During the statutory consultation, we will use a range of methods to ensure an inclusive, meaningful and open consultation. We will use a range of digital and non-digital methods of communication to ensure that our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.	<p>In accordance with the SoCC, the Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital engagement methods throughout the consultation to ensure it was inclusive and open, and accessible for all members of the community. This included both online and in-person events as well as various feedback mechanisms, and methods of publicity.</p> <p>All consultation information was made available on the consultation website https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/. Screenshots of the website can be viewed at Appendix F-11.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter publicised the availability of hard copies and alternative formats of the consultation materials, if requested by telephone or email. The newsletter also publicised the ability to accept feedback over the phone, if required. A copy of the consultation newsletter that includes this statement can be found in Appendix F-1.</p> <p>Hard copies of the consultation materials were also available to take away from the in-person consultation events and deposit points. Photos of the consultation events can be found in Appendix F-8 and images of each of</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>the deposit points can be viewed in Appendix F-9.</p> <p>Respondents could complete a feedback form both online on the consultation website and using the hard-copy feedback form. Free text comments could also be submitted by mail (using the publicised Freepost address), by emailing a written response directly to the Applicant or by phone. Details of the methods available for responses can be found in Section 5.13 and the hard copy feedback form can be found in Appendix F-3.</p> <p>To ensure people could hear about the plans and ask questions of the Applicant, both online and in-person events were held. Four in-person consultation events were held at the local venues and times agreed in the SoCC. Photos of the in-person consultation events can be found in Appendix F-8. Two online webinars were also held, providing an alternative to those who couldn't attend the in-person events or preferred to interact with the Applicant from any preferred location. Copies of the slides presented during the webinar can be found in Appendix F-12. Recordings of both webinars were made available on the consultation website shortly following the events, for those unavailable to attend the live sessions. These recordings can be found on the consultation website at: https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>To ensure the Proposed Development received feedback from all members of the community, the Applicant identified a number of organisations that represent seldom heard people, and these were sent a bespoke consultation letter in the post as well as a copy of the consultation brochure, newsletter and feedback form. A copy of the letter sent to seldom heard groups during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix E-3.2 and the list of organisations this was sent to can be found in Appendix E-3.1.</p> <p>To attract comments from young people, online engagement methods were utilised, including social media advertising, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation. Examples of social media posts posted during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-10.</p> <p>To ensure geographically isolated communities within the PCZ were informed and engaged, the Applicant issued the consultation newsletter by mail, which included details on how to access paper copies, and the community contact channels, including phonenumber for additional support. A copy of the consultation newsletter that includes this statement can be found in Appendix F-1.</p>
6.3 Table 2	Inside the consultation zone All homes and businesses within the PCZ will receive a 4-page consultation newsletter with high-	To ensure all homes and businesses within the PCZ were notified of the Proposed Development and were given an opportunity to engage in the

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>level details about the Proposed Development and consultation programme, as well as project's contact details.</p> <p>Consultation events will be held at locations within the PCZ.</p> <p>Where possible, relevant groups and organisations such as parish councils and local interest groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.</p> <p>We have also identified a list of local community spaces within the PCZ that will be directly mailed a poster to put up, advertising how people can get involved in the consultation.</p>	<p>consultation, a four-page consultation newsletter was sent to all 11,444 addresses within the PCZ by Second Class post on Friday 10 May 2024. The consultation newsletter included the Applicant's contact details and can be viewed at Appendix F-1.</p> <p>Four consultation events were held during the statutory consultation at accessible locations in or near key settlements in the PCZ. These venues and dates/times were agreed with the local authority within the SoCC and included events at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottingham Civic Hall (Tuesday 21 May 2024, 1pm-7pm) • Leven Village Hall (Wednesday 22 May 2024, 1pm-7pm) <p>Tickton Village Hall (Saturday 1 June 2024, 11am-3pm)</p> <p>Wawne Village Hall (Monday 3 June 2024, 1pm-6:30pm)</p> <p>Details about the consultation events can be found in Section 5.14. Photos of the consultation events can be found in Appendix F-8.</p> <p>The Applicant notified host and neighbouring Parish Councils, host and neighbouring MPs, identified relevant local elected representatives, local community organisations and identified seldom heard groups of the consultation and opportunity to comment. A list of section 42 consultees including Parish Councils can be found in Appendix D-</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>1, a list of elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.1, a list of the community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.1 and a list of the seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.1.</p> <p>A copy of the letter issued to Parish Councils, as section 42 consultees, can be found in Appendix D-2.1. A copy of the letter issued to identified relevant local elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.2. A copy of the letter issued to identified relevant local community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.2. A copy of the letter issued to identified seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.2. The mailing included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and Freepost. A copy of these consultation materials can be found in Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4.</p> <p>The Applicant offered meetings to all host Parish Council's. Six host Parish Councils took up this opportunity and the Applicant met them in-person at a venue and time suitable to them to give a presentation about the Proposed Development and to answer questions. Following a meeting with Riston Parish Council, the Parish Council asked the Applicant to hold an additional public meeting for the residents. This request was facilitated by the Applicant, with an open public session with Riston Parish Council held on Monday 24 June 2024. Details of the Applicant's meetings with</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>stakeholders, including Parish Councils, can be found in Section 5.17.</p> <p>To further publicise the consultation within the PCZ, the Applicant identified 20 local poster locations, including noticeboards at parish councils, shops and village halls. The poster locations identified were sent a poster advertising the consultation by First Class post on Tuesday 14 May 2024. The poster included the time and location of events as well as where and how to submit feedback. A copy of the poster is available to view at Appendix F-6.1 and a list of the poster locations that the poster was issued to can be found in Appendix F-6.2.</p>
	<p>Outside of the primary consultation zone</p> <p>We will raise awareness of the consultation using a number of methods, including via local news media, social media advertising, and direct communication with organisations such as regional environmental, religious or health organisations located outside of the PCZ.</p>	<p>To publicise the Proposed Development and consultation outside of the PCZ, a press release was sent on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at the launch of consultation. To generate further publicity, a reminder press release was sent on Wednesday 5 June 2024 midway through the consultation period to notify interested parties of the opportunity to provide comments.</p> <p>Details of this can be found in Section 5.15. A copy of the consultation launch press release can be found in Appendix F-13.1 and a copy of the midway reminder press release can be found in Appendix F-13.2. The list of media outlets both press releases were issued to can be found in Appendix F-13.3. Clippings of media coverage can be found in Appendix F-13.4.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>The Applicant used social media advertising to further promote the consultation beyond the PCZ. The Applicant set the reach of the paid posts to approximately 15 km from the Proposed Development to help capture views of those outside the PCZ. Details of this can be found in Section 5.15 and screenshots of the social media posts shared during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-10.</p> <p>The Applicant notified stakeholders outside of the PCZ of the consultation. This included neighbouring Parish Councils, neighbouring MPs, identified relevant local elected representatives, local community organisations and identified seldom heard groups. A list of section 42 consultees including neighbouring Parish Councils can be found in Appendix D-1, a list of elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.1, a list of the community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.1 and a list of the seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.1.</p> <p>A copy of the letter issued to neighbouring Parish Councils, as section 42 consultees, can be found in Appendix D-2.1. A copy of the letter issued to identified relevant local elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.2. A copy of the letter issued to identified relevant local community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.2. A copy of the letter issued to identified seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.2. The mailing included a copy of the</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and Freepost envelope. A copy of these consultation materials can be found in Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4.
	<p>Consultation events We will be holding four in-person events at locations spread across the PCZ. These events will be advertised in the consultation newsletter, the consultation brochure, on social media, on posters, in local news media and in a public notice.</p> <p>These events will run for periods of at least four hours between 11am and 7pm on a mixture of weekdays and weekends to accommodate different availability.</p>	<p>Four consultation events were held during the statutory consultation at accessible locations in or near key settlements in the PCZ. These venues and dates/times were agreed with the local authority within the SoCC and included events at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottingham Civic Hall (Tuesday 21 May 2024, 1pm-7pm) • Leven Village Hall (Wednesday 22 May 20224, 1pm-7pm) <p>Tickton Village Hall (Saturday 1 June 2024, 11am-3pm)</p> <p>Wawne Village Hall (Monday 3 June 2024, 1pm-6:30pm)</p> <p>The in-person events were advertised through the statutory notices, stakeholder letters, an email to stakeholders and interested parties publicising the launch of consultation, the consultation leaflet, press release, social media and posters.</p> <p>The in-person consultation events were advertised in the consultation newsletter, which was distributed to all properties and businesses within the PCZ and included details of the in-person events. A copy of the</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>consultation newsletter can be found in Appendix F-1.</p> <p>The in-person consultation events were advertised in the consultation brochure, which was available at the deposit points, and mailed to consultees identified as relevant under section 42, section 43, section 44 and section 46. It was also mailed to identified relevant local elected representatives, local community organisations and identified seldom heard groups. A copy of the consultation brochure is provided in Appendix F-2.</p> <p>The in-person consultation events were advertised using social media to further promote the consultation beyond the PCZ and within younger hard-to-reach demographics. Screenshots of the social media posts shared during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-10.</p> <p>The in-person consultation events were advertised by an A4 and A3 poster, which the Applicant issued to 20 identified local poster locations, including noticeboards at parish councils, shops and village halls. The poster locations identified were sent a poster by First Class post on Tuesday 14 May 2024. The poster included the time and location of events as well as where and how to submit feedback. A copy of the poster is available to view at Appendix F-6.1 and a list of the poster locations that the poster was issued to can be found in Appendix F-6.2.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>The in-person consultation events were advertised in the media as part of a press release that the Applicant issued on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at the launch of consultation. Details of this can be found in Section 5.15. A copy of the consultation launch press release can be found in Appendix F-13.1 and a list of media outlets this was issued to can be found in Appendix F-13.3. Clippings of media coverage can be found in Appendix F-13.4.</p> <p>The in-person consultation events were advertised on the section 47/48 notice. This was publicised in the newspaper on the dates outlined in the newspapers and dates outlined below, in accordance with the duty to publicise under section 48 of the PA 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hull Daily Mail on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Yorkshire Post on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Guardian on Tuesday 14 May 2024 • London Gazette on Tuesday 14 May 2024 <p>The section 47/48 notice was also mailed as part of a consultation pack to consultees identified as relevant under section 42, section 43, section 44, section 46. It was also mailed to host and neighbouring MPs, identified relevant local elected representatives, local community organisations and identified seldom heard groups. A copy</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>of the s47/48 notice can be found in Appendix C-8.</p> <p>Photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p>
	<p>Webinars Two webinars will be held for any member of the public to join. One webinar will be held at the start of the consultation and one towards the end of the consultation to provide an alternative option for those who may not be able to attend the in-person events. These will be held in the evening.</p> <p>Individuals can register for these events via the website. The webinars will be held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 28 May 2024 from 6:30pm to 8pm • Wednesday 12 June 2024 from 6:30pm to 8pm <p>A recording of the webinar will be made available online for those unavailable to attend.</p>	<p>The Applicant held two webinars over the consultation period at the stated dates and times in the SoCC. Those interested could register for the webinar through a link on the consultation website.</p> <p>The details of the two webinar events and how to register, was publicised in the consultation newsletter which can be found in Appendix F-1, the consultation brochure which can be found in Appendix F-2, the consultation poster which can be found in Appendix F-6.1 and on the section 47/48 notice which can be found in Appendix C-8. In total, 14 people registered for the webinars and seven attended across the two events.</p> <p>Copies of the slides presented during the webinar can be found in Appendix F-12. Recordings of both webinars were made available on the consultation website shortly following the events, for those unavailable to attend the live sessions. These recordings of the webinars were uploaded to the consultation website https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/document/s/</p>
	Project information line and email	The community contact channels were monitored throughout the consultation period. The Applicant was available by

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>Members of the public will be able to call and speak to a member of the communications team on the information line (01482 695 004), email (info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk) or write in (Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM). The Applicant will aim to respond to all enquiries within five working days.</p>	<p>email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>For email enquiries, an automatic reply would confirm the Applicant's intention to respond to the query within 5 working days.</p> <p>The Applicant aimed to respond to all community contact channels enquiries within 5 working days. At the start of the consultation, due to the volume of enquiries, some responses were responded outside of 5 working days.</p>
	<p>Deposit and information points Hard copies of the consultation materials including: this SoCC, the consultation brochure, and PEIR will be available to view at the following deposit locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverley Library, Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE • Leven Library, Recreation Hall, East Street, Leven, Beverley HU17 5NG <p>We will check on a weekly basis that consultation documentation remains at the information points throughout the consultation period. The consultation brochure and feedback form will be available to collect from the deposit points above. Where</p>	<p>Each of the deposit points included copies of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, NTS, consultation feedback forms and Freepost envelopes. All of which could be taken away. The deposit points also included Land Area plans and a copy of the PEIR, which could not be removed from the deposit point.</p> <p>These consultation materials were made available from the start of consultation at Beverley Library and Leven Library during their publicised opening hours. The Applicant regularly contacted the libraries throughout the consultation period to ensure the deposit points remained well stocked with consultation materials. Details of this can be found in Section 5.12 and</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	possible the consultation brochure and feedback form will also be left at the event venues within the PCZ, so community groups using these spaces will be able to take hard copies away.	<p>photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9.</p> <p>Further to this, the consultation materials, including the PEIR, were also available to view at Tickton Village Hall. However, Tickton Village Hall has irregular opening hours, so documents were only available when the hall was open.</p>
	<p>Project website</p> <p>A dedicated website (www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk) will be live for people to find out more information about the proposals and to provide feedback. All consultation documents will be presented on the website and available for download, free of charge from the document library. Information will be consistent with materials available at the deposit points and consultation events.</p>	<p>To ensure those engaging with the consultation process had access to the same information as those engaging in-person, the Applicant ensured all consultation materials were made available to view and download on the consultation website https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/document/s/ from the start of consultation. The Applicant has kept the documents on the website.</p> <p>The online documents library included the SoCC, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, NTS, consultation poster, feedback form, consultation banners from the in-person events, the section 47/48 notice, area plans for each Land Area, the masterplan for the Proposed Development and a copy of the PEIR.</p> <p>This consultation material was made available on the consultation website from the start of consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Details of the consultation materials made available can be found in Section 5.11 and screenshots of the consultation website</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		taken during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11 .
6.4.1	We will present proposals for the Proposed Development including how they have been informed by our environmental assessments and consultation to date.	<p>To ensure interested parties were aware of how the Proposed Development had changed since the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant included a table titled 'You Said, We Did' within the consultation brochure and on the consultation website. This section provided an overview of the changes made since the non-statutory consultation, based on feedback received and the findings of the PEIR. The table is included on Page 4 of the consultation brochure, which can be found in Appendix F-2. Screenshots of the table on the consultation website can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>The Applicant created before and after plans of each of the Land Areas, designed to show the differences between the Proposed Development presented at non-statutory consultation and the Proposed Development presented at statutory consultation. These plans were presented physically at the in-person events via a transparent overlay plan, as well as presented virtually on the consultation website using an interactive slider tool. Screenshots of the before and after plans on the consultation website can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>The Applicant developed a NTS as part of the consultation, to help provide a summary of the environmental assessments carried out and how the findings had supported the design of the</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>Proposed Development. The PEIR and NTS were made available on the consultation website, at the in-person events and at the deposit points. A copy of the NTS can be found in Appendix F-5.</p> <p>Screenshots of the documents library on the consultation website can be found in Appendix F-11. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p>
6.4.2	<p>We will be seeking feedback on the ongoing evolution of the proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm. These proposals will be explained in the following materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – the PEIR sets out the preliminary findings from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It also includes photomontages of the Proposed Development from various locations around the site. <p>PEIR Non-Technical summary – providing a summary of the findings from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation Brochure – this brochure will provide an overview of the proposals including a summary of each 	<p>The Applicant produced consultation documents to aid the understanding of the Proposed Development. This included a PEIR, a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR which can be found in Appendix F-5, a consultation brochure which can be found in Appendix F-2 and Land Area plans.</p> <p>These consultation materials and plans were made available on the consultation website, at the in-person events and at the deposit points. Screenshots of the documents library, including these materials, on the consultation website can be found in Appendix F-11. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>land area and the cable route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps – The maps will set out the site areas 	
6.4.3	<p>All of the statutory consultation documents will be available on the project website. Additionally, as part of our statutory notices, we will publicise information on how to request hard copies of the PEIR.</p> <p>Hard copies of the consultation brochure will be available at no extra charge. A hard copy of the PEIR can be requested for a charge £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs. Requests for hardcopies can be made by email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk or calling 01482 695 004.</p>	<p>All consultation material was made available on the consultation website from the start of consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024. This included the SoCC, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, NTS, consultation poster, feedback form, consultation banners from the in-person events, the section 47/48 notice, area plans for each land area, the masterplan for the Proposed Development and a copy of the PEIR. Details of the consultation materials made available can be found in Section 5.11 and screenshots of the consultation website during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>Information on how to request hard copies of materials, including the PEIR, was publicised on the consultation newsletter which can be found in Appendix F-1, the consultation brochure which can be found in Appendix F-2 and on the section 47/48 notice which can be found in Appendix C-8.</p> <p>Requests for hard copies were accepted via the community contact channels, which were monitored throughout the consultation period. The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability,</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>We received request for hard copies of the consultation materials from three interested parties, including Swine Parish Council and Catwick Parish Council. The hard copies were mailed to these parties following receipt of the request.</p> <p>The Applicant received no requests for hard copies of the PEIR throughout the consultation period.</p>
Table 4	<p>Consultation newsletter</p> <p>A 4-page newsletter publicising the consultation and outlining a high-level overview of the Proposed Development details of the consultation programme, including the location, dates and times of the public consultation events and signposting to the project website. The consultation newsletter will also be issued to wider consultees via email to local interest groups and sent to statutory parties in the post. The consultation newsletter will also be available to view and download on the project website.</p>	<p>The Applicant produced a four-page consultation newsletter, which included all information outlined in the SoCC.</p> <p>The four-page consultation newsletter was sent to the 11,444 properties and businesses within the PCZ, agreed within the SoCC. This was issued by Second Class post on Friday 10 May 2024, ahead of the launch of the consultation.</p> <p>The four-page newsletter was distributed within a mailing pack on 13 May 2024 at the start of consultation to all section 42, section 43, section 44 and section 46 consultees, alongside a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A list of section 42 consultees can be found in Appendix D-1.</p> <p>The four-page newsletter was distributed within a mailing pack on</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>Monday 13 May 2024 at the start of consultation to identified relevant local elected representatives, local community organisations and identified seldom heard groups, alongside a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A list of elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.1, a list of the community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.1 and a list of the seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.1. The four-page consultation newsletter was available to view on the consultation website from Wednesday 15 May 2024. Screenshots of the consultation website during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>Copies of the four-page consultation newsletter were available to take away at the in-person consultation events and at the deposit points. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p> <p>Details of the consultation newsletter can be found in Section 5.11 and a copy of the newsletter can be found in Appendix F-1.</p>
	<p>Consultation brochure</p> <p>A consultation brochure will be published at the start of consultation, providing a summary of the proposals we are consulting on, an outline of the</p>	<p>The Applicant developed a 24-page consultation brochure to provide detailed information for those interested in the Proposed Development, helping them to make informed responses to the consultation. This was developed in line</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>environmental assessment work, details of how people can take part, and how feedback will be used to influence and shape the proposals.</p> <p>Printed copies of this brochure will be available to take away at all consultation events, at deposit points, and on request by contacting the communications team.</p> <p>The brochure will also be available for download from the project website</p>	<p>with information in the SoCC and a copy of the consultation brochure can be found in Appendix F-2.</p> <p>The consultation brochure was distributed within a mailing pack on Monday 13 May 2024 at the start of consultation to all section 42, section 43, section 44 and section 46 consultees, alongside a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A list of section 42 consultees can be found in Appendix D-1.</p> <p>The consultation brochure was distributed within a mailing pack on Monday 13 May 2024 at the start of consultation to identified relevant local elected representatives, local community organisations and identified seldom heard groups, alongside a copy of the combined section 47/48 notice, consultation newsletter, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A list of elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.1, a list of the community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.1 and a list of the seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.1.</p> <p>The consultation brochure was available to view and download on the website from Wednesday 15 May 2024. Screenshots of the consultation website during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>Copies of the 24-page consultation brochure were available to take away at the in-person consultation events and at</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>the deposit points. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p> <p>Requests for hard copies of the consultation brochure were accepted via the community contact channels, which were monitored throughout the consultation period. The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Details of the consultation brochure can be found in Section 5.11.</p>
	<p>Feedback form A feedback form will be prepared to gather feedback on all aspects of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The feedback form will be available for completion online via the project website and will be accessible throughout the 6-week consultation period.</p> <p>Printed feedback forms will also be available (free of charge) on request by contacting the communications team, in hard copy at consultation events, and at the deposit points, along with Freepost envelopes.</p>	<p>A feedback form was developed in order to capture community and stakeholder feedback on the Proposed Development. The feedback form featured 13 questions, signposting to the relevant pages within the consultation brochure where necessary. The questions were a mixture of multiple choice and free text.</p> <p>The feedback form was made available to complete online on the consultation website from the start of consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024. The online feedback form closed following Monday 5 August, the consultation was extended to allow a minimum of 28 days for the last consultee notified. A digital</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>The feedback form will also be available to download from the website, complete in pen and return to Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM.</p>	<p>version of the hard copy was also made available to view and download from the documents library on the consultation website. Screenshots of the consultation website during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>The feedback form and a Freepost envelope was distributed within a mailing pack on Monday 13 May 2024 at the start of consultation to all section 42, section 43, section 44 and section 46 consultees, alongside a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation newsletter and consultation brochure. A list of section 42 consultees can be found in Appendix D-1.</p> <p>The feedback form and a Freepost envelope was distributed within a mailing pack on Monday 13 May 2024 at the start of consultation to identified relevant local elected representatives, local community organisations and identified seldom heard groups, alongside a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation newsletter and consultation brochure. A list of elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.1, a list of the community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.1 and a list of the seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.1.</p> <p>Hard copies of the feedback form, along with Freepost envelopes, were available to take away at the in-person consultation events and at the local deposit points. Hard copies of the feedback form could be completed at</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>the in-person events and returned via the responses box or completed at home and returned using the Freepost envelope. Hard copies taken from the local deposit points could be completed and returned using the supplied Freepost envelope. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p> <p>Requests for hard copies of the feedback form were accepted via the community contact channels, which were monitored throughout the consultation period. The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity. A feedback form and Freepost envelope would then be issued to the address of the interested party, for them to complete and return.</p> <p>Details of the feedback form can be found in Section 5.11 and a copy of the feedback form can be found in Appendix F-3.</p>
	<p>Exhibition banners</p> <p>Pull up banners will be created to display information about the proposals and provide an overview of the key components of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>12 consultation banners were produced to display information about the proposals and provide an overview of the key components of the Proposed Development at the in-person events. Photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>The banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the Proposed Development at the public exhibitions and will allow for further discussions with the Applicant during public information events and other meetings. Members of the public will also be available to view the banners on the project website.</p>	<p>The consultation banners were available to view on the website from Wednesday 15 May 2024. Screenshots of the consultation website during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>Details of the consultation banners can be found in Section 5.11 and a copy of the 12 consultation banners used at the in-person consultation events can be found in Appendix F-7.</p>
	<p>Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)</p> <p>The PEIR will contain a description of the Proposed Development, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development, based on the initial information available at that time. It will also set out how we propose to mitigate the impacts of and maximise the benefits of the Proposed Development. The PEIR can be downloaded free of charge from the project website. A printed copy of the full PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events. A hard copy can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs.</p>	<p>Details on the development of the PEIR can be found in Section 3.3. A hard copy of the PEIR was made available for viewing at the in-person consultation events and at the deposit points for the duration of the consultation. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8. The PEIR was available to view on the consultation website from Wednesday 15 May 2024. Screenshots of the consultation website during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>Requests for hard copies of the PEIR were accepted via the community contact channels, which were monitored throughout the consultation period. The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>A hard copy of the PEIR could be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and postage costs. The Applicant received no requests for hard copies of the PEIR throughout the consultation period. Details of this can be found in Section 5.11.</p>
	<p>Non-technical summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report</p> <p>The non-technical summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report will be developed. It will be available to view on the project website, at consultation events and at deposit points.</p>	<p>The Applicant developed an NTS of the PEIR to provide an accessible version of the detailed information contained within the PEIR. The NTS aimed to present the key environmental aspects of the Proposed Development in a clear and concise manner, making it easier for the general public to understand the scope of the Proposed Development, potential impacts, and benefits.</p> <p>The NTS of the PEIR was available to view on the website from Wednesday 15 May 2024. Screenshots of the consultation website during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>A hard copy of the NTS was made available to view and take away at the in-person consultation events and at the deposit points for the duration of the consultation. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		Details of this can be found in Section 5.11 and a copy of the non-technical summary can be found in Appendix F-5 .
	<p>Technical maps and plans of the Proposed Development</p> <p>Additional technical maps and plans for the Proposed Development will also be available on the project website and at the consultation events and deposit points. Requests for hard copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply (up to a maximum of £350 for one full suite of documents) to be paid for by the recipient.</p>	<p>The illustrative masterplan and plans of the six Land Areas and cable route corridor options were available throughout the consultation.</p> <p>These plans were available to view on the website from Wednesday 15 May 2024. A feature on the consultation website allowed interested parties to compare the plans presented at non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation using an interactive slider tool. Screenshots of the consultation website during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>Technical plans and maps were available to view at the in-person consultation events and at the deposit points for the duration of the consultation. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p> <p>Hard copies of plans were available upon request. The Applicant received no requests for printed copies of the maps.</p> <p>Details of the plans and maps of the Proposed Development can be found in Section 5.11.</p>
	Project Website	The Applicant established an online presence for the Proposed

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>A dedicated consultation website including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online downloadable copies of all the statutory consultation material, including: The PEIR, consultation brochure, exhibition banners, non-tech summary of PEIR and feedback form Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Online Feedback Form <p>Webinar sign-up form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact details 	<p>Development ahead of the non-statutory consultation. This consultation website was updated with information about the upcoming in-person consultation events on Wednesday 8 May 2024, and provided an option to register for the webinar sessions.</p> <p>The consultation website (peartreehillsolar.co.uk) was updated with the consultation information, documents and an online version of the feedback form on Wednesday 15 May 2024.</p> <p>The consultation documents made available on the consultation website to view and download included the SoCC, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, NTS, consultation poster, feedback form, consultation banners for the in-person events, the section 47/48 notice, area plans for each Land Area, the masterplan for the Proposed Development and a copy of the PEIR. Further to this, the website included an FAQs page, providing answers to commonly asked questions, an online feedback form, a form to register for the webinars and details of the community contact channels.</p> <p>Details of the consultation website can be found in Section 5.11 and screenshots of the website can be found in Appendix F-11.</p>
	<p>Publication of the consultation</p> <p>We will publish a public notice with details of the consultation within both a local newspaper and</p>	<p>Under section 48 of the PA 2008, the Applicant issued a combined section 47 and section 48 notice. A copy of this notice can be found in Appendix C-8.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	a national newspaper, pursuant to section 48 of the PA 2008.	<p>To meet the requirements of Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, a notice pursuant to section 48 of the PA 2008 was published in newspapers on the dates listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hull Daily Mail on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Yorkshire Post on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Guardian on Tuesday 14 May 2024 • London Gazette on Tuesday 14 May 2024 <p>Further to this, a copy of the section 47/48 notice was made available on the consultation website from the start of statutory consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Additionally, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the section 47/48 notice was issued to the consultees identified under Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations. This list of consultees under s42(a-c) that received this can be found in Appendix D-1.</p> <p>Details of the notices can be found in Section 5.10 and copies of the notices can be found in Appendix C-8.</p>
	Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) This SoCC document will be made available online as part of the consultation website, available at consultation events, at deposit points and in hard copy	The SoCC was made available to view on the consultation website on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Screenshots of the consultation website can be found in Appendix F-11 .

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	on request. We will also publish a notice in a local newspaper to explain where this statement can be inspected, pursuant to section 47 of the PA 2008.	<p>A hard copy of the SoCC was also made available to view and take away at the in-person consultation events and at the deposit points for the duration of the consultation. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p> <p>Under section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant issued a combined section 47 and section 48 notice. A copy of this notice can be found in Appendix C-8. A notice pursuant to section 47 of the PA 2008 was published in newspapers on the dates listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hull Daily Mail on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Yorkshire Post on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Guardian on Tuesday 14 May 2024 • London Gazette on Tuesday 14 May 2024 <p>Requests for hard copies were accepted via the community contact channels, which were monitored throughout the consultation period. The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>would call back at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>We received request for hard copies of the consultation materials from three interested parties, including Swine Parish Council and Catwick Parish Council. The hard copies were mailed to these parties following receipt of the request.</p> <p>The SoCC can be found in Appendix C-7.</p>
	<p>Materials in alternative formats Upon request, all documents will be available in alternative accessible formats, such as braille, speaking text and alternative languages. All requests should be made to the communications team</p>	<p>The availability of consultation documents in alternative formats, such as large-print, braille, speaking text and alternative languages was publicised in the consultation newsletter, consultation brochure and on the consultation website. A copy of the consultation newsletter can be found in Appendix F-1, a copy of the consultation brochure can be found in Appendix F-2 and screenshots of the consultation website can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>Requests for copies of the consultation materials in alternative formats were accepted via the community contact channels, which were monitored throughout the consultation period. The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		During the consultation, the Applicant received no requests for alternative formats of the consultation material.
6.5.1 to 6.5.3	<p>Four public consultation events will be held for communities to find out information about the Proposed Development and speak to the Applicant. The consultation events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ if a suitable location in the PCZ is not available.</p> <p>Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each consultation event. There will be a series of banners to present the proposals for the Proposed Development, including maps.</p> <p>Those attending will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals.</p> <p>The events will be held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 21 May 2024, 1pm-7pm, Cottingham Civic Hall Market Green, Cottingham, HU16 5QG Wednesday 22 May 2024, 1pm-7pm, Leven Village Hall North Street, Leven, Beverly, HU17 5NF <p>Saturday 1 June 2024, 11am-3pm, Tickton Village Hall Main</p>	<p>The Applicant held four consultation events over the consultation period at accessible locations in or near key settlements in the PCZ. These venues and dates/times were agreed with the local authority within the SoCC and included events at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cottingham Civic Hall (Tuesday 21 May 2024, 1pm-7pm) Leven Village Hall (Wednesday 22 May 2024, 1pm-7pm) <p>Tickton Village Hall (Saturday 1 June 2024, 11am-3pm)</p> <p>Wawne Village Hall (Monday 3 June 2024, 1pm-6:30pm)</p> <p>At the in-person consultation events, attendees could view all consultation documents. This included 12 consultation banners and plans, helping to promote discussion with the Applicant about the Proposed Development. The consultation event included copies of the consultation newsletter, consultation brochure, consultation feedback form, NTS and SoCC. All of which could be viewed at the event or taken away. The event also included a copy of the PIER to view only and not remove from the event.</p> <p>The Applicant ensured project team members with a wide variety of technical expertise were in attendance at each</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>Street, Tickton, East Yorkshire, HU17 9RZ</p> <p>Monday 3 June 2024, 1pm-6.30pm, Wawne Village Hall 36 Main Street, Wawne, Hull, HU7 5XH</p>	<p>event to ensure attendees were able to have detailed and technical queries answered.</p> <p>Attendees were encouraged to either complete a feedback form at the event and submit via the ballot box, or take a feedback form and Freepost envelope home to complete and return via the post.</p> <p>Details of the consultation events can be found in Section 5.14 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be found in Appendix F-8.</p>
Table 7	<p>Consultation Newsletter</p> <p>Consultation newsletters will be posted to all homes and businesses in the PCZ ahead of the statutory consultation period. The newsletter will also be issued to statutory consultees in the mail, and to wider consultees via email, including local interest groups.</p>	<p>The four-page consultation newsletter was sent to the 11,444 properties and businesses within the PCZ, agreed within the SoCC. This was issued by Second Class post on Friday 10 May 2024, ahead of the launch of the consultation.</p> <p>The four-page newsletter was distributed within a mailing pack on Monday 13 May 2024 at the start of consultation to all section 42, section 43, section 44 and section 46 consultees, alongside a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A list of section 42 consultees can be found in Appendix D-1.</p> <p>The four-page newsletter was distributed within a mailing pack on Monday 13 May 2024 at the start of consultation to identified relevant local elected representatives, local community organisations and identified</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>seldom heard groups, alongside a copy of the section 47/48 notice, consultation brochure, feedback form and a Freepost envelope. A list of elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.1, a list of the community organisations can be found in Appendix E-2.1 and a list of the seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.1. As detailed in the Report, 27% of people that responded to the consultation by completing the feedback form stated that they found out about the consultation via the consultation newsletter.</p> <p>Details of the consultation newsletter can be found in Section 5.11 and a copy of the consultation newsletter can be found in Appendix F-1.</p>
	<p>Press releases To raise awareness of the Proposed Development and the consultation programme, both within and beyond the PCZ, we will share a press release with local media outlets at the start of consultation. This will be sent to the following local and regional media outlets</p>	<p>To further publicise the Proposed Development and consultation both within and beyond the PCZ, the Applicant issued two press release to regional news organisations and trade media. The first was issued to announce the launch of the consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024 and the second issued on Wednesday 5 June 2024 to remind people of the opportunity to comment on the plans before the deadline.</p> <p>A copy of the consultation launch press release can be found in Appendix F-13.1 and a copy of the reminder press release can be found in Appendix F-13.2. The list of media outlets that both press releases were distributed to can be found in Appendix F-13.3. Clippings</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		of the media coverage received as a result of these press releases can be found in Appendix F-13.4 .
	<p>Stakeholder briefings We will issue communications to key political stakeholders, representing wards, constituencies and parishes within the consultation zone. This will provide information about the proposals and consultation programme and invite them to take part in the consultation via in-person or online meetings.</p> <p>We will consider invitations to, or requests for, meetings with other local groups or special interest organisations on a case-by case basis.</p>	<p>The Applicant notified key political stakeholders relevant to the Proposed Development of the consultation, inviting them to participate via the online and in-person events or arrange a meeting with the Applicant. A list of Parish Councils contacted can be found in the list of section 42 consultees in Appendix D-1 and the list of the elected representatives contacted can be found in Appendix E-1.1.</p> <p>A copy of the letter issued to Parish Councils, as section 42 consultees, can be found in Appendix D-2.1. A copy of the letter issued to identified relevant local elected representatives can be found in Appendix E-1.2. The mailings were both issued on Monday 13 May 2024 and included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and Freepost envelope. A copy of these consultation materials can be found in Appendix F-1, Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4.</p> <p>The Applicant provided briefings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Phillip Redshaw, Cottingham North Ward Councillor • Graham Stuart MP's Office • Cllr John Holtby, Mid Holderness Ward Councillor • Cllr Samantha Whyte, Mid Holderness Ward Councillor

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Amanda Talbot, Mid Holderness Ward Councillor • Cllr Leo Hammond, Cabinet member Planning, Communities and Public Protection, ERYC <p>Tickton and Routh Parish Council Skidby Parish Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottingham Parish Council • Riston Parish Council • Catwick Parish Council • Beverley Parish Council • Woodmansey Parish Council (rearranged from June 2024) <p>Riston Parish Council asked the Applicant to hold an additional public meeting for residents. This was held on Monday 24 June 2024.</p> <p>Details of the meetings held with stakeholders can be found in Section 5.17.</p>
	<p>Emails and Letters</p> <p>We will send both emails and letters about the consultation programme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs; • key elected representatives at the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council • host and neighbouring parish councils; 	<p>The Applicant notified host and neighbouring Parish Councils, host and neighbouring MPs, identified relevant local elected representatives at East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council, host and neighbouring local authorities, local community organisations and interest groups of the consultation and opportunity to comment.</p> <p>A list of section 42 consultees contacted, including host and neighbouring Parish Councils, and host and neighbouring local authorities can</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • host and neighbouring local authorities; • local interest groups, such as environmental groups. <p>Host parish councils will receive hard copies of the consultation brochure as part of the mailing to statutory consultees.</p>	<p>be found in Appendix D-1. A list of key elected representatives at East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council contacted can be found in Appendix E-1.1. A list of the local interest groups and community organisations contacted can be found in Appendix E-2.1.</p> <p>A copy of the letter issued to section 42 consultees including host and neighbouring Parish Councils, and host and neighbouring local authorities on Monday 13 May 2024 can be found in Appendix D-2.1. section 42 consultees received a consultation mailing pack, including a letter from the Applicant, a section 47/48 notice, a consultation brochure, a consultation newsletter, a feedback form and a Freepost envelope.</p> <p>A copy of the letter issued to key elected representatives at East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council on Monday 13 May 2024 can be found in Appendix E-1.2. This was followed up by an email on Wednesday 15 May 2024, which can be found in Appendix-1.3.</p> <p>A copy of the letter issued to identified local interest groups and community organisations on Monday 13 May 2024 can be found in Appendix E-2.2. This was followed up by an email on Wednesday 15 May 2024, which can be found in Appendix 2.3.</p> <p>A copy of these consultation materials can be found in Appendix F-1,</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		Appendix F-2, Appendix F-3 and Appendix F-4.
	<p>Statutory notices</p> <p>Statutory notices to publicise the SoCC and consultation, in accordance with section 48 and section 47 of the PA 2008, will be published as a joint notice once in a national newspaper (The Guardian) and the London Gazette and twice (across two successive weeks) in local circulating papers The Hull Daily Mail and Yorkshire Post.</p>	<p>Under section 48 of the PA 2008, the Applicant issued a combined section 47 and section 48 notice. A copy of this notice can be found in Appendix C-8. To meet the requirements of Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, a notice pursuant to section 48 of the PA 2008 was published in newspapers on the dates listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hull Daily Mail on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Yorkshire Post on Wednesday 8 May 2024 and Wednesday 15 May 2024 • Guardian on Tuesday 14 May 2024 • London Gazette on Tuesday 14 May 2024 <p>Further to this, a copy of the section 47/48 notice was made available on the consultation website from the start of statutory consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024. Additionally, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the section 47/48 notice was issued to the consultees identified under Regulation 3 of the APFP Regulations. This list of consultees under s42(a-c) that received this can be found in Appendix D-1.</p> <p>Details of the notices can be found in Section 5.10 and copies of the notices can be found in Appendix C-8.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>Information Posters Posters including details of the consultation, how to access information about the Proposed Development and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public locations within and outside of the PCZ, including libraries, shops and civic buildings. These will be hosted in agreement with relevant organisations and venues. Information posters will be sent to all host and neighbouring parish councils, to be used on local noticeboards, and to help raise awareness of the consultation.</p>	<p>An A4 and A3 poster was produced for the statutory consultation including details of the consultation dates, events and how people can provide feedback.</p> <p>To further publicise the consultation within and outside the PCZ, the Applicant identified 20 local poster locations, including noticeboards at parish councils, shops and village halls.</p> <p>The poster locations identified were sent a poster advertising the consultation by First Class post on Tuesday 14 May 2024. The poster included the time and location of events as well as where and how to submit feedback. A copy of the poster is available to view at Appendix F-6.1 and a list of the poster locations that the poster was issued to can be found in Appendix F-6.2.</p> <p>Details about the poster can be found in Section 5.11.</p>
	<p>Social Media Advertising We will raise awareness of the consultation via the project Facebook page. The page is used to provide updates about the proposals and consultation programme. Paid for social media advertising will be used to publicise the consultation programme and proposals, helping to engage younger people and those outside of the PCZ.</p>	<p>The Applicant also used the project Facebook page (https://fb.com/peartreehillsolarfarm) to promote the consultation. During the statutory consultation period, paid-for social media advertising was used to publicise the consultation programme and proposals.</p> <p>In total, there were five paid-for posts, which attracted the following statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post 1: 13,996 reach and 485 post engagements • Post 2: 19,032 reach and 509 post engagements

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post 3: 13,110 reach and 183 post engagements Post 4: 10,739 reach and 200 post engagements Post 5: 9,345 reach and 410 post engagements <p>Details of this can be found in Section 5.15 and screenshots of the social media posts shared during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-10.</p>
6.6.2	Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and communicated in local newspapers (via press release) circulating in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Any activity changes will also be published on the project website.	<p>The Applicant undertook a consultation fully in accordance with the activities and commitments outlined in the SoCC.</p> <p>This means that the Applicant undertook no activities as a substitute or alternative to activities and commitments outlined in the SoCC.</p>
6.7.1 and 6.7.2	Ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken ahead of the launch of the consultation, including local authorities, MPs, and statutory parties such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Historic England and with local interest groups, residents and landowners who get in touch. All relevant parish councils, elected members for councils and MPs will be contacted and will be kept informed about the Proposed Development. They will also be encouraged to share	<p>The Applicant engaged with key local stakeholders and statutory consultees ahead of the launch of the consultation. This included meetings with statutory parties to progress the design of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>On Wednesday 24 January 2024, ahead of the launch of statutory consultation, the Applicant proactively contacted by email key stakeholders, those that had responded to the non-statutory consultation and selected to be updated and those that had completed a Register for Updates form on the consultation website. This email</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	information about the consultation with members of their constituency/local community.	<p>provided an update on the status of the Proposed Development, a summary of the non-statutory consultation response and also signposted to the Non-Statutory Consultation Report, which had been published on the project website. A copy of this email can be found in Appendix A-4.</p> <p>Ahead of the statutory consultation, the Applicant proactively engaged the host local authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, and the neighbouring local authority, Hull City Council, to consult them on the SoCC. A copy of the email sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in Appendix C-3.1 and a copy of the email sent to Hull City Council can be found in Appendix C-3.2. A copy of the draft SoCC shared with the local authorities for formal consultation can be found in Appendix C-3.3.</p> <p>Host parish councils, host and neighbouring MPs and host councillors were contacted ahead of the statutory consultation launch to offer a briefing on the Proposed Development. The Applicant provided briefings to the following stakeholders, some of which were ahead of the launch of the consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Phillip Redshaw, Cottingham North Ward Councillor • Graham Stuart MP's Office • Cllr John Holtby, Mid Holderness Ward Councillor

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Samantha Whyte, Mid Holderness Ward Councillor • Cllr Amanda Talbot, Mid Holderness Ward Councillor • Cllr Leo Hammond, Cabinet member Planning, Communities and Public Protection, ERYC <p>Tickton and Routh Parish Council</p> <p>Skidby Parish Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottingham Parish Council • Riston Parish Council • Catwick Parish Council • Riston Parish Council public session • Beverley Parish Council • Woodmansey Parish Council (rearranged from June 2024) <p>Riston Parish Council requested the Applicant hold an additional public meeting for residents. This was held on Monday 24 June 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant had established community contact channels ahead of the non-statutory consultation that interested parties, landowners or interest groups could get in touch with to ask questions or raise concerns. These community contact channels remained monitored ahead of, during and following the consultation. The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		would call back at the earliest opportunity. For email enquiries, an automatic reply would confirm the Applicant's intention to respond to the query within 5 working days.
6.8.1 and 6.8.2	<p>We are committed to ensuring that our consultation is accessible and inclusive for all stakeholders, including 'under-represented' or 'seldom heard' groups and individuals who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation methods.</p> <p>These groups and individuals that may find it harder to be involved in the consultation, and/or need additional support to access materials, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographically isolated communities • Young People • Old People • Disabled people and those with learning disabilities • People who do not have English as a first language 	<p>In accordance with the SoCC, the Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital engagement methods throughout the consultation to ensure it was inclusive and open, and accessible for all members of the community. This included 'under-represented' or 'seldom heard' groups and individuals who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation methods.</p> <p>To ensure this, the consultation included both online and in-person events as well as various feedback mechanisms, and methods of publicity.</p> <p>All consultation information was made available on the consultation website https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/. Screenshots of the website can be viewed at Appendix F-11.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter publicised the availability of hard copies and alternative formats of the consultation materials such as braille, large-print or in alternative languages, if requested by telephone or email. The newsletter also publicised the ability to accept feedback over the phone, if required. A copy of the consultation newsletter that includes this statement can be found in Appendix F-1.</p> <p>Hard copies of the consultation materials were also available to take away from the in-person consultation</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>events and deposit points. Photos of the consultation events can be found in Appendix F-8 and images of each of the deposit points can be viewed in Appendix F-9.</p> <p>Respondents could complete a feedback form both online on the consultation website and using the hard-copy feedback form. Free text comments could also be submitted by mail (using the publicised Freepost address), by emailing a written response directly to the Applicant or by phone. Details of the methods available for responses can be found in Section 5.13 and the hard copy feedback form can be found in Appendix F-3.</p> <p>To ensure people could hear about the plans and ask questions of the Applicant, both online and in-person events were held. Four in-person consultation events were held at the local venues at times agreed in the SoCC. Photos of the in-person consultation events can be found in Appendix F-8. Two online webinars were also held, providing an alternative to those who couldn't attend the in-person events or preferred to interact with the Applicant from any preferred location. Copies of the slides presented during the webinar can be found in Appendix F-12. Recordings of both webinars were made available on the consultation website shortly following the events, for those unavailable to attend the live sessions. These recordings can be found on the</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>consultation website at: https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/</p> <p>To ensure the Proposed Development received feedback from all members of the community, the Applicant identified a number of organisations that represent seldom heard people, and these were sent a letter and email informing them of the consultation. Both included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter sent to seldom heard groups during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix E-3.2 and a copy of the email can be found in Appendix E-3.3. The list of organisations this was sent to can be found in Appendix E-3.1.</p> <p>To attract comments from young people, online engagement methods were utilised, including social media advertising, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation. Examples of social media posts posted during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-10.</p> <p>To ensure geographically isolated communities within the PCZ were informed and engaged, the Applicant issued the consultation newsletter by mail, which included details on how to access paper copies, and the community contact channels, including a phonenumber for additional support. A copy of the consultation newsletter that includes this statement can be found in Appendix F-1.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>The Applicant included hard to reach groups within their consultee outreach. A list of hard-to-reach organisations was created, including religious organisations and disability groups. These organisations were sent consultation packs including a letter, brochure, newsletter, feedback form and Freepost envelope. Letters were sent on Friday 10 May 2024. A copy of the letter to seldom heard groups can be found in Appendix E-3.2.</p> <p>Details of the Applicant's engagement with seldom heard groups can be found in Section 5.16.</p>
Table 8	<p>Older people Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the PCZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents. Providing options to engage with the Applicant and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by Freepost and the information phoneline. Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and offering alternative formats such as large print (upon request). Offering feedback to be provided via a Freepost address so feedback can be easily provided by post. Consultation events at four locations within the PCZ, with</p>	<p>On Friday 10 May 2024, the consultation newsletter was distributed to all 11,444 properties and businesses within the identified PCZ, which was agreed with the local authorities as part of the SoCC consultation.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter publicised the availability of hard copies and alternative formats of the consultation materials such as braille, large-print or in alternative languages, if requested by telephone or email. The newsletter also publicised the ability to accept feedback over the phone, if required. A copy of the consultation newsletter that includes this statement can be found in Appendix F-1.</p> <p>To ensure older people felt comfortable submitting feedback, the Applicant accepted feedback through a wide</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.	<p>range of mechanisms. Respondents could complete a feedback form both online on the consultation website and using the hard-copy feedback form. Free text comments could also be submitted by mail (using the publicised Freepost address), by emailing a written response directly to the Applicant or by phone. Details of the methods available for responses can be found in Section 5.13 and the hard copy feedback form can be found in Appendix F-3.</p> <p>To ensure older people had an opportunity to speak to the Applicant in-person, four consultation events were held during the statutory consultation at accessible locations in or near key settlements in the PCZ. These venues and dates/times were agreed with the local authority within the SoCC and included events at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottingham Civic Hall (Tuesday 21 May 2024, 1pm-7pm) • Leven Village Hall (Wednesday 22 May 2024, 1pm-7pm) <p>Tickton Village Hall (Saturday 1 June 2024, 11am-3pm)</p> <p>Wawne Village Hall (Monday 3 June 2024, 1pm-6:30pm)</p> <p>Details about the consultation events can be found in Section 5.14. Photos of the consultation events can be found in Appendix F-8.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		Details of the Applicant's engagement with seldom heard groups can be found in Section 5.16 .
	<p>Disabled people and those with learning disabilities</p> <p>Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as large print (upon request). Providing options to engage with the Applicant and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by Freepost and the information phoneline. Consultation events at four locations within the PCZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses. Two online webinars, so anyone who may not be able to attend an in-person event can have the opportunity to ask questions of the Applicant. Ensure all event spaces have disabled access and facilities, and the layout of the consultation room provide space for those with wheelchairs to move around.</p>	<p>The Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital methods of engagement and feedback throughout the consultation to ensure disabled people or those with learning difficulties had the opportunity to learn about, and comment on, the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter publicised the availability of hard copies and alternative formats of the consultation materials such as braille, large-print or in alternative languages, if requested by telephone or email. The newsletter also publicised the ability to accept feedback by email or over the phone, if required. A copy of the consultation newsletter that includes this statement can be found in Appendix F-1.</p> <p>During the consultation, no requests were made for consultation documents in alternative accessible formats.</p> <p>To ensure disabled were included and able to provide feedback in a way that met their requirements, the Applicant accepted feedback through a wide range of mechanisms. Respondents could complete a feedback form both online on the consultation website and using the hard-copy feedback form. Free text comments could also be submitted by mail (using the publicised Freepost address), by emailing a written response directly to the Applicant or by</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>phone. Details of the methods available for responses can be found in Section 5.13 and the hard copy feedback form can be found in Appendix F-3.</p> <p>To ensure disabled people or those with learning difficulties could engage with the Applicant, the Applicant hosted both in-person and online events.</p> <p>Four in-person consultation events were held during the statutory consultation at accessible locations in or near key settlements in the PCZ. These venues and dates/times were agreed with the local authority within the SoCC and included events at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottingham Civic Hall (Tuesday 21 May 2024, 1pm-7pm) • Leven Village Hall (Wednesday 22 May 2024, 1pm-7pm) <p>Tickton Village Hall (Saturday 1 June 2024, 11am-3pm)</p> <p>Wawne Village Hall (Monday 3 June 2024, 1pm-6:30pm)</p> <p>Ahead of these events, the Applicant undertook Risk Assessments of each venue and confirmed each space was accessible and had the facilities required to provide a comfortable and inclusive space for disabled people, or those with learning disabilities. The consultation events were set up to allow those with limited mobility or in wheelchairs to move around. All events had the option for people to sit down and</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>talk to the Applicant, if they preferred or needed to.</p> <p>Details about the consultation events can be found in Section 5.14. Photos of the consultation events can be found in Appendix F-8.</p> <p>Two online webinars were also held, providing an alternative to those who may be unable to attend in-person, or felt more comfortable interacting with the Applicant from a different location. Copies of the slides presented during the webinar can be found in Appendix F-12. Recordings of both webinars were made available on the consultation website shortly following the events, for those unavailable to attend the live sessions. These recordings can be found on the consultation website at: https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/.</p> <p>To ensure the Proposed Development received feedback from all members of the community, the Applicant identified a number of organisations that represent seldom heard people, and these were sent a letter and email informing them of the consultation. Both included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter sent to seldom heard groups during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix E-3.2 and a copy of the email can be found in Appendix E-3.3. The list of organisations this was sent to can be found in Appendix E-3.1.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>Geographically isolated communities</p> <p>Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the PCZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents. Offering feedback to be provided via an online form and via the Freepost address so feedback can be easily provided from all locations. Webinars for people to join and find out about the Proposed Development. Advertising the availability of the project phoneline for stakeholders with further questions to speak with the Applicant, regardless of location</p>	<p>To ensure all addresses within the PCZ were consulted, no matter the isolation, the Applicant issued the consultation newsletter to all 11,444 properties and businesses within the identified PCZ, which was agreed with the local authorities as part of the SoCC consultation. The newsletter included details on how to access or request hard copies, the community contact channels, including phoneline for additional support. A copy of the consultation newsletter can be found in Appendix F-1.</p> <p>To ensure geographically isolated communities could engage with the application, all consultation information was made available on the consultation website https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk. Screenshots of the website can be viewed at Appendix F-11.</p> <p>The Applicant had established community contact channels ahead of the non-statutory consultation that interested parties, landowners or interest groups could get in touch with to ask questions or raise concerns. These community contact channels remained monitored ahead of, during and following the consultation. By having community contact channels, such as a phoneline, email and Freepost, geographically isolated people could ask questions of the Applicant no matter their location.</p> <p>The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		<p>consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity. For email enquiries, an automatic reply would confirm the Applicant's intention to respond to the query within 5 working days.</p> <p>Two online webinars were also held, providing an alternative to those who may be unable to attend in-person, or felt more comfortable interacting with the Applicant from a different location. Copies of the slides presented during the webinar can be found in Appendix F-12. Recordings of both webinars were made available on the consultation website shortly following the events, for those unavailable to attend the live sessions. These recordings can be found on the consultation website at: https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/.</p>
	<p>Young People</p> <p>Online engagement methods, including social media advertising, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation.</p>	<p>To attract comments from young people, online engagement methods were utilised, including social media advertising, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation. Examples of social media posts posted during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-10.</p> <p>Local primary and secondary schools and Sixth Forms and Colleges near the Proposed Development were informed about the consultation, as identified local community organisations. These</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		community organisations were sent a letter on Monday 13 May 2024 and an email on Wednesday 15 May 2024 informing them of the consultation. Both included a copy of the consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, feedback form and Freepost envelope. A copy of the letter sent to schools and education establishments during the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix E-2.2 and a copy of the email can be found in Appendix E-2.3 . The list of organisations these were sent to can be found in Appendix E-2.1 .
6.9.1.	<p>Information channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the Applicant, ask questions, request further information or request copies of the consultation materials and documents.</p> <p>www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk (24/7)</p> <p>01482 695004 (9am–5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours)</p> <p>info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk (24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days))</p> <p>Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (24 hour (mailbox will be monitored between 9am-5:30pm on weekdays))</p>	<p>The Applicant had established community contact channels ahead of the non-statutory consultation that interested parties, landowners or interest groups could get in touch with to ask questions or raise concerns. These community contact channels remained monitored ahead of, during and following the consultation. By having community contact channels, such as a phoneline, email and Freepost, geographically isolated people could ask questions of the Applicant no matter their location.</p> <p>The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity. For email enquiries, an automatic reply would confirm the Applicant's intention</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
		to respond to the query within 5 working days.
6.9.2	Requests for consultation information to meet specific requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required. This will include materials such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language to for those for whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation.	<p>The consultation newsletter publicised the availability of hard copies and alternative formats of the consultation materials such as braille, large-print or in alternative languages, if requested by telephone or email. The newsletter also publicised the ability to accept feedback by email or over the phone, if required. A copy of the consultation newsletter that includes this statement can be found in Appendix F-1.</p> <p>During the consultation, no requests were made for consultation documents in alternative accessible formats.</p>
7.1.1 and 7.1.2	<p>Feedback to the consultation must be submitted by 11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024. Responses received after this date may not be considered.</p> <p>Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing the feedback form online which can be accessed via the project website from Wednesday 15 May: (www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk) Attending a consultation event and completing a printed feedback form which can be handed into the team 	<p>The feedback form was made available to complete online on the consultation website from the start of consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024. The online feedback form was extended until 11:59pm on Monday 5 August 2024, which was the extended consultation date given to the last consultee notified, the Beverley Pasture Masters. A digital version of the hard copy was also made available to view and download from the documents library on the consultation website. Screenshots of the consultation website during statutory consultation can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>Hard copies of the feedback form, along with Freepost envelopes, were available to take away at the in-person consultation events and at the deposit</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>in-person or taken away and sent to us via a Freepost (using Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM). Feedback forms can also be collected from our community deposit points or requested from the community relations team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailing into info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk <p>Writing to us at Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp is required)</p>	<p>points, by to request via the community contact channels. Hard copies of the feedback form could be completed at the in-person events and returned via the responses box or completed at home and returned using the Freepost envelope. Hard copies taken from the deposit points could be completed and returned using the Freepost envelope. Photos of each of the deposit points can be found in Appendix F-9 and photos of the in-person consultation events can be viewed in Appendix F-8.</p> <p>Free text comments could also be submitted by mail (using the publicised Freepost address), by emailing a written response directly to the Applicant or by phoneline. These options were publicised in the consultation newsletter, which can be found in Appendix F-1.</p> <p>Requests for hard copies of the feedback form were accepted via the community contact channels, which were monitored throughout the consultation period. The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity. A feedback form and Freepost envelope would then be issued to the address of the interested party, for them to complete and return.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
8.1.1 to 8.1.4	<p>When our statutory consultation closes, we will have regard to all comments received. All feedback, including ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders, is important to us and will help to influence our design for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Once we have reviewed and finalised our Application, we will produce a Consultation Report, which will set out how the feedback from the pre-application consultation has shaped and influenced our proposed application.</p> <p>The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of the DCO application.</p> <p>Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at: www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk.</p>	<p>A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to this can be found in Chapter 6 of the Consultation Report and in Appendix G.</p> <p>Beyond the statutory consultation, the Applicant also undertook a non-statutory consultation to inform the early design, as well as targeted consultation on revisions to the draft Order Limits. The Applicant had regard to all comments received during these consultations.</p> <p>A summary of the feedback received at non-statutory consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to this can be found in Chapter 2 of the Consultation Report and in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report which can be found in Appendix A-2.</p> <p>A summary of the feedback received during targeted consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to this can be found in Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report and in Appendix H-8.</p>
9.1.1	<p>If, following the statutory consultation we consider it is necessary to undertake further targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance</p>	<p>Following the statutory consultation, the Applicant identified 19 revisions to the draft Order Limits which require additional land for the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Development.</p>

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.	<p>In accordance with the SoCC, these revisions were consulted on as part of a targeted consultation from Tuesday 8 October 2024 to Friday 8 November 2024. Details on the targeted consultation can be found in Chapter 7.</p> <p>The Applicant considered the Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects when considering the approach to targeted consultation.</p> <p>On Wednesday 11 September 2024, the Applicant contacted East Riding of Yorkshire Council to share details of the planned targeted consultation and how it was proposed to be promoted. This email referred to all engagement mechanisms outlined in the SoCC and concluded whether the Applicant regarded each mechanism as suitable for the targeted consultation. A copy of the email issued to East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in Appendix H-1.1.</p> <p>On Tuesday 1 October 2024, East Riding of Yorkshire Council responded via email to confirm that the proposed approach to the targeted consultation was proportionate to the revisions to the draft Order Limits. A copy of this email from East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in Appendix H-1.2.</p>
10.1.1 to 10.1.3	Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Peartree Hill Solar Farm and our consultation programme. You can	The Applicant was contactable via mail (using the publicised Freepost address), by email and by phonenumber. These options were publicised in the consultation newsletter, which can be

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>get in touch with members of our communications team using any of the communications lines listed below.</p> <p>Should you require any documents in large print or audio then please contact us using the details provided. Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print.</p> <p>Our communications channels are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk Call: 01482 695 004 Write to: Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM (you do not need a stamp) 	<p>found in Appendix F-1, and on the consultation website, screenshots of can be found in Appendix F-11.</p> <p>The Applicant was available by email and phone from Monday to Friday from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail system was available to capture details and the Applicant's team would call back at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter publicised the availability of hard copies and alternative formats of the consultation materials such as braille, large-print or in alternative languages, if requested by telephone or email.</p>

6 Summary of responses to statutory consultation

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 Section 49 of the PA 2008 sets out the duty upon applicants to take account of responses to the consultation and publicity.
- 6.1.2 Statutory consultation was held between Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 26 June 2024. An additional extension to the consultation was given to some consultees as outlined in **Chapter 5**.
- 6.1.3 A total of 155 responses were received during the statutory consultation period. This comprised of 87 feedback forms (27 paper response forms, 59 online response forms and one form received via email), 64 emails sent to the project inbox and four letters.
- 6.1.4 The Applicant accepted all responses submitted up until Monday 5 August 2024. This was the extended consultation date given to the last consultee notified, the Beverley Pasture Masters. After this date a further response was received from a person with land interest and additional responses from East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Sustainable Development, Nature Conservation, Highways and Countryside Access teams, which were accepted and have been taken into consideration.
- 6.1.5 **Chapter 6** is structured as follows:
- Analysing responses to statutory consultation: statistical overview of types of responses received, details of the methodology and how responses were handled and feedback analysed
 - Responses received from the statutory consultees: outlining the section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees who responded to the consultation
 - Responses to closed questions, presents and discusses the results of the closed questions on the feedback form
 - Issues raised in open questions and Applicants response: outlines the matters raised by consultees in response to the consultation and publicity, alongside the Applicant's response to matters raised to help demonstrate the regard had to every relevant response
 - Summary of changes made following feedback received from statutory consultation, outlining the changes made to the scheme further to feedback received

6.2 Analysis of responses

Number and format of responses

- 6.2.1 A total of 155 responses were received in response to the statutory consultation held between Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 26 June 2024, and also including responses received up to the extended deadline of 11:59pm on Monday 5 August 2024.
- 6.2.2 Of these, 33 were submitted from respondents under section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, one under section 42(1)(b), 13 under section 42(1)(d), and 108 under section 47. **Table 22** below shows the breakdown of responses received.
- 6.2.3 Respondents were able to provide feedback through multiple channels:
- Consultation Feedback Form: Available for online submission, or to complete hard copies either in-person at the events, or to return via post.
 - Written Responses: Accepted in the form of letters and emails.
 - Phone Responses: Feedback could be provided through the consultation phonenumber.

Table 22 Breakdown of feedback received by consultee type

	S42a	S42b	S42d	S47	TOTAL
Email	29	1	4	30	64
Letter	1	0	0	3	4
Phone	0	0	0	0	0
Paper Survey	2	0	3	22	27
Online Survey	1	0	5	53	59
Email Survey	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	33	1	13	108	155

- 6.2.4 Respondents that chose to provide feedback via the feedback form were not required to answer all questions, allowing respondents to provide feedback only on the topics that interested them.

- 6.2.5 The feedback form asked for comments on the need for the Proposed Development, site configuration, the cable corridor route options, environmental impacts (including the methodology and/or preliminary assessments in the PEIR), community benefits and the consultation. There was also opportunity to provide contact details to establish their personal interest in the Proposed Development and consent to being kept informed.

Consultation analysis method

- 6.2.6 Following the close of the consultation, the Applicant reviewed all the responses received.
- 6.2.7 The closed (quantitative) questions are detailed in **Section 6.4**, while comments received during the open (qualitative) questions or through free text responses by email or letter are detailed in **Section 6.5**.
- 6.2.8 For free text responses, including those received via email and letter, the Applicant has tried to identify their interest in the Proposed Development, as a statutory party or land interest, using information provided such as organisation name or address.
- 6.2.9 The percentages on the graphs have been rounded up or down to provide the percentage to a whole number and as such, the totals are not always equal to 100%.
- 6.2.10 To analyse the responses received to the open questions and free text responses, a coding framework was used to capture and summarise these responses and identify themes and issues. This approach is in accordance with Planning Inspectorate Guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report'.
- 6.2.11 A written response could receive multiple codes to highlight different issues covered. New classifications were added on an ad-hoc basis as feedback was received, allowing for further breakdown of themes.
- 6.2.12 To ensure quality of analysis, checks were made on the identification of issues by a senior member of the team.
- 6.2.13 The analysis of free text responses included the identification of 'Change Requests' (specific requests to change elements of the proposed design). These issues were triaged and considered as part of the design development process.

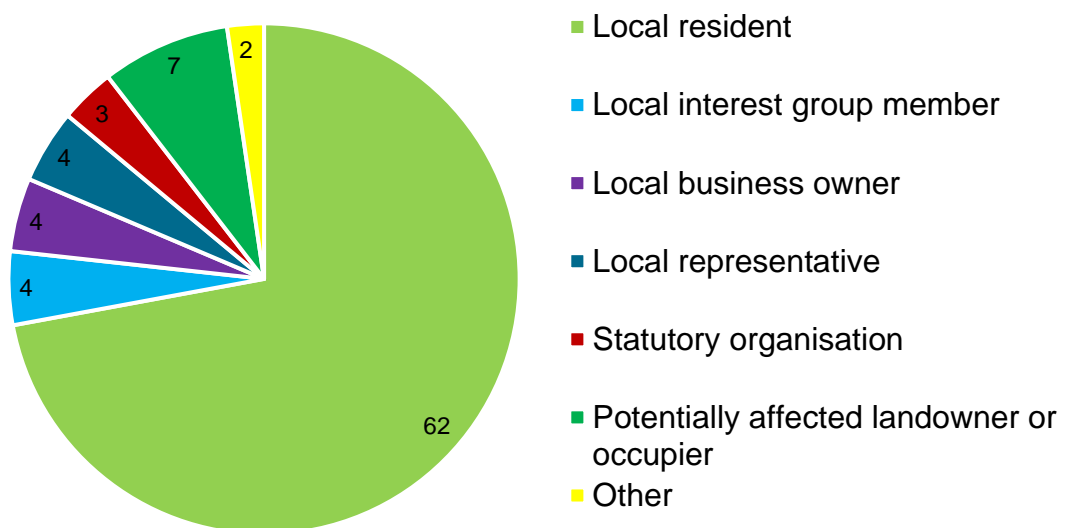
6.3 Responses received from statutory parties

- 6.3.1 Responses were received from 33 section 42(1)(a) consultees and one section 42(1)(b) consultee. A full list of the section 42(1)(a) and 42(1)(b) consultees who were consulted and those who responded can be found in **Appendix D-1**.

6.4 Responses to closed questions

- 6.4.1 This section presents and discusses the feedback gathered through closed questions on the feedback form.
- 6.4.2 **Figure 6** shows how the respondents that completed the feedback form would describe their interest in the Proposed Development. This data only includes responses received through the feedback form.

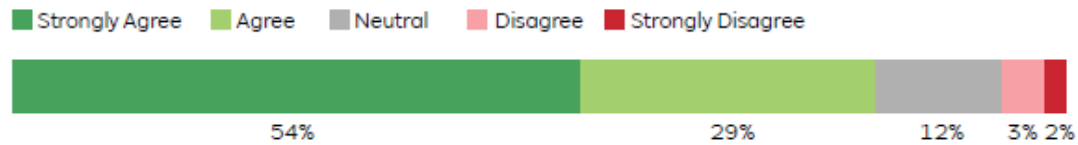
Figure 6 Question 1: How would you describe your interest in Peartree Hill Solar Farm?



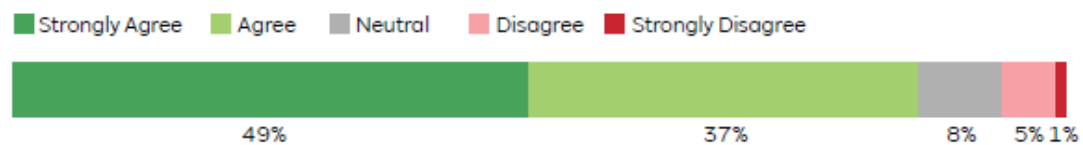
- 6.4.3 In total, 62 of the 86 responses received were from local residents.
- 6.4.4 Question 2 sought to gauge respondents' perceptions of climate change, energy security, fossil fuels, renewable energy and energy storage. The results are shown in **Figure 7**.

Figure 7 Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following five statements?

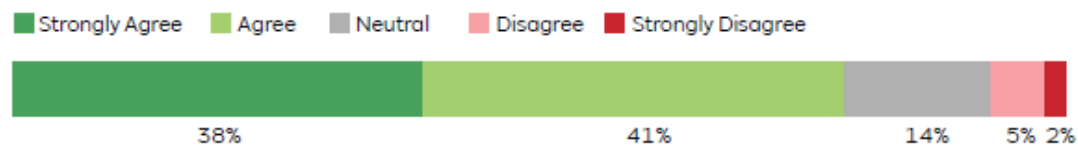
Climate change is an important issue



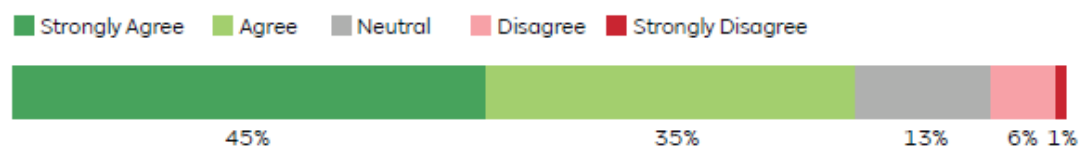
Energy security is an important issue



Moving away from fossil fuel use is important



The UK needs more renewable energy



The UK needs more energy storage

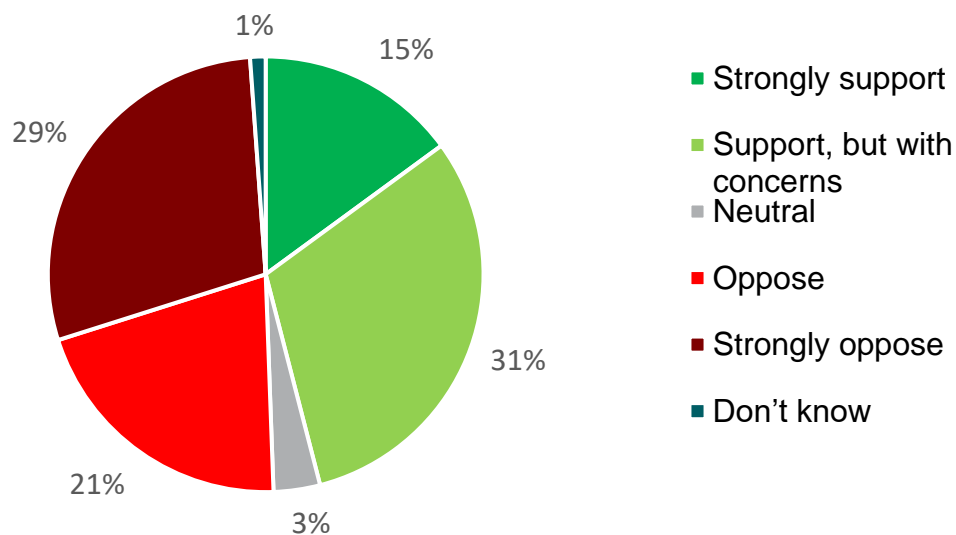


- 6.4.5 The issue of energy security was most important to respondents, with 86% noting they 'strongly agree' or 'agree' that it is important, the highest percentage among the issues surveyed. The least important issue, based on the percentage of respondents who 'strongly agree' or 'agree' with each statement, is energy storage, where only 77% of respondents agreed that the UK needs more energy storage, the lowest percentage of agreement among the issues surveyed.

However, energy storage also had the lowest level of disagreement with only 4% either opting to 'strongly disagree' or 'disagree'. Across all issues, there's strong agreement, with 77%-86% of respondents supporting each statement. This suggests a broad consensus that energy and climate-related issues are significant.

6.4.6 Question 3 asked respondents how supportive they were of the Proposed Development. The results are shown in **Figure 8**.

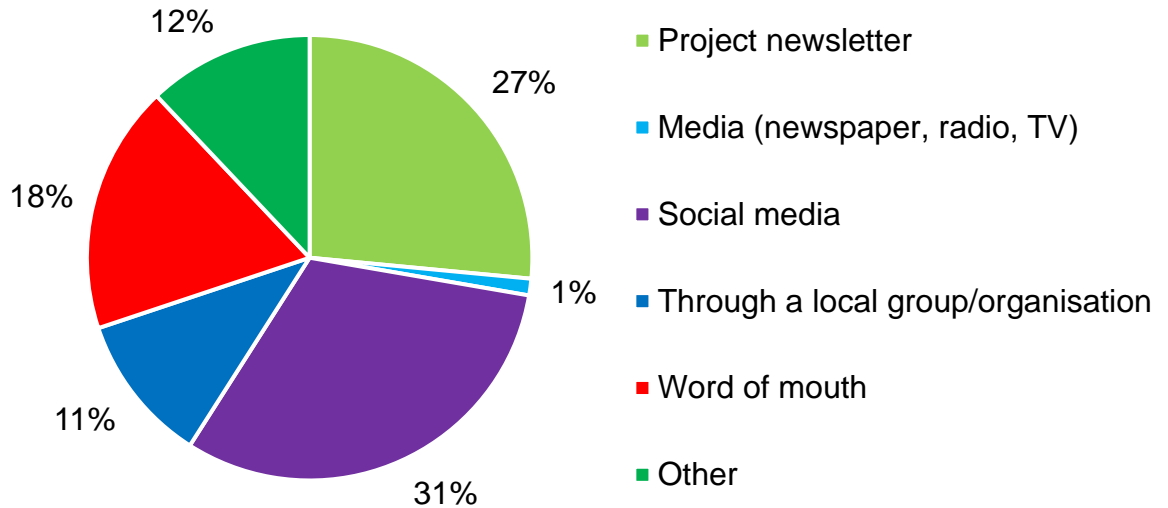
Figure 8 Question 3: How supportive are you of our proposals for Peartree Hill, which would generate clean, affordable energy, helping the UK to reach its decarbonisation goals?



6.4.7 In total, 87 respondents provided a response. Of those, 45% outlined that they 'strongly support' the Proposed Development or 'support, but with concerns'. Whereas 50% stated that they 'strongly oppose' or 'oppose' the Proposed Development. A further 4% said they felt 'neutral' to the Proposed Development and 1% said they 'don't know'.

6.4.8 Question 12 asked how respondents found out about the consultation. The results are shown in **Figure 9**.

Figure 9 Question 12: How did you find out about this consultation?



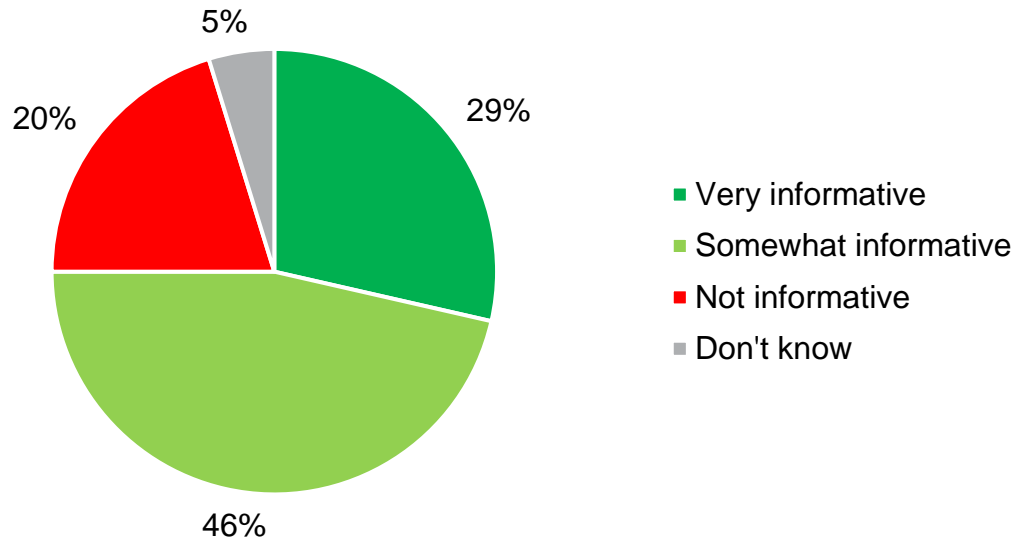
6.4.9 In total, 84 respondents answered the question, and the most common way that respondents had found out about the consultation was via 'social media' with 31% selecting this option. A further 27% found out about the consultation via the 'project newsletter' and 18% had found out via 'word of mouth'. Only 1% found out about the consultation through 'media' (newspaper, radio, TV).

6.4.10 Those that selected 'other', stated that this was through:

- Email
- Letter
- Yard owner

6.4.11 Question 13 asked how informative respondents found the consultation. The results are shown in **Figure 10**.

Figure 10 Question 13: How informative have you found this consultation?



6.4.12 In total, 84 respondents provided an answer to this question. Nearly a third of respondents (29%) found the consultation 'very informative', whilst 46% found it 'somewhat informative' and 20% found it 'not informative'.

6.5 Responses to open questions

6.5.1 As outlined in **Section 6.2** open questions were grouped and themed by the Applicant, based on common issues raised.

6.5.2 **Table 23** provides a summary of the key themes raised in response to each question presented in the statutory consultation feedback questionnaire.

6.5.3 More detailed analysis of issues raised in the statutory consultation and the Applicant's responses to issues can be found in **Appendix G**.

Table 23 Key issues raised in response to each question

Question	Theme
Question 3: How supportive are you of our proposal for Peartree Hill, which would generate clean, affordable energy, helping the UK to reach its decarbonisation goals?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding the loss of agricultural land Mentions of, and concern regarding, food security

(with the options: Strongly support, Support but with concerns, Neutral, Oppose, Strongly oppose and Don't know). Please explain why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the need for renewable energy • Statement that the Proposed Development is too large • Concern regarding the impact on wildlife
Question 4: Do you have any comments on the overall layout of Peartree Hill?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern regarding the loss of agricultural land • Mentions of, and concerns regarding, food security • Statement that the Proposed Development is too large
Question 5: Do you have any comments on the specific Land Areas? Including and comments on supporting infrastructure necessary for the operation of a solar farm, including battery storage, substations, electrical equipment and security measures. Please tick the relevant area(s) and add comments below.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement that the Proposed Development is too large • Concern regarding the loss of agricultural land • Mentions of, and concern regarding, food security • Statement that the Proposed Development will not be environmentally friendly and/or will create more pollution by other means
Question 6: We have shared our updated options for cable corridors to connect Peartree Hill to Creyke Beck Substation via underground cables. Please see page 16 of our consultation brochure. Do you have any comments on the cable corridor options presented?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern regarding the sufficiency of detail of the maps • Preference of Cable Route Option 1
Question 7: Do you have any comments on the methodology and/or preliminary assessments in the PEIR? Where possible, please specify the environmental topic area(s) you are commenting on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentions of, and concern regarding, food security • Recognition of the need for renewable energy • Concern regarding the loss of agricultural land • Concern regarding the impact on wildlife

<p>Question 8: Do you have any comments on our Peartree Hill Illustrative Masterplan and proposed environmental mitigation? Please make your comments in relation to each of the topics below where applicable.</p>	Landscape and visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General concern regarding flooding • Concern regarding the loss of agricultural land • Statement that the Proposed Development would require adequate screening • Concern regarding the visual impact on the appearance of the area
	Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern regarding the impact on wildlife • Suggestion to locate the Proposed Development on unproductive and/or brownfield land • Concern regarding the loss of agricultural land • Mentions of, and concern regarding, food security • Concern regarding the impact of fencing on wildlife • Concern regarding the loss of habitat
	Public Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement that more footpaths would be required • Statement that public rights of way should be kept open • Statement that public rights of way should not be impacted by the Proposed Development
	Heritage assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion to locate the Proposed Development on unproductive and/or brownfield land • Concern regarding the cumulative impact of the Proposed Development with other proposals in the area • Concern regarding the loss of agricultural land • Mentions of, and concern regarding, food security

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement that heritage assets should be protected
	Construction impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding traffic impact associated with the construction phase Statement that the roads in the area are too narrow to support the Proposed Development Concern regarding noise associated with the construction phase
	Cumulative impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding the cumulative impact of the Proposed Development with other proposals in the area Mentions of, and concern regarding, food security
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestion to locate the Proposed Development on unproductive and/or brownfield land Statement that the Proposed Development is large Concern regarding the loss of agricultural land Mentions of, and concern regarding, food security
Question 9: Are there any other on-site community benefits that you would like to see incorporated into plans for Peartree Hill?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General objection to the Proposed Development Statement that the Proposed Development should not be built Statement that RWE should reduce energy bills for local people
Question 10: RWE is committed to providing a community benefit fund to support local community groups or initiatives. What organisations or local initiatives would you like to see us contribute to as part of our proposals for Peartree Hill?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for the Community Benefit Fund to be used for Long Riston Playing fields Statement that the Community Benefit Fund is a form of bribery Request for the Community Benefit Fund to be used for school projects

<p>Question 11: Do you have any further comments on our proposals for Peartree Hill?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion that the Proposed Development should be located on unproductive and/or brownfield land • Suggestion that the Proposed Development should be located on rooftops • Concern regarding the loss of agricultural land • Mention of, and concern regarding, food security • Statement that the development is too large
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6.6 Regard to responses (in accordance with s49 of PA 2008)

6.6.1 In accordance with section 49(2) of the PA 2008, this section of the Report demonstrates how the Applicant has had regard to matters raised in the responses received as part of the statutory consultation.

6.6.2 The tables presented in **Appendix G**, and referenced throughout this Report, provide:

- A record of the responses received by section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees and the Applicant's response to these matters, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008 (**Appendix G-1**)
- A record of the responses received by section 42(1)(b) local authorities and the Applicant's response to these matters, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008 (**Appendix G-2**)
- A record of the responses received by section 42(1)(d) PILs and the Applicant's response to these matters, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008 (**Appendix G-3**).
- A summary of the matters raised by section 47 general public respondents and the Applicant's response to these matters, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008 (**Appendix G-4** and **Appendix G-5**)

6.6.3 A series of design changes were made to the Proposed Development following the statutory consultation. These took into account feedback received during the statutory consultation, including ongoing engagement with stakeholders,

landowners and the local community, as well as results from emerging environmental survey data and technical assessments. Where a matter raised in the consultation responses resulted in or related to a design change, this is identified in the relevant **Appendix G** table.

- 6.6.4 Where matters raised in the consultation response did not result in, or relate to, a design change, the Applicant has also provided a justification for this decision within the relevant **Appendix G** table.
- 6.6.5 **Section 6.7** identifies the key design changes that were made, and explains the reasoning behind them, including where this was as a direct result of consultation feedback. It also identifies the design suggestions or requests that the Applicant received from the consultation feedback, but which did not result in a change to the design and provides a justification for not implementing these changes.

6.7 Summary of scheme changes as a result of consultation

- 6.7.1 As part of the analysis of the feedback received to the statutory consultation, the Applicant reviewed and considered the suggested design changes.
- 6.7.2 Design changes suggested in response to the statutory consultation were carefully considered and assessed by specialists involved in the design of the Proposed Development. A review of commonly requested changes and whether they resulted in a change to the design of the Proposed Development and the reasons why, are summarised below. A full response to feedback received can be found in **Appendix G**.
- 6.7.3 Design changes to the Proposed Development have also been influenced outside of statutory consultation through ongoing engagement with stakeholders and landowners, emerging environmental survey data and technical assessment work. An account of the development of the Proposed Development and all design changes made is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Iteration [EN010157/APP/6.1]**.

Design changes made and why

- 6.7.4 The principal changes to the design of the Proposed Development sought to reduce the landscape and visual impact of the Proposed Development on local communities, create further enhancements for local wildlife and biodiversity, increase public access to areas of the site and reduce impacts during construction.

- 6.7.5 A summary of the principal design changes made following the statutory consultation are provided below.

Reduction in size of panel area

- 6.7.6 In response to the statutory consultation, concerns were raised with regard to the overall scale of the Proposed Development.
- 6.7.7 In response to the feedback received, the Applicant undertook further technical assessment and design development to identify where it may be possible to provide additional offsets and/or reductions in the footprint of the Proposed Development without compromising the ability to produce the required capacity output.
- 6.7.8 One area of focus was Land Area A, where concerns had been raised in regard to the visual impacts upon nearby properties to the north and users of Leven Footpath No.6 along the River Hull to the west. Further concern had also been raised regarding the potential impacts on bird populations linked to the nearby Tophill Low nature reserve, flood risk and the suitability of the access routes to be used during construction.
- 6.7.9 Having initially made reductions in the extent of the solar PV modules to the north and west of Land Area A to try and mitigate for visual impacts and provide additional wetland bird mitigation areas, further investigations and design development identified that the estimated flood water levels modelled during a design event (1:100 years) would severely limit the Applicant's ability to place solar PV, inverters or BESS in areas that would meet the design principles agreed with the Environment Agency i.e. raised 300 m freeboard above the predicted design event. In addition, the glint and glare assessment identified mitigation may be required for four dwellings as well as having a significant amount of yellow glare predicted towards circuits and approaches at Beverley Airfield.
- 6.7.10 Further issues were encountered when investigating the HGV traffic routes to Land Area A, in particular the junction of West Street and North Street in Leven, where it was determined that the visibility was severely limited by the existing buildings and road geometry.
- 6.7.11 On account of the above issues, combined with the extensive length of underground cable required to connect Land Area A to Land Area B (which also passed under the Leven Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and interfaced with other existing onshore windfarm cables), Land Area A was considered to be unviable, and a decision was taken to remove it entirely from the Proposed Development.

- 6.7.12 As Land Area A provided a total of 426 acres, its removal from the Proposed Development subsequently limited the Applicant's ability to make any further reductions across Areas B-F. However, upon review of the environmental assessments and identified mitigations, the Applicant considered that the siting of the solar PV panels and associated infrastructure within Land Areas B-F did not give rise to significant impacts which required further reduction of the solar area.
- 6.7.13 The Proposed Development has incorporated up to 19.5 km of hedgerow to further mitigate visual impacts from any nearby dwellings, residential areas and public rights of way.
- 6.7.14 The Applicant was able to ensure that the 320 MW capacity could be retained by reducing the spacing between panels from the previously proposed 5.85m to 4.8m.

Reduction in height of proposed solar PV panels

- 6.7.15 At the time of the statutory consultation period, it was considered that the proposed solar PV modules would be up to 3.5 m in height and the corresponding preliminary environmental information used that assumption as the basis of its assessment, as a worst-case scenario.
- 6.7.16 Whilst there was general support raised during the statutory consultation for the provision of solar PV modules in these locations, responses were received which raised concerns regarding how effective the landscape and visual mitigation measures would be with the modules at such a height
- 6.7.17 The 3.5 m height was proposed to help mitigate potential flood risk impacts by enabling panels to be raised higher above ground level. However, following further design development and engagement with the Environment Agency regarding the siting of solar PV modules and critical infrastructure, the Applicant was able to reduce the maximum height of the panels to 3 m.

Permissive paths

- 6.7.18 There were a number of comments received during the statutory consultation about public rights of way and usage, including requests to increase the extent of permissive paths. Requests were also received to make permissive paths available for horse riders, who had to date been granted informal access to a number of the fields that would form part of the Proposed Development.
- 6.7.19 At statutory consultation, the Applicant included proposals for up to 7 km of permissive paths. Following review of the statutory consultation feedback, the

Applicant has incorporated an additional 5.6 km of permissive paths, providing a total of 12.6 km.

- 6.7.20 The Applicant has also been able to provide approximately 9.4 km of permissive paths that will be available for equestrian use, following feedback from the community. The permissive paths in Land Area D and E are proposed to include horse riding rights
- 6.7.21 The permissive paths are shown in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.5]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Indicative Operational Layout Plan [EN010157/APP/6.3]**.

Interconnecting cable C-F

- 6.7.22 At statutory consultation the Proposed Development included interconnecting cable C-F. This cable corridor provided a route for the 132 kV cable from the on-site substation in Land Area C to run south, through Area F and then connect into the cable corridor options to National Grid Creyke Beck Substation being considered at the time.
- 6.7.23 Concerns were raised ahead of the statutory consultation launch by the Land Agent acting on behalf of the affected landowners for cable C-F. Concerns related to the feasibility of the cable works and the impact on the existing drainage ditches and property access. Following further assessment of the design constraints and opportunities within this cable corridor, it was determined that there were a number of constructability risks including the width, weight restrictions and geometry of Swine Road (the road leading from Meaux Lane in the west, to the section where the cable works were proposed) which made the road unsuitable. Furthermore, there were challenges with the amount of space available to appropriately use Horizontal Directional Drilling under the Buldike Drain. An alternative cable route was identified (Change 10 of the targeted consultation, as detailed in **Chapter 7**) and is now proposed as part of the Proposed Development.

Cable route

- 6.7.24 There was a mixed response received during the statutory consultation on the cable route options presented, with a general preference for Option 1 cable route from respondents.
- 6.7.25 Following additional design and engineering assessments, the Applicant has identified Option 1 cable route as the preferred route linking the Proposed Development to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation.

Figham Common

- 6.7.26 Responding to the statutory consultation, the Beverley Pasture Masters, responsible for the management of Figham Common, raised concerns regarding the extent of the draft Order Limits and the potential impacts on livestock, the public, and the habitats resulting from any cable and/or construction works within the Common.
- 6.7.27 At the statutory consultation, the Route 1 cable corridor presented included approximately 58.2 ha of Figham Common. Following a review of the consultation responses, discussions with the Beverley Pasture Masters and further development of the cable route constraints, the Applicant has been able to remove 20.6 ha of Figham Common from the Order Limits, a reduction of 35%.
- 6.7.28 As communicated with the Pasture Masters, the Order Limits within the Common are proposed to provide the Applicant with the necessary flexibility and certainty that the works can be delivered. Should the DCO be granted, detailed design and ground investigation studies will enable the Applicant to further refine the extent of any works areas within the Common.

Additional bird mitigation

- 6.7.29 During consultation with Natural England, it was suggested that the quantum of proposed bird mitigation could be bigger, more joined up, and more targeted. It should be noted that this comment preceded the removal of Land Area A from the scheme, which was the most isolated of the Land Areas and was where a relatively large number of birds associated with internationally designated sites were observed.
- 6.7.30 In response to Natural England's suggestion, additional land was brought into the Order Limits, located between Fields E3 and E8 and measuring approximately 7ha. This new land parcel connects with and extends the existing proposed mitigation areas in neighbouring Fields E6, E7 and E9. Note that Field E6 is one of the fields considered suitable for the creation of wader scrapes (shallow depressions that are constructed in fields to benefit wildfowl and wading birds) due to its location adjacent to the Holderness Drain.
- 6.7.31 Calculations undertaken by suitably qualified ornithologists suggest that the total amount of bird mitigation land within the Order Limits is sufficient to mitigate potential effects of the Proposed Development on both ground-nesting birds and birds associated with internationally designated sites.
- 6.7.32 Further details are available in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.5]**.

Removal of access route

- 6.7.33 Several local residents who responded to the statutory consultation raised concerns regarding the proposed use of existing access routes which passed through the settlement of Arnold, highlighting in particular that Black Tup Lane was very narrow and unsuitable for HGVs, with many car users and horse riders highlighting previous incidents.
- 6.7.34 Following receipt of this information, the Applicant sought to review the technical information and surveys carried out regarding construction, operational and decommissioning transport needs. It was determined that the southernmost access point at Area C, which would utilise Black Tup Lane and Woodhouse Lane, could be removed from the Proposed Development.
- 6.7.35 As part of the Proposed Development, vehicles entering Land Area C would do so by utilising the Carr Lane access.
- 6.7.36 In addition to addressing the concerns regarding Black Tup Lane, this change would also remove the interface between users of Riston Footpath Number 1 (which runs along Woodhouse Lane) and any proposed construction and operational traffic.

Design changes not made and why

- 6.7.37 There were also responses received during the statutory consultation, which suggested design changes that were considered, but ultimately not implemented by the Applicant.
- 6.7.38 A summary of the most commonly suggested design changes that were considered but not implemented, is provided below.

Location

- 6.7.39 A number of responses received during the statutory consultation queried why the Proposed Development needed to be in the location presented. As identified in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Iteration [EN010157/APP/6.1]** the location of the Proposed Development was selected through a detailed process to select a site that would be suitable for solar energy generation, within reasonable proximity to a National Grid connection, and was feasible to deliver, whilst avoiding and minimising the potential for harm to the environment and communities.

- 6.7.40 Additionally, the Applicant has prepared a **Design Approach Document [EN010157/APP/5.7]** in support of the DCO Application, which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape and with local communities in mind.

Use of agricultural land

- 6.7.41 A number of responses received during the statutory consultation raised concern about the impact of the Proposed Development on agricultural land and food security.
- 6.7.42 **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Agricultural Land Classification Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]** provides a summary of the ALC for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development.
- 6.7.43 The Applicant has undertaken assessments, identifying that approximately 70% of the surveyed land falls under the category of lower-quality Subgrade 3b and Grade 4 agricultural land, while 30% consists of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land (ALC Grades 1-3a), with the majority of that BMV land classed as Grade 3a. More details are included in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Agricultural Land Classification Report [EN010157/APP/6.4]**.
- 6.7.44 The Applicant has selected the site and designed the Proposed Development to minimise the use of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land, as outlined in **Appendix 2 – Site Selection Assessment** to the **Planning Statement [EN010157/APP/5.5]**. Other embedded mitigation on agricultural land includes optimising existing tracks, crossings and gaps in the hedgerows for access tracks and cable routes wherever practicable and running cabling alongside access tracks as much as possible to avoid wider excavations. More details are included in the **Design Approach Document [EN010157/APP/5.7]**.
- 6.7.45 The Government's Food Security Report¹⁶ published in December 2021 is clear that the biggest medium to long term risk to the UK's food production comes from climate change and other environmental pressures. The Independent National Food Strategy Review¹⁷, which looks at the entire food chain from field to fork, concluded that solar farms do not in any way pose a risk to the UK's food security.

¹⁶ United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021. Published by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs on December 16, 2021. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62874ba08fa8f55622a9c8c6/United_Kingdom_Food_Security_Report_2021_19may2022.pdf

¹⁷ Dimbleby, H. (2021). Independent National Food Strategy Review. Available at: https://www.national-foodstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/1669_NFS_The_Plan_July21_S11.pdf

Implementation of solar panels on rooftops

- 6.7.46 A number of respondents questioned the need for the solar farm, suggesting a preference to solar panels on rooftops.
- 6.7.47 The UK has a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. As one of the cheapest and most rapidly deployable forms of renewable energy, solar will play an important role in achieving this commitment. The British Energy Security Strategy¹⁸ published in April 2022 set an ambition of 70 GW of solar by 2035. The Government has made major commitments to the delivery of clean energy in the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan¹⁹, published in December 2024 which outlines the DESNZ's ambition for 45-47 GW of solar power by 2030 as well as onshore and offshore wind.
- 6.7.48 This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply represent an unaffordable solution, with high initial costs of installation.

Creation of a cycle and footpath along A165

- 6.7.49 Some respondents around Riston and Arnold requested the creation of a cycle, footpath and bridleway along the A165, connecting to the existing path on the A1035 toward Beverley.
- 6.7.50 This suggestion is outside the Order Limits of the Proposed Development although the Community Benefit Fund could be used for initiatives of this nature, following a successful application for funding and subject to other consents needed.

Land Area C substation to be moved

- 6.7.51 Responses were received from residents around Riston and Arnold requesting that the on-site substation proposed for Land Area C be relocated. Some of these comments requested the substation be moved entirely to a different Land Area within the Proposed Development, while others requested it be moved slightly south to a location alongside the existing woodland.

¹⁸ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. (2022). British Energy Security Strategy. Published on April 7, 2022. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62611337d3bf7f55cc9fd89f/british-energy-security-strategy-print-ready.pdf>

¹⁹ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity (2024). Available online: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677bc80399c93b7286a396d6/clean-power-2030-action-plan-main-report.pdf>

- 6.7.52 The siting of the on-site substation is 1.4 km away from the nearest residential property at Arnold and over 1.8 km from Long Riston. Initial viewpoint analysis undertaken as part of the PEIR indicated that the on-site substation would only be partially visible in Year 1 of operation and that the change in visual amenity would be minimal, at most.
- 6.7.53 A new woodland belt has been proposed to the immediate south and east of the on-site substation. Once this woodland belt has matured, and existing hedgerows have been enhanced, the Proposed Development would be very heavily screened from this viewpoint, with only the potential for heavily filtered glimpsed winter views. There would be no discernible change in visual amenity. The Viewpoint Analysis is included in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 11.4: Viewpoint Analysis [EN010157/APP/6.4]**.
- 6.7.54 Given the findings, it was considered that the on-site substation was appropriately sited within the Land Areas and would not result in any significant adverse effects on receptors.
- 6.7.55 Moving the substation further west would have moved the on-site substation closer to the Riston Footpath No.2 which is 575 m west of the on-site substation.

Summary

- 6.7.56 This Chapter has provided a summary of the responses received to the statutory consultation and has demonstrated that the Applicant has had regard to the responses received under section 49 of the PA 2008.

7 Targeted consultation

7.1 Overview

- 7.1.1 **Chapter 7** outlines the Applicant's approach to the targeted consultation on the Proposed Development. It sets out an overview of the consultation undertaken between Tuesday 8 October 2024 and Friday 8 November 2024, which was carried out in accordance with pre-application guidance.
- 7.1.2 The Chapter also summarises the approach taken to identify and notify consultees, the approach to consultation, and management of consultation responses.
- 7.1.3 The targeted consultation was undertaken in accordance with Section 9 of the SoCC, which outlines that any targeted or supplementary consultation will be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC. A copy of the SoCC can be found in **Appendix C-7**.

7.2 Approach to Targeted Consultation

- 7.2.1 Following the review of feedback from the statutory consultation, in addition to the progression of design development and environmental assessment work, 19 changes to the proposed draft Order Limits were identified. These changes are outlined in **Table 24**.

Table 24 Changes to the draft Order Limits consulted on at targeted consultation

Change Number	Change Title
Change 1	Land Area B – Monk Dike
Change 2	B-B cable – Stonleygoat Dike
Change 3	Land Area B – A165 access point
Change 4	Land Area B – Carr Lane access point and adjacent fields
Change 5	Land Area D – Meaux Lane access point and highways works (part 1)

Change 6	Land Area C – Carr Lane access road and adjacent fields
Change 7	Land Area E – access track
Change 8	Land Area E – additional mitigation land
Change 9	Land Area D – Meaux Lane highways works (part 2)
Change 10	Land Area C-D – cable corridor
Change 11	Land Area E – Carr Lane access point
Change 12	Cable E-F – Holderness Drain
Change 13	Land Area F – Meaux Road access point
Change 14	North cable route – Hull Road access point
Change 15	North cable route – Figham Common
Change 16	Cable route north (west of Woodmansey)
Change 17	Cable route south – Long Lane
Change 18	Cable route south – railway crossing
Change 19	Cable route south – Creyke Beck Substation access

7.2.2 The Applicant considered the Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects when considering the approach to targeted consultation. Paragraph 020 states:

“In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:

- *the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;*
- *the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and*
- *the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.”*

- 7.2.3 The changes listed above related to minor revisions to the draft Order Limits which resulted in a small increase in land required for the Proposed Development. Such changes were assessed, and did not introduce any new significant environmental effects, so the findings of the PEIR published at the statutory consultation remained valid. In addition, the Applicant felt the level of public interest in these minor changes was likely to be low in the context of the Proposed Development.
- 7.2.4 The Applicant decided therefore, that a targeted non-statutory consultation was appropriate for these changes.
- 7.2.5 On Wednesday 11 September 2024, the Applicant contacted East Riding of Yorkshire Council to share details of the planned targeted consultation and how it was proposed to be promoted. This email referred to all engagement mechanisms outlined in the SoCC and concluded whether the Applicant regarded each mechanism as suitable for the targeted consultation. A copy of the email issued to East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in **Appendix H-1.1**
- 7.2.6 On Tuesday 1 October 2024, East Riding of Yorkshire Council responded via email to confirm that the proposed approach to the targeted consultation was proportionate to the revisions to the draft Order Limits. A copy of this email from East Riding of Yorkshire Council can be found in **Appendix H-1.2**.

7.3 Consultation Methodology

- 7.3.1 The Applicant identified four categories of consultees who may be directly impacted or interested in the draft Order Limit changes:
- Persons with an interest in land affected by the changes
 - Persons with an interest in land affected by the changes, who had not previously been considered as consultees under sections 42(1)(d) and 44 during the statutory consultation, and which were then identified by further diligent enquiry as a result of the revisions to the draft Order Limits
 - Statutory and technical consultees
 - Those living near the changes
- 7.3.2 In addition, the Applicant also informed all respondents to the statutory consultation, that had permitted future contact, of the targeted consultation.
- 7.3.3 Whilst non-statutory, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate on Monday 7 October 2024 about the targeted consultation running between Tuesday 8 October and 11:59pm on Friday 8 November 2024. The targeted consultation brochure was sent alongside a cover letter. A copy of the letter issued to the

Planning Inspectorate can be found in **Appendix H-2.1** and a copy of the targeted consultation brochure issued alongside it can be found in **Appendix H-3**.

- 7.3.4 The Planning Inspectorate sent an acknowledgement of the letter to the Applicant on Wednesday 9 October 2024. A copy of this acknowledgement can be found in **Appendix H-2.2**.

Identification of PILs

- 7.3.5 The Applicant identified 4 newly impacted land interests through diligent enquiry following the revisions to the draft Order Limits that resulted in the targeted consultation. These newly impacted land interests had not been considered as consultees under sections 42(1)(d) and 44 during the statutory consultation.
- 7.3.6 A letter was sent to these newly identified land interests by First Class post on Monday 7 October 2024 and invited them to provide comments on the revised proposals by 11:59pm on Friday 8 November 2024. The letter provided information about the Proposed Development, the Applicant's earlier statutory consultation, and the revisions to the draft Order Limits proposed at targeted consultation. The letter referenced the consultee's land interest details and provided details on how to respond to the targeted consultation, including the deadline for comments. A copy of the letter sent to newly identified PILs can be found in **Appendix H-4.1**.
- 7.3.7 The following consultation documents were issued to newly identified PILs, alongside the cover letter referenced above:
- A copy of the Peartree Hill Solar Farm targeted consultation brochure, outlining the changes to the draft Order Limits;
 - A plan showing the area in which we believe an interest was held;
 - A copy of the Peartree Hill Solar Farm statutory consultation newsletter;
 - A copy of the Peartree Hill Solar Farm statutory consultation brochure;
 - A copy of the s47/48 newspaper notice;
 - A Peartree Hill Solar Farm response form;
 - Freepost envelope
 - Draft Order Limits plan - showing the extents of the Proposed Development.
- 7.3.8 The letter also included a URL for the consultation website to view these materials online as well as details of how hard copies of the materials could be requested.
- 7.3.9 The Applicant identified 32 PILs, who had previously been consulted at statutory consultation, but who the Applicant believed to have land interests affected by

the revisions to the draft Order Limits being consulted on as part of the targeted consultation.

- 7.3.10 These parties were sent a letter by First Class post on Monday 7 October 2024, outlining the changes to the draft Order Limits and inviting them to provide comments on the revised proposals by 11:59pm on Friday 8 November. Enclosed with the letter was the targeted consultation brochure detailing the revisions, and a plan showing their individual interest in relation to the changes. A copy of the letter sent to PILs, that were deemed to be affected by the revisions but had already been consulted at statutory consultation can be found in **Appendix H-4.2** and a copy of the targeted consultation brochure issued alongside it can be found in **Appendix H-3**.

Identification of Statutory Consultees

- 7.3.11 Although the targeted consultation was non-statutory, there were a number of statutory parties the Applicant identified as potentially having an interest in the proposed changes to the draft Order Limits. A list of statutory consultees consulted as part of the targeted consultation is found in **Appendix H-4.3**.
- 7.3.12 These parties were sent a letter by First Class post on Monday 7 October 2024, outlining the changes to the Order Limits and inviting them to provide comments on the proposals by 11:59pm on Friday 8 November 2024. A copy of the letter issued to statutory parties can be found in **Appendix H-4.4**. A targeted consultation brochure was enclosed with the letter. A copy of the targeted consultation brochure can be found in **Appendix H-3**.
- 7.3.13 For those statutory parties the Applicant had email addresses for, an email was also sent on Tuesday 8 November 2024 about the targeted consultation. This included a link to the online consultation brochure. A copy of the email issued to statutory parties can be found in **Appendix H-4.9**.

Community consultees

- 7.3.14 The Applicant identified members of the public and community representatives that may have an interest in the revisions made to the draft Order Limits being consulted on as part of the targeted consultation. This included people living in the vicinity of each of the revisions to the draft Order Limits, community representatives that may be interested in the Proposed Development and those that had either registered for updates on the consultation website or had responded to the statutory consultation.
- 7.3.15 Rather than notifying all addresses within the PCZ, the Applicant assessed each of the changes to the draft Order Limits and identified any neighbours in the

vicinity who may be interested in the changes. A mailing zone showing the addresses contacted around each revision to the draft Order Limits can be found in **Appendix H-4.5**. These properties were sent a letter by First Class post on Monday 7 October 2024, outlining the changes to the draft Order Limits and inviting them to provide comments on the proposals by 11:59pm on Friday 8 November 2024. Enclosed with the letter was the targeted consultation brochure. A copy of the letter issued to identified addresses around each draft Order Limit can be found in **Appendix H-4.6**.

- 7.3.16 In addition, a number of other stakeholders, including elected representatives were identified as potentially having an interest in the targeted consultation. A list of community stakeholders identified as having an interest can be found in **Appendix H-4.7**. These parties were sent a letter by First Class post on Monday 7 October 2024, outlining the changes to the draft Order Limits and inviting them to provide comments on the proposals by 11:59pm on Friday 8 November. Enclosed with the letter was the targeted consultation brochure. A copy of the letter issued to community stakeholders can be found in **Appendix H-4.8**.
- 7.3.17 At the start of the targeted consultation, an email was sent to all those who had responded to the statutory consultation (those that had provided contact details to the Applicant and had consented to be contacted) and those who had registered for updates about the Proposed Development via the Applicant's consultation website, to inform them about the targeted consultation. A copy of the email issued to these interested parties can be found in **Appendix H-4.9**.

7.4 Targeted Consultation Promotion

- 7.4.1 To support the delivery of the targeted consultation, the Applicant produced a targeted consultation brochure to provide rationale for the targeted consultation, details of the 19 changes to the draft Order Limits, and the methods via which people could respond and the date by which responses needed to be provided. A reason for, and description of, each change to the draft Order Limits was also outlined within the document. A copy of the targeted consultation brochure can be found in **Appendix H-3**.
- 7.4.2 The consultation brochure was posted to all PILs identified, the identified statutory stakeholder list, community stakeholders and those regarded as interested parties. The brochure was also made available to view and download on the project webpage from Tuesday 8 October 2024 under the 'Targeted Consultation' and 'Document Library' pages. A screenshot of the targeted consultation brochure available to download on the consultation website can be found in **Appendix H-5**.

- 7.4.3 The Applicant created a new page on the consultation website called 'Targeted Consultation'. This could be found via the Homepage and via the Menu bar. The page included information on the rationale for the targeted consultation, links to open images of all 19 revisions to the draft Order Limits and details of how to respond to the consultation. A screenshot of the Targeted Consultation page on the consultation website can be found in **Appendix H-5**.
- 7.4.4 Hard copies of the targeted consultation materials were available at Beverley Library for the duration of the consultation for people to read and to take away. A photo of the targeted consultation materials available at the deposit point can be found in **Appendix H-6**. Hard copies were also available via mail on request to those who contacted the Applicant through the community contact channels, however no requests were received.
- 7.4.5 A social media post was also shared on the Peartree Hill Solar Farm Facebook page to notify any interested parties of the start of the targeted consultation. The post linked to the 'Targeted Consultation' page on the consultation website, where individuals could learn more about the revisions to the draft Order Limits and the opportunity to provide feedback as part of the targeted consultation. A copy of the social media post shared on Facebook can be found in **Appendix H-7**.
- 7.4.6 The Applicant remained contactable for interested parties to ask questions or raise concerns related to the revisions to the draft Order Limits or the targeted consultation via the community contact channels (phone, email and post).

7.5 Feedback Mechanisms

- 7.5.1 The targeted consultation provided the opportunity for people to comment on the revisions to the Proposed Development, as a result of changes to the draft Order Limits made after the close of statutory consultation.
- 7.5.2 Responses to the targeted consultation could be submitted via the following methods:
- Emailing **info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk**
 - Writing to **Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM** (no stamp required)
- 7.5.3 Responses received via these channels were considered as feedback if received ahead of the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on Friday 8 November 2024.

7.6 Responses Received to the Targeted Consultation

- 7.6.1 The Applicant received a total of 30 responses to the targeted consultation. Similarly to the feedback received during the non-statutory consultation, statutory consultation and other pre-submission engagement activities, the Applicant – as required under section 49 of the Act – has had regard to the comments received to this consultation exercise.
- 7.6.2 The Applicant received two consultation responses after the deadline and accepted these responses.

7.7 Feedback Analysis Methodology and Recording

Number and format of responses

- 7.7.1 A total of 30 responses were received in response to the targeted consultation.
- 7.7.2 Of these, 13 were submitted from respondents under section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, one under section 42(1)(b), five under section 42(1)(d), and 11 under section 47.
- 7.7.3 Beverley and North Holderness Drainage Board submitted a response on Tuesday 5 November. This response was accepted but on review the contents is specific to the Proposed Development as a whole, rather than to the targeted consultation. The issues raised and Applicant's consideration are included in the analysis.

Consultation analysis method

- 7.7.4 Following the close of the targeted consultation, the Applicant reviewed all the responses received.
- 7.7.5 A coding framework was used to capture and summarise the responses and identify themes and issues. The responses could receive multiple codes to highlight different issues covered. New classifications were added on an ad-hoc basis as feedback was received, allowing for further breakdown of themes.
- 7.7.6 To ensure quality, checks were made on the identification of issues by a senior member of the team.
- 7.7.7 The issues raised and Applicant's response to these issues can be found in **Appendix H-8**.

7.8 Summary of scheme changes as a result of targeted consultation

- 7.8.1 As part of the analysis of the feedback received to the targeted consultation, the Applicant reviewed and considered the suggested design changes.
- 7.8.2 Design changes suggested in response to the targeted consultation were carefully considered and assessed by specialists involved in the design of the Proposed Development. A review of commonly requested changes and whether they resulted in a change to the design of the Proposed Development and the reasons why, are summarised below. A full response to feedback received can be found in **Appendix H-8**.

Design changes made and why

- 7.8.3 The principal changes to the design of the Proposed Development sought to reduce the landscape and visual impact of the Proposed Development on local communities, create further enhancements for local wildlife and biodiversity, increase public access to areas of the site and reduce impacts during construction.
- 7.8.4 A summary of principal design changes made following the targeted consultation is provided below.

Change 6

- 7.8.5 Comments were received outlining concern for land take in providing HGV passing places along Carr Lane, as part of Change 6 presented in the targeted consultation.
- 7.8.6 Following the consultation, the Applicant revised the changes proposed so that the passing places did not extend into the adjoining field, while still ensuring the minimum passing space for two HGVs along Carr Lane.

Change 13

- 7.8.7 Comments were received from a local landowner regarding their intended use of the access track presented as Change 13 in the targeted consultation.
- 7.8.8 Following the consultation, the Applicant reverted to using an access track around the north of the Land Area, that was included in the Proposed Development presented at statutory consultation.

8 Approach to engagement between statutory consultation and application submission

8.1 Overview

- 8.1.1 **Chapter 8** outlines the engagement undertaken following statutory consultation. The feedback received at the statutory and targeted consultations, combined with further assessments and engagement with other stakeholders, allowed the Applicant to further refine its proposals.
- 8.1.2 This Chapter also includes details on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) statement and how the Applicant's regard to the advice that the Planning Inspectorate and affected statutory bodies has issued during the pre-application stage as per the Pre-Application Guidance.

8.2 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

- 8.2.1 As outlined previously in this Report, the Applicant produced an AoCM Statement in accordance with the Pre-Application Guidance and Prospectus.
- 8.2.2 A written submission was prepared by the Applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on Thursday 29 August 2024 to enable the Planning Inspectorate to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken to date on the Proposed Development.
- 8.2.3 The AoCM Statement provided an overview of the engagement and consultation activity to date and how it has met with the requirements of the PA 2008. A copy of the AoCM statement can be found in **Appendix I-1**. Section 51 advice was received from the Planning Inspectorate on Tuesday 17 September 2024 regarding the AoCM Statement. Details on how this has been considered are included in **Appendix I-2**.

8.3 Section 51 advice

- 8.3.1 Paragraph 026 of the Pre-application Guidance states that the Report should “*set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance*”.

- 8.3.2 The Applicant has engaged the Planning Inspectorate through the pre-application process including attending a number of meetings. The Planning Inspectorate took notes of these meetings, which were published on its website.
- 8.3.3 In addition, the Planning Inspectorate issued to the Applicant section 51 advice regarding the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) Regulations 2024 on 21 May 2024, the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement on Tuesday 17 September 2024 and the Programme Document on Monday 11 November 2024.
- 8.3.4 On Friday 11 October 2024, the Applicant submitted a number of draft application documents for review by the Planning Inspectorate as part of its Pre-application Service. The Planning Inspectorate issued section 51 advice regarding these documents on Tuesday 26 November 2024.
- 8.3.5 The Applicant has had regard to all section 51 advice received, as outlined in **Appendix I-2**.

8.4 Pre-application Guidance

- 8.4.1 Throughout this Report the Applicant has shown how it has met the requirements of the PA 2008 and associated legislation and regulations. In April 2024, updated Pre-application Guidance was released by the Planning Inspectorate.
- 8.4.2 **Appendix I-3** details how the Applicant has had regard to the advice in the Pre-Application Guidance.

8.5 Engagement with elected representatives

- 8.5.1 The Applicant has continued to provide updates to elected representatives. Following the end of the statutory consultation, the Applicant contacted local elected representatives, alongside those that had taken part in the statutory consultation and those who had signed up for project updates. The email was sent on Thursday 15 August 2024 and thanked recipients for their involvement in the consultation, provided high-level detail of the consultation response and notified them of expected next steps for the application. A copy of the email sent can be found in **Appendix I-4**.
- 8.5.2 Following the end of the targeted consultation, the Applicant wrote to the host and neighbouring MPs to the Proposed Development. This email was issued on Monday 11 November 2024 and provided an overview of responses received at the targeted consultation, provided details of next steps for the application and

included the offer of a briefing on the Proposed Development. A copy of this email is included in **Appendix I-5**.

- 8.5.3 As a new Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Infrastructure had been appointed in September 2024 at East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Applicant wrote to Councillor Gary McMaster in his new role on Wednesday 20 November 2024, providing an overview of the Proposed Development, and offering a briefing. A copy of this email is included in **Appendix I-6**.
- 8.5.4 Following submission of the application, the Applicant will notify local elected representatives that the application has been submitted and is awaiting acceptance by the Planning Inspectorate. This correspondence will also outline next steps for the application and the Applicant's commitments to ensuring the community is engaged throughout the process. A developed 'You Said, We Did' document will also be issued, see **Section 8.8** for more details.

8.6 Engagement with the host authority

- 8.6.1 Engagement with East Riding of Yorkshire Council has continued following statutory consultation and targeted consultation. This engagement has taken two forms, the first of which was a monthly call with the Planning Lead from East Riding of Yorkshire Council. This provided a regular touch point between the Applicant and East Riding of Yorkshire Council to provide updates on the Proposed Development. These monthly calls will continue following DCO submission to ensure that regular engagement is continued through the examination stage.
- 8.6.2 In addition to the monthly meetings, the Applicant has been in regular contact with technical specialist teams from East Riding of Yorkshire Council as and when necessary, for example to agree minor amendments to the Proposed Development or to discuss how comments from statutory consultation or previous stages of the Proposed Development have been addressed.

8.7 Engagement with technical stakeholders

- 8.7.1 Informal engagement with technical stakeholders has also continued following statutory consultation and targeted consultation, mainly via email. Where appropriate, following submission of the application, the Applicant will provide a response to prescribed consultees consulted under section 42, outlining the regard had to their consultation response.
- 8.7.2 **Table 25** outlines the dates and purposes of key engagement with technical environmental stakeholders following statutory consultation.

Table 25 Engagement with technical and environmental stakeholders

Technical stakeholder	Date/ method of engagement	Purpose
Historic England	Monday 11 November 2024, by email	<p>To outline how statutory consultation comments have been addressed in the Environmental Statement and other DCO Application documentation.</p> <p>To seek agreement that, at that point of pre-submission and prior to the publication of the Environmental Statement, there were no outstanding issues to be agreed with the consultee.</p> <p>Historic England responded (Monday 11 November 2024) stating that the issues mentioned were an accurate representation of those that had been raised, but that they could not comment further until the publication of the Environmental Statement.</p>
National Highways	Wednesday 6 November 2024, by email	<p>To outline how statutory consultation comments have been addressed in the Environmental Statement and other DCO Application documentation.</p> <p>To seek agreement that, at that point of pre-submission and prior to the publication of the Environmental Statement, there were no outstanding issues to be agreed with the consultee.</p> <p>National Highways responded (Monday 11 November 2024) stating that key consultation comments had been appropriately considered and accurately represented and that there were no outstanding issues at that stage.</p>
Natural England	Monday 15 July 2024, Microsoft Teams meeting	To seek advice, particularly in relation to the assessment of bird species associated with internationally designated sites (e.g. Humber SPA/Ramsar/SAC) and approaches to mitigation. Further details are provided in ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010157/APP/6.2] .
	Tuesday 30 July 2024, by email	To share a draft version of the Agricultural Land Classification Report with Natural England for comment. Further details are provided in ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010157/APP/6.2] .

	Monday 25 November 2024, by email	<p>To outline how statutory consultation comments have been addressed in the Environmental Statement and other DCO Application documentation and to reach agreement on any outstanding issues. To support this, the following documents were shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy (for consultation purposes only – contents have been incorporated into the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.5]); • A draft version of the Habitats Regulations Assessment – Information to Inform Appropriate Assessment; • A draft version of the Outline Soil Management Plan covering the grid connection cable route; and • A draft version of the Potential Main Issues for Examination document.
	Tuesday 14 January 2025, Microsoft Teams meeting	<p>To discuss Natural England's comments on the Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy and the draft version of the Habitats Regulations Assessment – Information to Inform Appropriate Assessment (shared on 25 November 2024).</p> <p>To provide an update on the proposed ecological mitigation and enhancement areas.</p> <p>To discuss the matters to be included in the Potential Main Issues for Examination [EN010157/APP/5.6].</p>
Environment Agency	Monday 1 July 2024, Microsoft Teams meeting	<p>To discuss the Environment Agency's response to the PEIR and a draft of the hydraulic modelling report (now Appendix C to ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.6: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4]). Further details are provided in ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010157/APP/6.2] and ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.6: Flood Risk Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4].</p>

	Tuesday 23 July, Microsoft Teams meeting	To discuss the Environment Agency's response to a draft of the Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report. Further details are provided in ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010157/APP/6.2] and ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.5: Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4] .
	Thursday 28 November 2024, by email	To outline how statutory consultation comments have been addressed in the Environmental Statement and other DCO Application documentation and to reach agreement on any outstanding issues. To support this, the following documents were shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft version of the Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report; and • A draft version of the Habitats Regulations Assessment – Information to Inform Appropriate Assessment (focussing on the section relating to river lamprey) • A draft version of the Potential Main Issues for Examination document
	Friday 29 November 2024, by email	To share a draft version of the Flood Risk Assessment with the Environment Agency for comment, with the aim of seeking agreement on its findings and content.
	Monday 20 January 2025, Microsoft Teams meeting	To discuss the Environment Agency's comments on the draft versions of the Water Framework Directive Screening and Scoping Report (shared on 28 November 2024) and the Flood Risk Assessment (shared on 29 November 2024). To confirm that a full Water Framework Directive Assessment is not required and that Water can be scoped out entirely as a standalone chapter in the Environmental Statement. To discuss the matters to be included in the Potential Main Issues for Examination [EN010157/APP/5.6] .

8.7.3 Alongside technical environment bodies, the Applicant has engaged with a number of utilities and statutory parties regarding their responses to statutory consultation as outlined in **Table 26**.

Table 26 Engagement with utilities and statutory parties

Statutory Undertaker	Date/ method of engagement	Purpose
National Gas Networks	Thursday 3 October 2024	The Applicant met with National Gas Networks to present the latest design in light of statutory consultation feedback and the guidance documents shared by National Gas Networks.
	Thursday 17 October 2024	The Applicant shared a copy of the draft DCO and Protective Provisions via email for National Gas Networks to review and provide comments.
	Monday 28 November 2024	The Applicant met with National Gas Networks to present the latest design and amendments made, and to provide an update on the DCO submission.
Northern Gas Networks	Thursday 09 January 2025	The Applicant issued a full written response to Northern Gas Networks statutory consultation feedback response, detailing how their comments had been incorporated into the latest design.
	Wednesday 22 January 2025	The Applicant met with Northern Gas Networks to present the final layout of the Proposed Development, and to discuss how regard was had to the statutory consultation feedback and the design guidance documents issued by Northern Gas Networks.
National Electricity Transmission plc	October 2023 – December 2025	Details of the Proposed Development were shared with NGET at the non-statutory, statutory and targeted consultation stages. Following the fixing of the final Order Limits, the Applicant commenced engagement with the NGET Estates team in December 2024. The focus of the discussions related to the Protective Provisions and the requirements for any property agreements.
	January 2025	The Applicant has engaged with the stakeholder and has had regard to their comments and proposals for the Creyke Beck

		<p>substation extension as part of the latest design development.</p> <p>The Applicant and NGET have shared iterations of the latest project proposals and are aligned in regard to the need for further engagement during the examination to identify and address any concerns as well as any potential opportunities for their respective projects.</p>
Northern Power Grid	October 2023 – January 2025	<p>Details of the Proposed Development were shared with NPG at the non-statutory, statutory and targeted consultation stages. Following the fixing of the final order limits, the Applicant commenced engagement with the NPG Estates team in December 2024. The focus of the discussions related to the Protective Provisions and the requirements for any property agreements.</p>
Network Rail	October 2023 – January 2025	<p>Details of the Proposed Development were shared with Network Rail at the non-statutory, statutory and targeted consultation stages.</p> <p>Early engagement was undertaken in March 2024 to discuss the merits and risks of several potential crossing points associated with the grid connection cable route. The Applicant briefed Network Rail on the three crossing options and discussed options for principle of crossing the railway.</p> <p>Following the fixing of the final order limits the Applicant commenced engagement with the NR Estates team throughout December 2024. The focus of the discussions related to the Protective Provisions and the requirements for any property agreements.</p> <p>Correspondence from Network Rail regarding the requirements for Basic Asset Protection Agreement was also provided in January 2025 and the Applicant is currently collating the necessary information in order to respond.</p>

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8.7.4 As part of the development of the draft DCO, the Applicant also shared a draft of the Development Consent Order and Explanatory Memorandum with a number of parties on Wednesday 16 October 2024, requesting any comments by Thursday 14 November 2024. A copy of the email is included in **Appendix I-7**. The draft DCO was sent to the below organisations.

- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- National Grid Electricity Transmission
- Environment Agency
- Network Rail
- National Gas Transmission Ltd
- Northern Gas Networks
- Northern Power Grid
- Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board

8.7.5 The **Potential Main Issues for Examination [EN010157/APP/5.6]** outlines any outstanding potential main issues with parties, including statutory bodies.

8.8 Engagement with communities

8.8.1 Following the end of the statutory consultation, the Applicant contacted members of the community that had responded to the statutory consultation and provided contact details, as well as those who had registered for updates on the consultation website. The email was sent on Thursday 15 August 2024 and thanked recipients for their involvement in the consultation, provided high-level detail of the consultation response and notified them of expected next steps for the application. A copy of the email can be found in **Appendix I-4**.

8.8.2 Paragraph 026 of the Pre-application Guidance states:

“It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.”

- 8.8.3 The Applicant has committed to developing a 'You Said, We Did' consultation document that outlines how community feedback has directly resulted in changes to the Proposed Development. This will include a link to the full consultation report. On acceptance of the application, the Applicant intends to release this onto the consultation website. The Applicant will contact members of the community that had responded to the statutory consultation and provided contact details, as well as those who had registered for updates on the consultation website and key stakeholders such as MPs and local councillors, to inform them of the document and where to access it.

8.9 Engagement with landowners

Landowners within the Land Areas

- 8.9.1 The Applicant has liaised with local landowners and adjacent neighbours throughout the development of the Proposed Development, before, during and after the statutory consultation. The formal periods of consultation with landowners are summarised in **Section 5.7** and **Section 7.3** of the Report.
- 8.9.2 The Applicant's preference is to negotiate and voluntarily agree all necessary land and rights with landowners to avoid the use of compulsory acquisition powers. Owners of land within the Land Areas have been approached and engaged in dialogue to ascertain if they would be willing to reach agreement with the Applicant for the use of their land by way of negotiated easements for the construction, operation and maintenance of the cable routes and freehold acquisition in respect of panel areas. As part of these discussions, the Applicant has also discussed temporary rights for construction compounds.
- 8.9.3 Outside of the statutory consultation, frequent meetings and liaison with landowners has been ongoing throughout the development of the Proposed Development, including face to face meetings, written communication and phone calls.
- 8.9.4 This early engagement with landowners focused on the nature of their interests in the land, the principle of the Proposed Development, and negotiating the voluntary agreements for the land to become part of the Proposed Development.
- 8.9.5 All correspondence has been agreed with landowners and where appropriate, their respective land agent, and the discussions have informed not only the site selection, but specific design decisions.
- 8.9.6 Communication and engagement with landowners have included, but not limited to: securing access agreements for necessary surveys and site investigation

works for the purposes of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Environmental Statement (ES), and further targeted consultation in winter 2023 (see **Chapter 9** of this Report for further information).

- 8.9.7 In respect of all panel areas for the Proposed Development, the Applicant has secured these areas through Option Agreements. This equates to 85% of the total land required for the Proposed Development.
- 8.9.8 In respect of all cable route areas, all private landowners have been issued Heads of Terms. The Applicant is continuing to engage in order to secure return of signed Heads of Terms and will provide updates at regular intervals during examination.
- 8.9.9 There are minor areas of land required for potential passing places on private land adjacent to public highways in respect of which Heads of Terms have been issued.
- 8.9.10 The **Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [EN010157/APP/4.4]**, submitted with the DCO Application, provides further detail on how the Applicant has engaged with affected landowners (owners and occupiers).

Beverley Pasture Masters

- 8.9.11 An act of Parliament passed in 1836 placed the management of the common pasture surrounding the town of Beverley, namely Westwood, Swinemoor and Figham, in the body of 12 pasture masters elected annually from among the pasture freemen. The Proposed Development includes impacts on Figham Common during the construction phase as a result of the installation of the 132kV cable which will connect the Land Areas to Creyke Beck Substation. In their response to the Statutory Consultation, the Beverley Pasture Masters raised concerns regarding potential impacts on livestock, the enjoyment of the common, drainage, reinstatement of grass and health and safety.
- 8.9.12 The Applicant met with the Beverley Pasture Masters on Wednesday 31 July 2024 to discuss the Proposed Development, the works within Figham Common and listen to their concerns. A further meeting was held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 to explain the latest changes proposed as part of the targeted consultation and how this would impact Figham Common. Ongoing engagement via emails in relation to the Heads of Terms for the cable easement has taken place since November 2024. In January 2025, the Applicant provided a written response to all matters raised by the Beverley Pasture Masters in their statutory consultation feedback response.

Ongoing diligent enquiry

- 8.9.13 The Applicant has continued to undertake diligent enquiries to identify any new interests. A land registry refresh took place in October 2024 ahead of the targeted consultation. This identified 4 new landowners who were consulted as part of the targeted consultation. More information is detailed in **Section 7.3**.
- 8.9.14 No new interests have been identified since targeted consultation.
- 8.9.15 A land registry refresh will be undertaken on project acceptance and prior to section 56 notices going out and again before the close of examination, to identify any new interests.
- 8.9.16 The **Book of Reference [EN010157/APP/4.2]** identifies all persons with an interest in land impacted by the Proposed Development.

9 Conclusion

- 9.1.1 This Report has been submitted in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008, which requires that any application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by a Consultation Report.
- 9.1.2 In compliance with section 37(7) of the PA 2008, this Report provides details of:
- how the Applicant has carried out consultation in compliance with statutory requirements (namely section 42, section 47 and section 48 of the PA 2008), in relation to statutory consultation;
 - a summary of the relevant responses received by the Applicant in response to the statutory consultation, further targeted consultation and publicity of the proposed Application;
 - how the Applicant had regard to the relevant responses, in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008.
- 9.1.3 Additionally, this Report details how the Applicant carried out early and continuous meaningful engagement with stakeholders, and how the feedback received throughout the pre-application process has been taken into account when developing the design of the Proposed Development.
- 9.1.4 This Report has also set out how the Applicant has carried out pre-application consultation and engagement in accordance with the EIA Regulations.
- 9.1.5 The Applicant held a non-statutory consultation from Monday 9 October to Monday 6 November 2023. The purpose of the non-statutory consultation was to seek the views of the local authorities, local community, landowners, local businesses and interest groups, and technical stakeholders on the proposals for the Proposed Development. The approach to consultation, feedback and changes made following the non-statutory consultation can be found in **Chapter 2**.
- 9.1.6 In this Report, the Applicant has demonstrated that a proactive and inclusive approach to consultation has been undertaken during the pre-application stage of the Proposed Development. The approach taken enabled stakeholders the opportunity to influence and inform the design of the Proposed Development, as evidenced throughout this Report and supporting Appendices. The evidence supports the assertion that the Proposed Development, which is subject to this application for development consent, has been designed in a way which has taken into account feedback from prescribed consultees, those with land interests, local interest groups and members of the local communities, such that changes have been made to the design as a direct result of their feedback.

- 9.1.7 The Applicant received 155 responses to the statutory consultation. Respondents raised a wide range of matters which were categorised according to a series of themes which capture those matters. These principal themes are described in **Chapter 6**. The Applicant has complied with section 49 of the PA 2008 (Ref. 1) by demonstrating in **Chapter 6** and **Appendix G** that it has had regard to all of the statutory consultation responses received and the comments raised within them.
- 9.1.8 A summary of the changes made to the Proposed Development as a result of the statutory consultation is set out in **Chapter 6** and detailed in **Appendix G**.
- 9.1.9 A further targeted consultation took place between Tuesday 8 October and Friday 8 November 2024. In total, 30 responses were received to this non-statutory consultation. Details of the targeted consultation are included in **Chapter 7**. Responses to the consultation have been analysed and the Applicant's response to issues raised captured in **Appendix H-8**.
- 9.1.10 This report has demonstrated through the number and nature of comments summarised in this report, consultation has proven effective in securing valuable feedback which has informed the Proposed Development submitted for development consent.
- 9.1.11 This Report has been prepared in accordance with guidance and advice published by the Planning Inspectorate. The Applicant recognises and fully appreciates the time taken by those who have engaged in the consultation process and provided their views on the Proposed Development.
- 9.1.12 It is therefore concluded that the Applicant has complied with all statutory requirements of the PA 2008 in relation to carrying out consultation prior to submitting the DCO Application.

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