



Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Consultation Report Appendices Part I

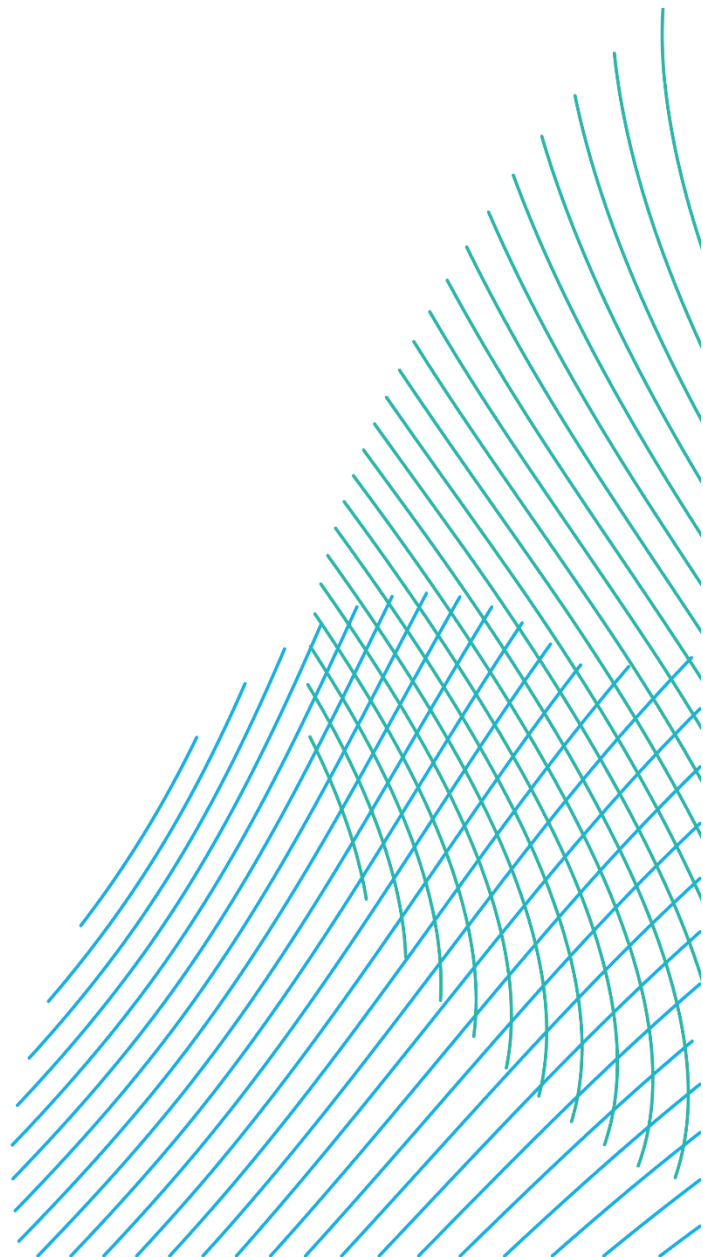
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February 2025

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



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1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This document the Consultation Report Appendices contains information relevant to the **Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1]**. The Consultation Report has been prepared by RWE (as the Applicant) to accompany an application for a Development Consent Order for Peartree Hill Solar Farm (the Proposed Development).
- 1.1.1. The report is submitted in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008), which requires that any application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by a consultation report.
- 1.1.2. This document contains information which evidences or supports the information provided in the **Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1]**.

1.2 Structure of this document

- 1.2.1. The Appendices are as far as possible the order that are referenced within that report.
- 1.2.2 A list is provided below in Table 1-1 of the documents within Appendix I.

Table 1-1 List of documents in Appendix I

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Appendix I-3	Regard to Pre-application guidance
Appendix I-4	End of statutory consultation email
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Appendix I-1 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement



Pear tree Hill Solar Farm EN010157

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

August 2024

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.0 This Adequacy of Consultation Report ('the Report') has been prepared by RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage Ltd ('we' or 'the Applicant') as part of the development of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Peartree Hill Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.1 The Proposed Development is defined as a NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008¹ ('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)).
- 1.1.2 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 construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, including compulsory acquisition powers (if required).
- 1.1.3 In April 2024, the Government introduced new guidance:
- (1) Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects² ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024)
- (2) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus³ ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024)
- 1.1.4 Both the Guidance and the Prospectus sets out the requirements and expectations in the preparation of an application for development consent.

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

² 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>

³ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Available online [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus)

- 1.1.5 The Guidance and Prospectus introduce a new early adequacy of consultation milestone (AoCM), aimed at providing the Applicant with an opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a document setting out the consultation undertaken to date, confirming that the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation have been met and providing a summary of consultation responses received and how these responses are shaping the proposed application. To inform the AoCM a written submission should be prepared by the Applicant to enable the Planning Inspectorate to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date on the Proposed Development with the objective of minimising the risk of non-acceptance at application acceptance stage.
- 1.1.6 The Guidance states: *“This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.*
- “The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.”*
- 1.1.7 The AoCM is a non-statutory requirement.
- 1.1.8 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.
- 1.1.9 The Applicant has taken a proactive approach to pre-application engagement with consultees and local communities which has helped the Applicant understand concerns and shape proposals ahead of submission. This Report provides an overview of the engagement and consultation activity to date and how it has met with the requirements the PA 2008.

1.2 Peartree Hill Solar Farm

- 1.2.0 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.

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 The Proposed Development comprises the following main elements:
- Solar PV modules and associated mounting structures;
 - On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, and switchgear;
 - A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
 - Two on-site substations to connect the solar PV modules to distribution and transmission networks;
 - Low voltage and 33 kilovolts (kV) interconnecting cabling within the land areas to connect the solar PV modules together and to connect the solar PV modules to the two on-site substations;
 - 132 kV underground cabling connecting the on-site substations to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation;
 - Associated infrastructure including access tracks, parking, security measures, gates and fencing, lighting, drainage infrastructure and storage containers;
 - Works at National Grid Creyke Beck Substation to facilitate the connection of the 132 kV underground cabling in to the Substation;
 - Highways works to facilitate access for construction vehicles;
 - Environmental mitigation and enhancement measures; and
 - Temporary development during the construction phase of the Proposed Development including construction compounds, parking and temporary access roadways.
- 1.2.3 The Proposed Development also falls within the definition of 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development' as defined within the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (hereafter, 'EIA Regulations')². An Environmental Statement will therefore be submitted alongside the DCO application. A request for a scoping opinion was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on Thursday 9 November 2023.

2 Overview of consultation and engagement to date

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.0 The Applicant has conducted extensive pre-application consultation in preparing its DCO application. This included early engagement with stakeholders and the community to introduce the Proposed Development, a period of non-statutory consultation and a period of statutory consultation intended to meet the requirements set by the PA 2008 and EIA Regulations, all prior to the submission of a DCO application.
- 2.1.1 The main stages of consultation undertaken were:
- **Autumn 2023:** A four-week non-statutory public consultation took place between Monday 9 October and Monday 6 November 2023. The initial 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.
 - **Spring 2024:** A statutory consultation which ran for 6 weeks from Wednesday 15 May to Wednesday 26 June 2024. The consultation set out the detailed elements of the Proposed Development, including changes made since the non-statutory consultation, along with a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') which presented the preliminary findings of the environmental impact assessment of the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.2 Key local stakeholders, including all host parish councils, host and neighbouring MPs and key East Riding of Yorkshire councillors, were informed of the proposals ahead of the non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation, with invitations to be briefed/updated on the proposed development. Meetings were conducted from September 2023, through the non-statutory consultation period to November 2023 and then in the run-up and during statutory consultation, as outlined in **Table 2.1** below.
- 2.1.3 At statutory consultation, Riston Parish Council requested a public meeting in addition to the parish council briefing. The Applicant delivered a public session in Riston Village Hall on Monday 24 June 2024.

Table 2.1: Meetings with local representatives

Stakeholder	Date of Meeting
The office of David Davis, MP for Haltemprice and Howden	Wednesday 20 September 2023
The office of Graham Stuart, MP for Beverley and Holderness	Wednesday 18 October 2023
Councillor Leo Hammond (Cabinet member for Planning, Communities and Public Protection) and the Director of Planning and Development Manager), East Riding of Yorkshire Council	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
Cottingham Parish Council	Tuesday 24 October 2023
Leven Parish Council	Tuesday 7 November 2023
Cllr Philip Redshaw, Cottingham North Ward, East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Monday 15 April 2024
The office of Graham Stuart, MP for Beverley and Holderness	Monday 15 April 2024
Cllr John Holtby and Cllr Samantha Whyte, Mid-Holderness ward, East Riding of Yorkshire	Friday 03 May 2024
Cllr Hammond, Cabinet member Planning, Communities and Public Protection, East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Wednesday 08 May 2024
Cllr Amanda Talbot, Mid Holderness ward, East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Wednesday 08 May 2024
Tickton and Routh Parish Council	Monday 20 May 2024
Skidby Parish Council	Tuesday 04 June 2024
Cottingham Parish Council	Tuesday 04 June 2024
Riston Parish Council	Wednesday 05 June 2024
Catwick Parish Council	Wednesday 19 June 2024
Beverley Town Council	Monday 08 July 2024

- 2.1.4 As part of the development of the technical design and environmental assessment work, engagement has taken place with a number of statutory consultees since Summer 2023, including East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England. This engagement helped shape the PEIR and will inform the Environmental Statement. A summary of engagement undertaken with relevant environmental bodies will be included in the Environmental Statement and Consultation Report.
- 2.1.5 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 statutory consultation in accordance with the PA 2008. The Applicant consulted with the host local authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, about what was to be in the SoCC prior to its publication. The Applicant also consulted Hull City Council, as a neighbouring authority which has the cable route going close to its boundary line. Details of how the consultation was delivered in line with the SoCC are shown in **Section 3**.
- 2.1.6 The Applicant is currently analysing responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will produce a Consultation Report as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008 and the recently updated Planning Inspectorate guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report'.
- 2.1.7 The Applicant will continue to engage statutory bodies on any outstanding issues and the current liaison plan includes a monthly meeting with East Riding of Yorkshire Council.
- 2.1.8 As part of design refinements after the statutory consultation, the Applicant has identified some small changes to the red line boundary around the selected cable corridor. These are needed to facilitate access points for construction. A targeted consultation is planned for September 2024 to consult on these changes. All impacted land interests will be notified with details of the changes. The parish councils and highways authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, will also be consulted. The targeted consultation will be in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC. Consultees will be given 28 days to provide their comments by email to the Applicant. All feedback will be considered and captured in the Consultation Report.

2.2 Non-statutory consultation

- 2.2.0 A four-week non-statutory public consultation took place between Monday 9 October and Monday 6 November 2023. Over the course of the non-statutory consultation, the project team held three face-to-face public exhibitions and two webinars. The consultation was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings, newspaper and social media adverts and posters sent to local parishes. Dedicated information channels were established for those who had questions about the Proposed Development or needed to get in contact with the project team.
- 2.2.1 Over 100 responses were received from during the non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023. All issues raised were considered and responded to as part of our non-statutory Consultation Report, published in January 2024 on the project website⁴.
- 2.2.2 **Table 2.2** below outlines the key changes to the scheme which were implemented as a result of the feedback received at non-statutory consultation and presented at statutory consultation.

Table 2.2: Key changes in response to feedback received at non-statutory consultation

⁴ Peartree Hill Solar Farm Non-Statutory Consultation Report <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2024/05/Non-Statutory-Consultation-Report-January-2024.pdf>

Feedback	Response
<p>The Applicant received comments regarding the size of the Land Areas presented at non-statutory consultation and concerns regarding potential visual impact.</p>	<p>Within the Land Areas, the Applicant reduced the area proposed for solar panels, and associated infrastructure for statutory consultation. This enabled the addition of appropriate buffers to homes, villages and environmental features closest to the site. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Area A: the environmental mitigation and enhancement area in the northern part of the Land Area was increased, which minimised any potential impacts on identified below-ground archaeology. • Land Area B: an area (0.44 hectares) in the southern part of Land Area B was removed from being solar development. • Land Area C: solar areas proposed to be set back to reduce visual impact on local properties. • Land Area D: solar areas proposed to be set back to reduce visual impact on local properties and solar panels removed near Meaux Deserted Medieval Village to protect its setting. • Land Area E: two fields removed from solar development and instead proposed to be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement, reducing the impact on nearby properties. • Land Area F: solar panels removed from areas to minimise potential impacts on below-ground archaeology.
<p>The Applicant received comments on land use and ensuring impacts on ecology are mitigated.</p>	<p>The Applicant increased the areas that are proposed for ecological mitigation, ecological enhancement and land retained for agricultural use. The illustrative masterplan shows proposed locations for outdoor classrooms, wildflower meadows and amenity spaces</p>
<p>The Applicant received comments about the visual impact of the solar farm.</p>	<p>The Applicant progressed plans to include new planting across the site to screen views of solar infrastructure from residential areas, roads and footpaths.</p>

The Applicant received comments outlining the desire for Peartree Hill Solar Farm to include public rights of way, bridleways and new permissive paths.	The Applicant progressed plans to include new permissive paths within the Proposed Development, which could provide up to 7km of new walking routes.
The Applicant received comments outlining the importance of locating battery energy storage and on-site substations with consideration to location, visibility and noise.	The Applicant progressed the site configuration to consider siting the two on-site substations in Land Areas C and E, alongside battery storage, adjacent to existing vegetation which provides screening.

2.3 Statutory consultation

- 2.3.0 A six-week statutory public consultation took place between Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 26 June 2024. In accordance with the SoCC, the Applicant held four face-to-face public exhibitions and two webinars. A suite of consultation material was developed including a consultation brochure, newsletter, PEIR and non-technical summary of the PEIR. All materials were available on the Applicant's website.⁵
- 2.3.1 Consultation was undertaken in line with the requirements of the PA 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Notices about the consultation were published in a local newspaper and national newspaper and section 42 consultees were identified and were sent a consultation pack including a section 42 letter, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, section 47/48 notice, feedback form and return envelope.

⁵ Peartree Hill Solar Farm documents page: <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/documents/>

- 2.3.2 Schedule 1 to the APFP Regs was amended so that from 30 April 2024, ‘relevant’ (for ‘relevant parish council’ for example) is defined 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.” [PINS Advice Note 3 \(EIA notification and consultation\)](#) was revised in May 2024 but does not update the position on the ‘relevance test’ in light of the new changes introduced and what the Planning Inspectorate interprets ‘responsibility for an area which neighbours that location’ to be. The Applicant therefore decided to take a precautionary approach and consulted all parish councils that have a boundary with a parish council in which the Proposed Development is located. In addition, any Internal Drainage Board, Highways Authority, statutory undertaker, police authority, ambulance authority and fire and rescue authority within 1km of the Proposed Development were consulted with under section 42 of the PA 2008 on Monday 24 June 2024. To ensure these consultees had sufficient time to consider the proposals the consultation was extended until 11.59pm on Friday 26 July.
- 2.3.3 The Consultation Report will outline how the Applicant identified and consulted with the relevant prescribed bodies and local authorities as required under section 42 and how it publicised the application in the prescribed manner in line with the requirements of section 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.
- 2.3.4 A printing error was identified in the consultation brochures sent as part of the section 42 pack on 13 May 2024. The incorrect land area plan was printed on page 11 for ‘Land area B: Land North West of Long Riston.’
- 2.3.5 The below actions were undertaken to address this:
- The consultation brochure was updated so that the correct version was available on the project website www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk from the start of consultation (Wednesday 15 May 2024).
 - A correction letter was sent to all consultees and key stakeholders, who had received the initial letter, 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.
 - New copies of the corrected consultation brochure were printed for deposit locations and in time for the all in-person consultation events.
 - Whilst the new copies of the consultation brochure were being printed, the Applicant manually added an insert into the consultation brochures left at deposit points of the corrected page 11 and clearly indicated with a label that page 11 within the consultation brochure has an error.
- 2.3.6

2.4 Landowner engagement

- 2.4.0 As part of the initial project development phase, the Applicant identified and engaged with landowners on the proposed parcels which could host the solar farm. As part of the non-statutory consultation, three indicative cable route corridor options - which would link the solar farm to the National Grid Creyke Beck substation, near Cottingham – were presented. Landowners within these corridors were identified and sent a letter at the start of the non-statutory consultation informing them that one of the presented options passes through land they own or occupy and inviting them to comment on the proposals.
- 2.4.1 Ahead of the statutory consultation, the Applicant carried out diligent inquiry in order to identify all persons who fall within the categories set out in section 44 of the PA 2008 for the Proposed Development. Such persons will be listed in the Book of Reference which will be submitted as part of the DCO application. All land interests have been consulted about the proposed scheme in accordance with section 42 of the PA 2008, which will be described in the Consultation Report. Any interests that were identified following the start of the consultation period were given 30 days in which to provide responses to ensure that they had sufficient time to consider the proposals.

3 Statement of Community Consultation

3.1 Development of the SoCC

- 3.1.0 A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared, consulted on and published following the process as prescribed in section 47 of the PA 2008, prior to starting statutory consultation for the Proposed Development.
- 3.1.1 The Applicant's approach to consultation and engagement with the local community started with the Applicant's initial meeting with the host authority in August 2023. In this meeting, the Applicant shared a high-level timeline for consultation and discussed the two-stage consultation approach. Alongside issuing notes from this meeting, the Applicant shared the draft Communications and Engagement Strategy with officers for information.
- 3.1.2 Following the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant began the preparation of the SoCC. The draft SoCC provided information about the Proposed Development, the developer, details of the proposed development, the Applicant, non-statutory engagement and outlined the statutory consultation process, including how the public can participate and respond.
- 3.1.3 The purpose of the SoCC was to establish how the Applicant would consult and engage with the local communities likely to be affected by the Proposed Development.

3.2 Consultation on the SoCC

- 3.2.0 The Applicant identified East Riding of Yorkshire Council as the relevant host local authority under section 43(1) of the PA 2008. Hull City Council was also identified as a non-statutory consultee as a neighbouring authority which has a cable route option going close to its boundary line.
- 3.2.1 An early draft was sent to both local planning authorities on Monday 22 January 2024. Any comments were requested by Friday 5 February 2024. No comments were received from either local planning authority on the early draft.
- 3.2.2 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 and neighbouring authority Hull City Council and took regard of comment received. The SoCC was sent on Thursday 29 February 2024.

3.2.3 Comments were received by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 8 March 2024. A copy of the response is included in Appendix A. No comments were received from Hull City Council.

3.2.4 The following table outlines the comments received from East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the changes made to the SoCC.

Table 3.1: 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 TA/Ecology information for consulting with He and NE etc?	<p>No change made. The Applicant did not have a draft Traffic Assessment to share at the PEIR stage.</p> <p>The PEIR (which was issued as part of the statutory consultation) included Transport and Ecology chapters with corresponding figures and appendices.</p> <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>
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

3.2.5 On 11 April 2024 an updated final version of the SoCC was issued to East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council.

3.2.6 The consultation dates were subsequently amended to Wednesday 15 May to Wednesday 26 June 2024 and the SoCC amended to reflect the change.

3.2.7 In addition, two other changes were made to the SoCC:

- 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.

- Amendment to the local papers the notice was placed in. The Beverley and Holderness Gazette does not exist therefore notices will be placed in the Hull Daily Mail and Yorkshire Post which both cover the area of the Proposed Development.

3.2.8 An updated version of the SoCC was issued to East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council on 29 April 2024.

3.2.9 Copies of the emails and draft SoCC sent to the local authorities will be included in the Consultation Report.

3.3 Publicity under Section 47 of the Act

3.3.0 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 consultation, as detailed below:

- Adverts publicising locations where the SoCC could be viewed were placed in the following newspapers:
 - Hull Daily Mail on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024
 - Yorkshire Post on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024
 - Guardian on 14 May 2024
 - London Gazette on 14 May 2024
- A paper copy of the SoCC was also placed at Beverley Library and Leven Library and Tickton Village Hall from 15 May 2024.
- Available at each of the four consultation events held.
- Viewable on the project website, from 15 May 2024.

3.4 Adherence with the SoCC

3.4.0 The following table shows how the 2024 statutory consultation was undertaken in compliance with the published SoCC, as per the requirements of section 47(7) of the PA 2008.

3.4.1 The Consultation Report and its supporting appendices will include all evidence of compliance.



Table 3-2 SoCC Commitments and evidence of compliance

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 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.	<p>The Applicant ran the Statutory Consultation (in compliance with Section 47) between Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 26 June 2024.</p> <p>For any consultees sent the consultation materials after the start of the consultation, the deadline for those responses was extended to allow 30 days in which to provide their responses</p>
6.1.3	<p>As well as the community consultation in accordance with Section 47, this consultation will also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under Section 42 of the PA 2008). • Consultation with host and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (under Section 43 of the PA 2008). • Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by The Project (under Section 44 of the PA 2008); and general public consultation on the Project (under Section 48 of the PA 2008) 	All statutory consultees were notified of the consultation. Details of this will be included in the Consultation Report.

<p>6.2.2 and 6.2.3</p>	<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 • Where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications 	<p>The PCZ included over 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>
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<p>6.2.4 and 6.2.5</p>	<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 • relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups 	<p>A stakeholder list was created, and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p> <p>A reminder email was also sent to stakeholders on Wednesday 12 June informing them that there were two weeks until the end of the consultation.</p> <p>The general election was called during the statutory consultation. Due to the pre-election period, the Applicant decided not to engage prospective parliamentary candidates.</p>
<p>6.2.6</p>	<p>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>	<p>The Applicant accepted all responses to consultation and promoted the consultation outside the PCZ.</p>

<p>6.3.1</p>	<p>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>	<p>The Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital methods throughout the consultation through events, feedback mechanisms, and mailings.</p> <p>All information was available on the project website https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/</p> <p>Hard copies of materials could be requested and were also available to take away in hard copy from the in-person consultation events and deposit points.</p> <p>Respondents could submit feedback through both online and hard-copy feedback questionnaires, as well as writing or emailing a written response directly to the Applicant. People could also provide comments by phone.</p> <p>Four in person consultation events were held and two webinars.</p>
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<p>6.3 Table 2</p>	<p>Inside the consultation zone</p> <p>All homes and businesses within the PCZ will receive a 4-page consultation newsletter with high-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>The 4-page consultation newsletter was sent to all those within the PCZ by second class post on 11 May 2024.</p> <p>Four consultation events were held during the statutory consultation.</p> <p>A stakeholder list was created, and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p> <p>The Applicant offered meetings to parish councils impacted by the Proposed Development. In total, the Applicant delivered six presentations to parish councils and held an additional public meeting at Riston Village Hall.</p> <p>The Applicant identified local poster points, including parish councils, shops and village halls.</p> <p>The poster locations identified were sent a poster advertising the consultation by first class post on 14 May 2024, including the time and location of events and where to submit feedback.</p>
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	<p>Outside of the primary consultation zone 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>A press release was sent about the consultation on 15 May 2024 and reminder press release sent on 5 June 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant used social media advertising to promote the consultation, the reach of the paid posts was set to approximately 15km from Proposed Development to help capture those outside the primary consultation zone/</p> <p>A stakeholder list was created, and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p>
	<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 11 am and 7pm on a mixture of weekdays and weekends to accommodate different availability.</p>	<p>The Applicant held four in-person events at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottingham Civic Hall • Leven Village Hall • Tickton Village Hall • Wawne Village Hall <p>The events were advertised through the statutory notices, stakeholder letters, an email publicising the launch of consultation, the consultation leaflet, press release, social media and posters.</p> <p>The events took place for at least four hours between 11am and 7pm and included a Saturday event.</p>

	<p>Webinars</p> <p>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 • Wednesday 12 June 2024 <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 project website.</p> <p>In total, 14 people registered for the webinars and seven attended across the two events.</p> <p>The recordings of the webinars were uploaded to the project website https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/documents/</p>
	<p>Project information line and email</p> <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 PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM). The project team will aim to respond to all enquiries within five working days.</p>	<p>The contact channels were managed throughout the consultation period. The Applicant aimed to respond to all enquiries within 5 working days.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 locations above. Where 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>	<p>Consultation material was made available from the start of consultation at Beverley Library and Leven Library. The Applicant regularly contacted the libraries to ensure the deposit points had enough materials available.</p> <p>Consultation material, including the PEIR, was also available to view at Tickton Village Hall.</p> <p>Consultation material was also given out at parish council briefings.</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 locations and consultation events.</p>	<p>The project website was updated with consultation material and also a link to the online survey. All material was made available on the project website from the start of consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024.</p>

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>The consultation brochure included a section titled 'you said, we did' which provided an overview of the changes made as a result of feedback received at non-statutory consultation.</p> <p>In addition, on the project website showed before and after area plans to allow people to see changes in the proposals.</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. • PEIR Non-Technical summary – providing a summary of the findings from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). • Consultation Brochure – this brochure will provide an overview of the proposals including a summary of each land area and the cable route. • Maps – The maps will set out the site areas 	The PEIR, Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR, Consultation Brochure and maps were all available at deposit points, at consultation events and on the project website throughout the consultation.

<p>6.4.3</p>	<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 project website from the start of consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Information on how to request hard copies of materials was included in statutory notices, in the consultation brochure and consultation newsletter.</p> <p>We received request for hard copies from 3 people, including Swine Parish Council and Catwick Parish Council.</p> <p>There were no requests for hard-copies of the PEIR.</p>
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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 consultation newsletter was developed in line with information in the SoCC. The 4-page consultation newsletter was sent to all those within the PCZ by 2nd class post on 11 May 2024.</p> <p>A copy of the newsletter was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard-to-reach groups, local schools and other key organisations, on 11 May 2024 and to statutory consultees 13 May 2024 to key stakeholders.</p> <p>The newsletter was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points</p>
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	<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 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 locations, and on request by contacting the communications team.</p> <p>The brochure will also be available for download from the project website</p>	<p>The consultation brochure was developed in line with information in the SoCC.</p> <p>A copy of the brochure was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard-to-reach groups, local schools and other key organisations, on 11 May 2024 and to statutory consultees 13 May 2024 to key stakeholders.</p> <p>The brochure was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p>
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	<p>Feedback form</p> <p>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>The feedback form will also be available to download from the website, complete in pen and return to Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM.</p>	<p>The feedback form was available to complete on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>It was also available to download from the website.</p> <p>A copy of the feedback form was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard-to-reach groups, local schools and other key organisations, on 11 May 2024 and to statutory consultees 13 May 2024 to key stakeholders.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points</p>
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	<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. The banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the Proposed Development at the public exhibitions and will allow for further discussions with members of the project team 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>12 pull-up banners were produced for the consultation events.</p> <p>The banners were available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p>
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	<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.</p> <p>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>The PEIR was developed in line with information in the SoCC.</p> <p>The PEIR was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>No requests were received for a hard-copy of the PEIR.</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 non-technical summary of the PEIR was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p>

	<p>Technical maps and plans of the project</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 locations. 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 land areas were available to view on the website from 15 May 2024. In addition, a feature was added to the website allowing people to compare the plans presented at non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation.</p> <p>Technical plans and maps were also available at all consultation events. There were no requests for printed copies of the maps.</p>
	<p>Project Website</p> <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 • Webinar sign-up form • Contact details 	<p>Information about the consultation events was added to the website on 8 May 2024, including the ability to sign up for webinars.</p> <p>The project website peartreehillsolar.co.uk was updated with consultation information, material and the online feedback form from 15 May 2024.</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 a national newspaper, pursuant to section 48 of the Act.</p>	

	<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 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 Act.</p>	<p>Statutory notices were placed in the following newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hull Daily Mail on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 • Yorkshire Post on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 • Guardian on 14 May 2024 • London Gazette on 14 May 2024 <p>Consultation material, including the PEIR, was also available to view at Tickton Village Hall.</p> <p>The SoCC was available to view on the project website on 15 May 2024. It was also available to view at all consultation events and at the deposit points.</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>No requests were made for alternative formats of the consultation material.</p>

<p>6.5.1 to 6.5.3</p>	<p>Four public consultation events will be held for communities to find out information about the Project and speak to members of the project team. 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 • Saturday 1 June 2024, 11am-3pm, Tickton Village Hall Main Street, Tickton, East Yorkshire, HU17 9RZ 	<p>The Applicant held four consultation events over the consultation period at the stated locations, dates and times in the SoCC.</p> <p>In total, 153 people attended the events.</p> <p>At the events, attendees could view the exhibition banners, maps of the proposals, PEIR and SoCC. Attendees could take copies of the consultation brochure, newsletter, non-technical summary of the PEIR and feedback form.</p> <p>The Applicant ensured project team members with a wide variety of technical expertise were in attendance at each event so as to enable more detailed and technical discussions with stakeholders.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 3 June 2024, 1pm-6.30pm, Wawne Village Hall 36 Main Street, Wawne, Hull, HU7 5XH 	
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 consultation newsletter was developed in accordance with information in the SoCC.</p> <p>A copy of the newsletter was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard-to-reach groups, local schools and other key organisations, on 11 May 2024 and to statutory consultees 13 May 2024 to key stakeholders.</p> <p>The newsletter was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p> <p>27% of those that completed the feedback survey stated they found out about the consultation through the project newsletter.</p>
	<p>Press releases</p> <p>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>A press release was sent to regional news organisations on 15 May 2024. A reminder press release was sent on 5 June 2024.</p>

	<p>Stakeholder briefings</p> <p>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>A stakeholder list was created and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p> <p>All parish councils impacted by the Proposed Development were contacted ahead of the start of consultation offering a briefing. Follow-up contact was made during the consultation to reiterate the offer.</p> <p>The project team provided briefings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickton and Routh Parish Council • Skidby Parish Council • Cottingham Parish Council • Riston Parish Council • Catwick Parish Council • Beverley Town Council <p>In addition, Riston Parish Council asked to hold an additional public meeting for residents. This was held on Monday 24 June.</p> <p>The project team also offered briefings to ward members, the cabinet member Planning, Communities and Public Protection at East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the MP for Beverley and Holderness.</p>
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	<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; • 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>A key stakeholder list was created and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by letter (11 May 2024) and/or by email (15 May 2024). These recipients received a consultation pack including a letter, consultation newsletter, brochure, feedback form and return envelope.</p> <p>On 15 May 2024 we sent an email about the start of consultation to all those who had previously taken part in the non-statutory consultation and those who had registered for email updated on the website.</p> <p>Neighbouring parish councils were missed off the original consultation list, as such a letter was sent to them on Monday 24 June including a copy of the consultation brochure, newsletter, copy of the statutory notice, feedback form and return envelope. The deadline for receiving responses was extended to Friday 26 July 2024.</p>
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	<p>Statutory notices</p> <p>Statutory notices to publicise the SoCC and consultation, in accordance with section 48 and section 47 of the Act, 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>Statutory notices were placed in newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hull Daily Mail on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024• Yorkshire Post on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024• Guardian on 14 May 2024• London Gazette on 14 May 2024
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	<p>Information Posters</p> <p>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>The poster was sent on 14 May 2024 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catwick Parish Council, • Riston Parish Council, • Tickton and Routh Parish Council, • Wawne Parish Council, • Leven Parish Council • Woodmansey Parish Council • Swine Parish Council • Brandesburton Parish Council • Cottingham Parish Council • Skidby Parish Council • Beverley Town Council • Beverley Library • Leven Library • Crown and Anchor Tickton Beverley • Micro Pig Bar • Tastie Butties • Nags Head
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickton Post Office and Store • Walkington Post Office • Costcutter, Wawne Village Shop
	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.	The project Facebook page was used to promote the consultation. Paid for advertising was used to boost key posts. In total, there were five boosted posts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post 1: 13,996 reach and 485 post engagements • Post 2: 19,032 reach and 509 post engagements • 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
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.	There were no activities in the SoCC that needed to be substituted.

<p>6.7.1 and 6.7.2</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 information about the consultation with members of their constituency/local community.</p>	<p>Technical engagement with statutory consultees has been ongoing through non-statutory and statutory consultation.</p> <p>All parish councils impacted by the Proposed Development were contacted ahead of the start of consultation offering a briefing. Follow-up contact was made during the consultation to reiterate the offer.</p> <p>The project team provided briefings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickton and Routh Parish Council • Skidby Parish Council • Cottingham Parish Council • Riston Parish Council • Catwick Parish Council • Beverley Town Council <p>In addition, Riston Parish Council ask to hold an additional public meeting for residents. This was held on Monday 24 June.</p>
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<p>6.8.1 and 6.8.2</p>	<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>The Applicant included hard to reach groups within their consultee outreach. A list of hard-to-reach organisation was created, including religious organisations and disability groups. These organisations were sent consultation packs including a letter, brochure, newsletter, feedback form and return envelope. Letters were sent on 11 May 2024.</p> <p>They were also emailed about the consultation on 15 May 2024 and a reminder on 12 June 2024.</p>
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Table 8	<p>Older people</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.</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team 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 members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</p>	<p>The consultation leaflet was posted to the PCZ to land on doorsteps on 13 May 2024 which included how to contact the project team through a number of channels.</p> <p>The Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital methods throughout the consultation.</p> <p>A freepost address was available for those who wanted to write and a phoneline was available to contact the project team.</p> <p>No requests were made for alternative accessible formats.</p> <p>Four in person events were held.</p>
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	<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 project team 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 project team. 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 throughout the consultation.</p> <p>A freepost address was available for those who wanted to write and a phoneline was available to contact the project team.</p> <p>No requests were made for alternative accessible formats.</p> <p>Four in person events were held and two webinars.</p> <p>A review of the event spaces ahead of booking was made to ensure they were accessible. The exhibitions were set up to allow those with limited mobility or in wheelchairs to move around. All events had the option for people to sit and talk to a project member if they preferred or needed to.</p>
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	<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 project team, regardless of location</p>	<p>The consultation leaflet was posted to the PCZ on 11 May 2024, which included how to contact the project team through a number of channels.</p> <p>A freepost address was available for those who wanted to write and a phoneline was available to contact the project team.</p> <p>Two webinars were held for those who were unable to attend other events.</p> <p>Social media advertising included an area 15km around the Proposed Development to help capture to more isolated communities.</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>The Applicant used a range of digital methods throughout the consultation, including social media.</p> <p>Local primary and secondary schools and Sixth Forms and Colleges near the Proposed Development were sent consultation packs including a letter, brochure, newsletter, feedback form and return envelope. Letters were sent on 11 May 2024.</p>

<p>6.9.1.</p>	<p>Information channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the project team, ask questions, request further information or request copies of the consultation materials and documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk (24/7) • 01482 695004 (9am–5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours) • info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk (24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days)) • Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (24 hour (mailbox will be monitored between 9am-5:30pm on weekdays)) 	<p>All consultation material and the feedback form were available from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>The community relations team were available by email and phone from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail was in place to capture details and the team would call back.</p>
<p>6.9.2</p>	<p>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>	<p>No requests were made for alternative accessible formats.</p>

<p>7.1.1 and 7.1.2</p>	<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.peartreehill-solar.co.uk) • Attending a consultation event and completing a printed feedback form which can be handed into the team 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 locations or requested from the community relations team • Emailing into info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk • Writing to us at Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp is required) 	<p>The Applicant accepted any feedback submitted online, by email, and by freepost up to and including 26 July 2024. This extension was due to additional consultees being identified during the consultation.</p>
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<p>8.1.1 to 8.1.4</p>	<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 will be included in the Consultation Report.</p>
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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 with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.</p>	<p>As part of design refinements after the statutory consultation, the Applicant identified some small changes to the red line boundary around the selected cable corridor, needed to facilitate access points for construction. A targeted consultation is planned for September 2024 to consult on these changes.</p> <p>Due to the nature of these change a proportional approach to consultation is being developed. All impacted land interests will be notified with details of the changes. The relevant parish councils and highways authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, will also be consulted. Consultees will be given 28 days to provide their comments by email to the Applicant. All feedback will be considered and captured in the Consultation Report.</p>
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10.1.1 to 10.1.3	<p>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 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 PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (you do not need a stamp)	<p>The community relations team was available by email and phone from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail was in place to capture details, and the team would call back.</p>
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4 Next steps

4.1 Updating stakeholders

- 4.1.0 On 15 August 2024, the Applicant sent an update email to all those who had responded to the consultation and those who had signed-up on the website for updates on the Proposed Development. The email provided an overview of the number of responses received and next steps before DCO application. It also included a link to the Applicant's Programme Document, hosted on the Applicant's project website, a requirement outlined in new Guidance and Prospectus on NSIPs. The Programme Document sets out the timetable and activities undertaken during pre-application on a project.
- 4.1.1 The Applicant is continuing to engage statutory bodies on any outstanding issues.
- 4.1.2 East Riding of Yorkshire Council has provided responses from the Building Conservation Team, Environmental Control Specialist, Humber Historic Environment Record, Highways, Sustainable Development, Nature Conservation and the Drainage teams. The Applicant is also undertaking monthly meetings with the authority.

4.2 Consultation responses

- 4.2.0 The Applicant is currently analysing responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will produce a Consultation Report as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008.
- 4.2.1 The Consultation Report will evidence that consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 4.2.2 Changes to the design of the Proposed Development that have identified to date as a result of the statutory consultation response include:
- Solar PV modules to be removed from Area A Land South of High and Low Baswick following feedback on ecological receptors in the area from statutory parties and the community, as well as the results of flooding and transport assessments.
 - Additional permissive paths will be included based on feedback from statutory consultation.

- Option 1 cable route has been selected as the preferred route linking the solar farm to Creyke Beck substation.

- 4.2.3 The Applicant has also identified some small changes to the red line boundary following the selection of Option 1 cable route corridor, needed to facilitate access points for construction. A targeted consultation consistent with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC is planned for September 2024 to consult on these changes. All impacted land interests will be notified with details of the changes. The relevant parish councils and highways authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, will also be consulted. Consultees will be given 28 days to provide their comments by email to the Applicant. All feedback will be considered and captured in the Consultation Report.
- 4.2.4 The project has not finalised the design at the point of submission of this Report. A full list of design changes as a result of the consultation will be included in the Consultation Report.

4.3 DCO application

- 4.3.0 Prior to the submission of the DCO application, the Applicant will publish a 'you said, we did' document outlining how the feedback received at statutory consultation has informed the Proposed Development. This will be uploaded to the project website and emailed to key stakeholders and all those who took part in the consultation. The aim of this document is to provide a more public facing and accessible summary of the consultation outcomes for those interested in the Proposed Development.

Appendix A: East Riding of Yorkshire Council Response to draft SoCC

Sent: 08 March 2024 14:05
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Peartree Hill Solar Farm - Request for comments on Statement of Community Consultation

Hi Laura

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this. I have very limited comments to make but have included a couple of points as tracked changes attached.

Thanks

Anna

[REDACTED]
Planning Team Leader (Strategic)

[REDACTED]
Web: www.eastriding.gov.uk

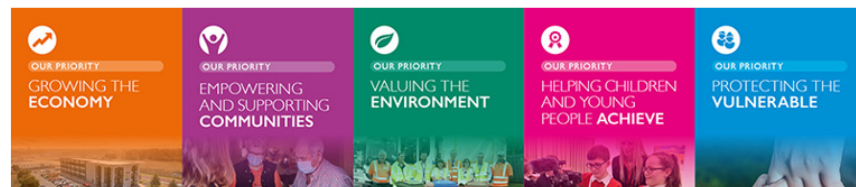
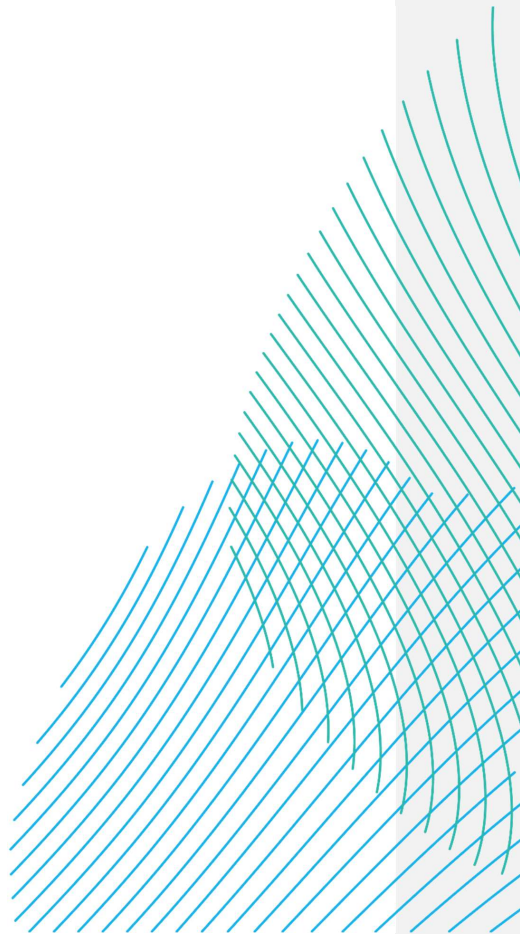


Figure 1 Email proving East Riding of Yorkshire Council's response to draft SoCC



Peartree Hill Solar Farm Statement of Community Consultation (draft)

February 2024



RWE

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage Ltd (“we” or “the Applicant”) is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) in connection with its proposals for a new solar energy and storage scheme known as Peartree Hill Solar Farm (“the Proposed Development”)
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this SoCC is to set out how we intend to consult people living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development about the proposals.
- 1.1.3 Understanding the views of the local community, local authorities and other stakeholders helps to ensure we identify valuable information and the feedback received will help shape the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.4 This SoCC explains the consultation being undertaken before submission for our application for development consent. It includes:
- A description of the consenting process we must follow
 - What we will be consulting on
 - Who we will consult
 - How we will consult
 - How people can respond to the consultation
 - How we will use the consultation feedback responses
- 1.1.5 Anticipated to generate up to 320MW of energy, the Proposed Development is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”), as defined by the Planning Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”) and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, via a Development Consent Order (“DCO”).
- 1.1.6 This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with section 47(1) of the Act, which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with the local community regarding their proposals, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement.
- 1.1.7 As the Proposed Development is an ‘EIA Development’ (meaning that it is subject to an environmental impact assessment or “EIA”), this SoCC also sets out how we intend to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”)



- 1.1.8 In addition to our obligations under section 47, section 42 of the 2008 Act clearly sets out how to consult with prescribed consultees, local authorities and persons with an interest in land. None of the section 42 consultees are excluded from any of the community consultation activities set out in this document.

2. Peartree Hill Solar Farm

2.1 The Proposed Development

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development is located to the east of Beverley within the administrative boundaries of East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The Proposed Development will connect into the National Grid Creyke Beck substation located in Cottingham via an underground cable.
- 2.1.2 The Proposed Development comprises an area of approximately 2,000 acres and is made up of six land areas where solar panels and battery storage energy systems are proposed. These land areas will also include associated infrastructure, areas for ecological mitigation and enhancement, and new community assets. The land areas are:
- Area A: Land South of High and Low Baswick
 - Area B: Land North West of Long Riston
 - Area C: Land West of Arnold
 - Area D: Land South of the A1035
 - Area E: Land East of Weel
 - Area F: Land North of Wawne
- 2.1.3 The Proposed Development would make a meaningful contribution to the local, and national climate commitments generating up to 320MW of renewable energy, enough to power approximately 136,000 homes.¹
- 2.1.4 The renewable energy produced by the Proposed Development would be equivalent to displacing over 11,200,000 tonnes of CO₂ from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking 166,000 cars off the road for a year.

¹ Based on the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2022, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)



2.2 Environmental Impact Assessment

- 2.2.1 The Proposed Development constitutes an 'environmental impact assessment ('EIA') development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- 2.2.2 An Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') is therefore being prepared to ensure the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development are properly understood and whether appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place to control or reduce environmental effects. The DCO application will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement containing the findings of the EIA.
- 2.2.3 An EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 20 December 2023. Together with the Applicant's Scoping Report, this identifies the environmental issues relevant to the Proposed Development and suggests any potential mitigation measures. The Scoping Opinion is available to view on the Planning Inspectorate website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010157/EN010157-000009-PHSF%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>
- 2.2.4 In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which sets out initial information on the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Development and any proposed mitigation, will be prepared and will help consultees to take an informed view on these matters.
- 2.2.5 The Applicant will invite feedback on the information presented in the PEIR as part of the statutory consultation. Feedback received will be considered before the DCO application and EIA are finalised for submission.

3. The consenting process

- 3.1.1 As the Proposed Development will have a generating capacity of more than 50MW, Peartree Hill Solar Farm will be classified as an NSIP and under the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to submit an application for a DCO.
- 3.1.2 If the application for the DCO is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate will appoint an examining authority to scrutinise our application and who would make a recommendation on the application to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. The Secretary of State makes the final decision on a DCO application.

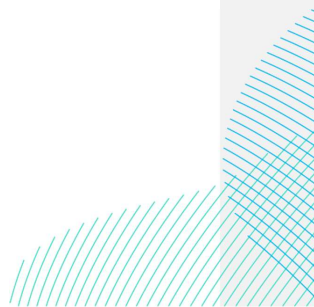
RWE

- 3.1.3 Before submitting an application, the Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and prescribed stakeholders.
- 3.1.4 Pre-application consultation is a key requirement for applications for Development Consent Orders for major infrastructure projects under the 2008 Act. The 2008 Act requires us to consult with persons with an interest in the proposed land and certain bodies as prescribed under section 42 of the 2008 Act; the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act (the subject of this SoCC); and to publicise the proposals locally and nationally under section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("EIA Regulations"). It also provides a fixed role as consultees for those local authorities which host the Proposed Development.
- 3.1.5 The obligations under section 42 and section 48 of the 2008 Act are not included in this SoCC.
- 3.1.6 Further information on the DCO application process can be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate which has published a range of advice notes which intend to inform applicants, consultees, the public and others about a range of matters in relation to the Planning Act 2008 process. This includes advice note eight, which provides more detail on the NSIP planning process. All advice notes can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>.
- 3.1.7 As part of our development of the SoCC, we provided both East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the host local authority for the Proposed Development, and Hull City Council, as a neighbouring authority which has the cable route going close to its boundary line, with an early draft of the document. These were sent on Monday 22 January 2024.
- 3.1.8 In line with the requirements of the 2008 Act, we undertook formal consultation on the SoCC with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the host local authority and neighbouring authority Hull City Council and took regard of comment received. The SoCC was sent on Thursday 29 February 2024.
- 3.1.9 An overview of the DCO process is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: The DCO Process



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4. About RWE

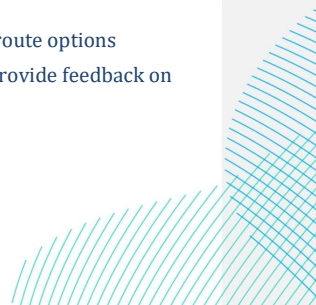
4.1 The Applicant

RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage Ltd

- 4.1.1 RWE is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies and is the UK's second largest power producer and third largest renewable generator supplying around 12% of UK electricity.
- 4.1.2 In the UK, we currently operate:
- 10 offshore wind farms
 - 33 onshore wind farms
 - 21 hydro plants
 - 1 biomass plant
- 4.1.3 RWE has recently acquired JBM Solar. Established in 2012, JBM Solar has a proven track record of securing consent for over 1GW of clean, green solar energy schemes in the UK and Ireland.
- 4.1.4 The Applicant is dedicated to generating electricity using sustainable and environmentally friendly resources such as wind, water, the sun and biomass.
- 4.1.5 The Applicant has a decade-long history of working closely with landowners, communities, and stakeholders such as local authorities and community groups to help deliver projects that deliver renewable energy, while working with both the community and local wildlife.

5. Engagement to date

- 5.1.1 The Applicant undertook a non-statutory consultation on the Proposed Development between Monday 9 October and Monday 6 November 2023.
- 5.1.2 The non-statutory consultation had the following aims:
- to introduce the Proposed Development to the public, providing an overview of the Proposed Development and the national need for solar
 - present the early plans, including the land parcels and cable route options
 - to give stakeholders and the community the opportunity to provide feedback on our early-stage proposals



RWE

- to outline the next steps for the Proposed Development
- 5.1.3 Over the course of the non-statutory consultation, the project team held three face-to-face public exhibitions and two webinars. The consultation was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings newspaper and social media adverts and posters sent to local parishes. Dedicated information channels were established for those who had questions about the Proposed Development or needed to get in contact with the project team. This engagement is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of engagement activities to date

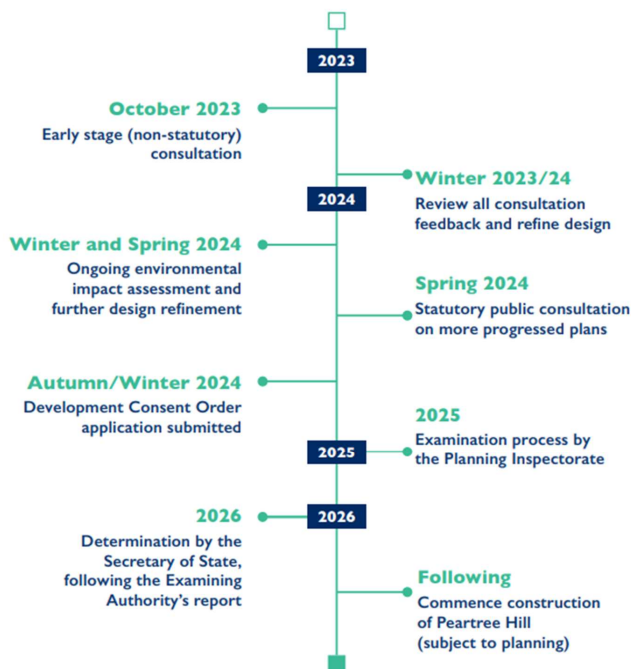
Activity	Total
Community Newsletters issued	11,516
In-person exhibitions	3
Stakeholder Briefings	8
Webinars	2
Website Visitors	400

- 5.1.4 There were a number of ways for members of the public and those interested in the consultation to provide feedback. These included:
- Completing an online feedback form on the website (www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
 - Completing a paper feedback form or sending written comments by post (Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM)
 - Emailing feedback to the email address (info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
 - Calling the information line (01482 695004)
- 5.1.5 In total, throughout the four-week non-statutory consultation period, 102 responses were received.
- 5.1.6 In addition to the non-statutory consultation period, the Proposed Development has engaged with key stakeholders through meetings and other forms of discussion on a regular basis. These stakeholders include East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.
- 5.1.7 More information about the non-statutory consultation can be found in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report which is part of the documents that are currently available on the website, <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/>. Archive documents from the non-statutory consultation will remain available on the project's website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in paragraph 6.4.3.

5.2 Timeline for Proposed Development

5.2.1 Figure 2 sets out an indicative timeline for each stage of the Proposed Development from consultation through to the Secretary of State decision.

Figure 2 Indicative Proposed Development timeline



6. Statutory Consultation under section 47 of the 2008 Act

6.1 How we will consult on the proposed application

- 6.1.1 We will undertake a statutory consultation in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 for six weeks starting on Monday 29 April 2024. The deadline for accepting consultation responses is 11.59pm on Monday 10 June 2024. All responses to the consultation must be received by the closing date.
- 6.1.2 This consultation will provide an opportunity for people in the local community and interested parties to have their say about our proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm.
- 6.1.3 As well as the community consultation in accordance with Section 47, this consultation will also include:
- Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under Section 42 of the 2008 Act).
 - Consultation with host and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (under Section 43 of the 2008 Act).
 - Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by the Proposed Development (under Section 44 of the 2008 Act); and general public consultation on the Proposed Development (under Section 48 of the 2008 Act)

6.2 Who are we consulting?

- 6.2.1 We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC. Our consultation process is open to anyone with an interest in our proposals for Peartree Hill.



- 6.2.2 We have identified a primary consultation zone (PCZ) (shown in Figure 3) for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act. The PCZ has been identified by extending a minimum distance of approximately two kilometres from the proposed Site Boundary (Appendix 1) – 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.
- 6.2.3 The PCZ has been 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
- 6.2.4 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.
- 6.2.5 This will include:
- 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
 - relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups
- 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.

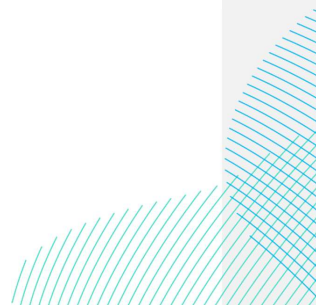
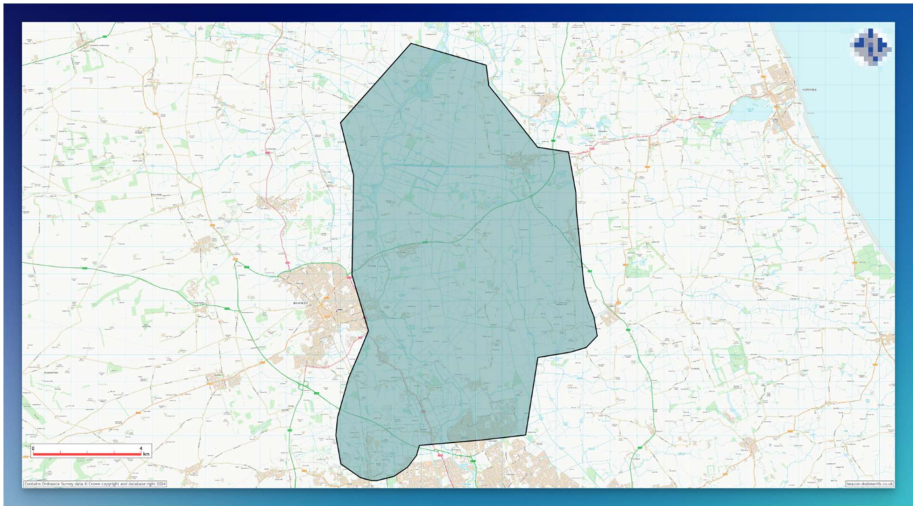


Figure 3: Primary Consultation Zone for Peartree Hill Solar Farm



6.3 Approach to community consultation

- 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.
- 6.3.2 Table 2 below sets out the approaches that will be used to publicise the consultation on the proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information.

Table 2: Statutory consultation methods for Peartree Hill Solar Farm

RWE

Method	Detail
Inside the primary consultation zone	<p>All homes and businesses within the PCZ will receive a 4-page consultation newsletter with high-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>
Outside of the primary consultation zone	<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>
Consultation Events	<p>We will be holding three 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 11 am and 7pm on a mixture of weekdays and weekends to accommodate different availability.</p> <p>Details of the events is available in table 6.</p>
Webinars	<p>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"> • Wednesday 8 May 2024 • Tuesday 4 June 2024 <p>A recording of the webinar will be made available online for those unavailable to attend.</p>
Project information line and email	<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).</p> <p>The project team will aim to respond to all enquiries within five working days.</p>

RWE

Deposit and information points	<p>Hard copies of the consultation materials including: this SoCC, the consultation brochure, and PEIR will be available to view at the following deposit locations (times identified in Table 3):</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.</p> <p>The consultation brochure and feedback form will be available to collect from the deposit locations above. Where 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>
Project website	<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.</p> <p>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 locations and consultation events.</p>

Table 3: Details of the deposit locations

Location	Address	Opening times
Beverley Library	Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE	Monday 9:30 am - 5 pm Tuesday 9:30 am - 8 pm Wednesday 9:30 am - 5 pm Thursday 9:30 am - 8 pm Friday 9:30 am - 5 pm Saturday 9 am - 4 pm Sunday Closed
Leven Library	Recreation Hall, East Street, Leven, Beverley HU17 5NG	Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm, 3:30-7pm

6.4 What are we consulting on?

- 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.

6.4.2 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:

- 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.
- PEIR Non-Technical summary – providing a summary of the findings from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- Consultation Brochure – this brochure will provide an overview of the proposals including a summary of each land area and the cable route.
- Maps – The maps will set out the site areas

6.4.3 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. 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.

Table 4: Statutory consultation materials for Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Commented [AW1]: From experience of other schemes the more detail you can provide the public, the better. Those who's 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 TA/Ecology information for consulting with He and NE etc?

RWE

Consultation Materials	
Material	Detail
Consultation newsletter	<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.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be issued to wider consultees via emailed to local interest groups and sent to statutory parties in the post.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be available to view and download on the project website.</p>
Consultation Brochure	<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 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 locations, and on request by contacting the communications team.</p> <p>The brochure will also be available for download from the project website</p>
Feedback Form	<p>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>The feedback form will also be available to download from the website, complete in pen and return to Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM.</p>

RWE

Exhibition Banners	<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>The banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the Proposed Development at the public exhibitions and will allow for further discussions with members of the project team during public information events and other meetings.</p> <p>Members of the public will also be available to view the banners on the project website.</p>
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	<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.</p> <p>It will also set out how we propose to mitigate the impacts of and maximise the benefits of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>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>
Non-technical summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report	<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>
Technical maps and plans of the Project	<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 locations.</p> <p>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>
Project Website	<p>A dedicated consultation website (see Table 5 for detail).</p>
Publication of the consultation	<p>We will publish a public notice with details of the consultation within both a local newspaper and a national newspaper, pursuant to section 48 of the Act.</p>
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	<p>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 on request.</p> <p>We will also publish a notice in a local newspaper to explain where this statement can be inspected, pursuant to section 47 of the Act.</p>

RWE

Materials in alternative formats	<p>Upon request, all documents will be available in alternative accessible formats, such as braille, speaking text and alternative languages.</p> <p>All requests should be made to the communications team by email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk or phone: 01482 695 004.</p>
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Table 5: The Project website and features

Function	Rationale
Online downloadable copies of all the statutory consultation material, including: The PEIR, consultation brochure, exhibition banners, non-tech summary of PEIR and feedback form	To ensure the exhibition material is accessible to those who may not be able to get to an in-person event or a deposit location. This will ensure that the consultation is fully accessible to everyone who wants to participate.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	To provide answers to frequently asked questions without the need to contact the project team or attend an in-person event.
Online Feedback Form	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online and reduce the carbon footprint of consultation activity.
Webinar sign-up form	To enable members of the public to sign-up to webinars.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the project team for any further questions.

6.5 Consultation Events

- 6.5.1 Three public consultation events will be held for communities to find out information about the Project and speak to members of the project team. 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.
- 6.5.2 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.
- 6.5.3 Those attending will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals.
- 6.5.4 Table 6 outlines the dates, times and locations of each of the consultation events.

Table 6: Details of the consultation events

Date	Time	Location
Monday 13 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Wawne Village Hall 36 Main Street, Wawne, Hull, HU7 5XH
Saturday 18 May 2024	11am -3pm	Tickton Village Hall Main Street, Tickton, East Yorkshire, HU17 9RZ
Wednesday 22 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Leven Village Hall North Street, Leven, Beverely, HU17 5NF

Commented [AW2]: Suggest one Cottingham/Creyke Beck way in addition if possible as these are all east and some of the PCZ stretches further west

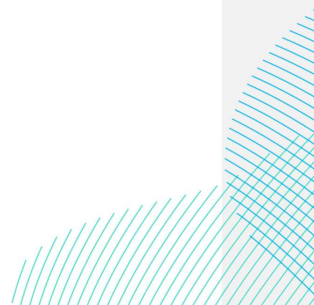
6.6 Promoting the consultation

6.6.1 We will use a variety of methods to make people aware of the Proposed Development and advertise the statutory consultation. These methods are outlined in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Methods for promoting the statutory consultation for Peartree Hill Solar Farm

RWE

Method	Detail
Consultation Newsletter	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.
Press releases	<p>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.</p> <p>This will be sent to the following local and regional media outlets.</p>
Stakeholder briefings	<p>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>
Emails and Letters	<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; • 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>



RWE

Statutory notices	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the consultation, in accordance with section 48 of the Act, will be published 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 The Beverley and Holderness Gazette.</p> <p>Statutory notices publicising the SoCC, in accordance with section 47 of the Act, will be published once (for one week) in the Beverley and Holderness Gazette, Hull Daily Mail and The Yorkshire Post.</p>
Information Posters	<p>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.</p> <p>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>
Social Media Advertising	<p>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.</p> <p>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>

- 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.

6.7 Wider Engagement

- 6.7.1 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.
- 6.7.2 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 information about the consultation with members of their constituency/local community.

6.8 Engagement with Seldom Heard groups

- 6.8.1 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.
- 6.8.2 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

Table 8: Consultation with seldom heard groups for Peartree Hill Solar Farm



RWE

Seldom Heard Groups	Consultation Approach
Older people	<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.</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phoneline.</p> <p>Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and offering alternative formats such as large print (upon request).</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via a freepost address so feedback can be easily provided by post.</p> <p>Consultation events at three locations within the PCZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</p>
Disabled people and those with learning disabilities	<p>Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as large print (upon request).</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phoneline.</p> <p>Consultation events at three locations within the PCZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</p> <p>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 project team.</p> <p>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>
Geographically isolated communities	<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.</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via an online form and via the freepost address so feedback can be easily provided from all locations.</p> <p>Webinars for people to join and find out about the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Advertising the availability of the project phoneline for stakeholders with further questions to speak with the project team, regardless of location.</p>
Young People	<p>Online engagement methods, including social media advertising, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation.</p>

6.9 Information Channels

6.9.1 The following channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the project team, ask questions, request further information or request copies of the consultation materials and documents. These channels are provided in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Information channels for Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Method	Contact Details	Hours of operation
Website	www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk	24/7
Telephone	01482 695 004	9am–5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours)
Email	info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk	24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days)
Post	Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM	24 hour (mailbox will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm on weekdays)

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.

7. Responding to the consultation

7.1 How to respond to the consultation

- 7.1.1 Feedback to the consultation must be submitted by 11:59pm on Monday 10 June 2024. Responses received after this date may not be considered.
- 7.1.2 Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:
- Completing the feedback form online which can be accessed via the project website from Monday 29 April: (www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
 - Attending a consultation event and completing a printed feedback form which can be handed into the team 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 locations or requested from the community relations team as detailed in Table 9.
 - Emailing into info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk
 - Writing to us at Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp is required)

8. How we will use consultation feedback

- 8.1.1 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.
- 8.1.2 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.
- 8.1.3 The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of the DCO application.



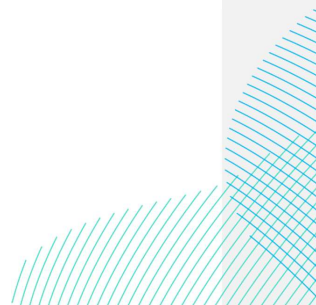
- 8.1.4 Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at: www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk

9. Further consultation

- 9.1.1 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 with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.

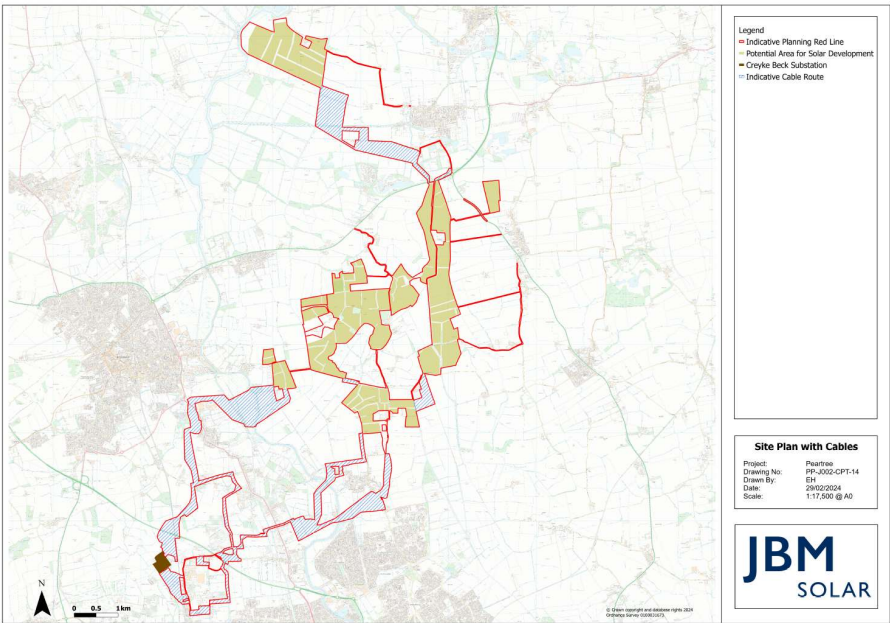
10. Contact details

- 10.1.1 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 get in touch with members of our communications team using any of the communications lines listed below.
- 10.1.2 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.
- 10.1.3 Our communications channels are:
- Email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk
 - Call: 01482 695 004
 - Write to: Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM (you do not need a stamp)



Appendices

Appendix 1 – Site Boundary Plan





Appendix I-2 Regard to Section 51 advice

Date of meeting/date of advice given	Planning Inspectorate advice	Regard to advice
27 July 2023 Inception meeting	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to avoid, where possible, changes to the Applicant name once any formal part of the process is begun to ensure consistency in the named legal entity entering those processes e.g. formal EIA scoping, statutory consultation.	<p>The initial plans for the Proposed Development were presented by JBM Solar, including in the Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2023.</p> <p>JBM Solar was acquired by RWE in March 2023.</p> <p>In all subsequent documents, including the DCO application, the Applicant's name is RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited.</p>
	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider the need case if they wish to compulsory acquire (CA) land.	The Applicant is aware of the Compulsory Acquisition requirements and have outlined the need for these in the Statement of Reasons [EN010157/APP/4.1] .
	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to refer to previously issued scoping opinions for the solar sector to aid [the EIA] process, and to ensure that a robust justification is provided when proposing to scope out matters from the EIA.	Throughout the EIA assessment process, the Applicant has considered best practice and recent submissions to the Planning Inspectorate in its document development.
	To aid the EA and the other statutory bodies with resourcing, the Inspectorate advised the Applicant to provide these bodies with as much information as possible along with the anticipated timescales of when they will need to be engaged.	The Applicant has engaged regularly with statutory bodies including the Environment Agency, Natural England and East Riding of Yorkshire Council and have provided regular updates on the Proposed Development programme. Details on engagement with these bodies is included in Chapter 3 of the Report.
4 October 2023 Project Update Meeting	The Inspectorate enquired about other projects in the area and the Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the LA is currently dealing with other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs); East Yorkshire Solar Farm to the west and Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm to the east.	<p>ES Volume 2, Chapter 15 Cumulative Effects [EN010157/APP/6.2] includes consideration of other NSIPs in the area.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm as part of the design development process.</p>
	The Inspectorate advises the Applicant to refer to the National Infrastructure (NI) website for other solar farm scoping reports and the Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion.	Throughout the EIA assessment process, the Applicant has considered best practice and recent submissions to the Planning Inspectorate in its document development.
	In the case that an applicant has more than one business entity connected to it, the applicant should take care to ensure that all linked entities are notified as part of the	The initial plans for the Proposed Development were presented by JBM Solar, including in the Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2023.

	statutory notification procedures under s56 of the Planning Act 2008.	<p>JBM Solar was acquired by RWE in March 2023.</p> <p>In all subsequent documents, including the DCO application, the Applicant's name is RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited.</p>
11 January 2024 Project Update Meeting	The Applicant queried about further scoping discussions and the Inspectorate informed that it is unable to change or add anything to its Scoping Opinion. The only way the Inspectorate could provide further scoping advice would be for the Applicant to submit another Scoping Request. The Inspectorate advised that subsequent decisions to scope out matters and any agreement of such with relevant consultees should be evidenced in the Environmental Statement.	<p>In the Scoping Opinion (ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion [EN010157/APP/6.4]), there were certain matters where the Planning Inspectorate requested evidence of consultation with the relevant stakeholders in order to agree to them being scoped out of full assessment in the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>Where such consultation has taken place, details are provided in the stakeholder engagement section within ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-15 [EN010157/APP/6.2] and in ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.3 Scoping Opinion Response Matrix [EN010157/APP/6.4].</p>
	The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant of the need to provide a s46 notification prior to statutory consultation commencing.	The Applicant wrote to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Statutory Consultation on 13 May 2024. As per the requirements of section 46 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant provided copies of the materials sent to all relevant consultees identified in accordance with section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.
	Following the previous meeting, the company name has fully transitioned to RWE from JBM Solar Ltd. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to make it clear in all correspondence and in consultation and application documents.	<p>The initial plans for the Proposed Development were presented by JBM Solar, including in the Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2023.</p> <p>JBM Solar was acquired by RWE in March 2023.</p> <p>In all subsequent documents, including the DCO application, the Applicant's name is RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited</p>
21 May 2024 Post Scoping advice regarding s42 consultation.	The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) Regulations 2024 came into force on 30 April 2024 and amend the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure (APFP)) Regulations 2009. The transitional provisions at Regulation 4 of the MP Regulations 2024 confirm that the recently	<p>The Applicant has considered the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) Regulations 2024 in the development of its section 42 consultee list.</p> <p>Section 5.5-5.7 of the Report outlines the parties consulted for the statutory consultation. Appendix D-1 includes a list of statutory consultees.</p>

	<p>amended APFP Regulations do not apply to any proposed application for an order granting development consent where the applicant has started to consult under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 before 30 April 2024. The Inspectorate is contacting you as consultation under Section 42 for the Peartree Hill Solar Farm had not commenced prior to 30 April 2024.</p>	
	<p>The Inspectorate would like to inform you that as the scoping opinion request for Peartree Hill Solar Farm was received prior to 30 April 2024, the list of consultation bodies notified and consulted by the Planning Inspectorate before adopting the scoping opinion (as set out in the 'Regulation 11 list' provided to the Applicant as per Regulation 11(1)b of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017), will not reflect the recent amendments to the APFP Regulations. The Applicant is therefore advised to review the transitional provisions in Regulation 4 of the MP Regulations 2024, together with the amendments to the APFP Regulations, and consider whether any new or different consultation bodies should be included in the consultations for the project.</p>	<p>The Applicant has considered the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions (MP)) Regulations 2024 in the development of its section 42 consultee list. Section 5.5-5.7 of the Report outlines the parties consulted for the statutory consultation. Appendix D-1 includes a list of statutory consultees.</p> <p>All those parties identified in the Regulation 11 list were consulted as part of the statutory consultation.</p>
	<p>Please be aware that it is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure their consultation fully accords with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulations and guidance.</p> <p>The Regulation 11 list has been compiled by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State in its duty to notify the consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations and, whilst it can inform the Applicant's own consultation, it should not be relied upon for that purpose.</p>	<p>This Consultation Report provides details of how consultation and engagement has been delivered in line with the Planning Act 2008 and associated regulation and guidance.</p>
3 July 2024 Project Update Meeting	<p>The Applicant stated that the anticipated submission date would be November 2024. The Inspectorate advised that a submission in November has the potential to slip into December, which may create resource</p>	<p>Following the meeting with the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant reviewed its programme. The Applicant is submitting its application in January 2025 to avoid any resource issues for the Planning Inspectorate and local authorities.</p>

	implication for relevant Local Authorities who will be required to submit Adequacy of Consultation responses. This may also have resource implication for the Planning Inspectorate managing the Acceptance. The Applicant noted the concern and confirmed that the intention is to submit November 2024, with sufficient time to allow the 28-day acceptance process to be concluded before the Christmas break.	
	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that the consultation report should be clear in outlining where the Applicant has met the requirements of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).	Section 5.18 of the Report includes a table outlining how the Applicant has met the requirements of the SoCC. The table includes clear signposting to evidence included in the appendices.
	The Applicant outlined the intentions for the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) requesting comments from the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate advised that they are unable to provide comments without formally reviewing the document, but the general content appeared appropriate.	The Applicant submitted the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement to the Planning Inspectorate on 29 August 2024. The structure was in line with that presented to the Planning Inspectorate in the meeting on 3 July 2024.
	The Applicant queried the requirement to submit an Expression Of Interest (EOI) due to the anticipated submission of its application in November 2024. The Inspectorate advised that an EOI should be submitted to allow for any potential slippage in the project programme. The Applicant advised that they are intending to undertake some of the actions that the Pre-Application Prospectus suggests including an issues tracker to inform a Preliminary Main Issues for Examination (PMIE) document.	An Expression of Interest was submitted on 10 July 2024 to the Planning Inspectorate. A Potential Main Issues for Examination (PMIE) [EN010157/APP/5.6] is submitted as part of the DCO application.
17 September 2024 advice regarding Adequacy of Consultation Milestone statement submitted by RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited	1. It is expected that the views of local authorities on the adequacy of consultation are included in the AoCM.	In line with the pre-application advice, which states that the AoCM 'should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available', the material available to the Applicant at the time of submitting the AoCM was included in Appendix A of the AoCM. East Riding of Yorkshire Council did not submit a formal response to statutory consultation at that time, however the Applicant has engaged with them regularly as is reported in the AoCM and Consultation Report.

	2.It is expected that the Applicant will explain in the Consultation Report whether the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Greater London Authority have been consulted or whether the Applicant is of the view that consultation with the MMO and Greater London Authority is not applicable.	Section 5.4 of the Report outlines why the MMO has not been consulted. Section 5.6 of the Report outlines why the GLA was not consulted.
	3.It is expected that the Applicant includes information that the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application; and that this was done on or before commencing consultation under section 42.	Section 5.8 of the Report outlines how the Planning Inspectorate was informed of the Statutory Consultation.
	4.It would assist if the deadline for local authority responses on the draft Statement of Community Consultation could be stated.	Section 4.3 of the Report outlines the deadline given to the local authorities for responses on the draft Statement of Community Consultation.
	5.Paragraph 2.3.6 (page 12) is not populated	This was a formatting error in the document.
	6.Paragraph 2.4 could helpfully explain how section 44 Category 3 persons were identified.	Section 5.7 of the Report outlines how section 44 Category 3 persons were identified.
	7. Paragraph 2.4 could helpfully provide a brief explanation of the Applicant's ongoing commitment to due diligence.	Section 8.9 of the Report outlines how the Applicant has undertaken, and will continue to undertake, due diligence as part of land interest identification.
11 November Advice on the Programme Document	The applicant supplied the Inspectorate with its initial Programme Document in line with the Expression of Interest process, after the publication of the 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Having reviewed the document, the Inspectorate considers overall that it covers the expected content as set out in the government's pre-application guidance at paragraph 10, namely setting out expected programme timescales, the main issues and risks involved, the approach to engaging with consultees and progress made on Planning Performance Agreements, and related information on its pre-application activities.	The Applicant notes these comments.
	However, in updating its Programme Document, the applicant should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include whether the Programme Document has been shared with relevant local authorities, statutory consultees and others and whether 	The Applicant has updated its Programme Document to reflect the updated position of the Proposed Development within the pre-application stage, and in line with comments received. The updated Programme Document was uploaded

	<p>they are content with the proposed programme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include dates for the consultation period with relevant local authorities for obtaining comments on the applicant's draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), any targeted consultation expected, any Evidence Plan activities, and anticipated project update meetings with the Inspectorate; • provide information about any other consents or permissions being sought; • whether the applicant will use an Issues Tracker and whether it will be shared with local authorities, statutory consultees and others for their views on the status of the issues raised and possible mitigation. It would also be helpful if the applicant could provide any details on the progress of developing its application documents and any issues arising. 	to the Applicant's consultation website on 10 February 2025.
26 November 2024 Section 51 advice regarding draft application documents	1. The applicant is advised to review the draft application documents for any typographical/grammatical errors prior to submission.	The Applicant has carried out a review to correct these.
	2. It is noted that parts of the draft Development Consent Order are incomplete. The observations provided as part of this feedback table are based on the submitted draft information only.	Noted. A completed draft DCO [EN010157/APP/3.1] is submitted with the application.
	3. Where the draft Development Consent Order includes wording derived from other made Development Consent Orders, the Explanatory Memorandum should explain why that wording is relevant to the proposed draft Development Consent Order, for example explaining what is factually similar for both the relevant consented nationally significant infrastructure project and the proposed development. The Examining Authority and Secretary of State will need to understand why it is appropriate for the scheme applied for. Any divergence in the wording from	The Applicant has included in the draft DCO those Articles needed to enable the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

	the consented Development Consent Order drafting should also be explained. Further guidance on this matter is set out in Paragraph 019 (Reference ID 04-019-20240430) of the 'Content of a Development Consent Order'.	
	4. The applicant may wish to review/expand the scope of which definitions should be included in the draft Development Consent Order.	The definitions in the DCO have been reviewed.
	5. The Explanatory Memorandum should explain briefly why the proposed development is a nationally significant infrastructure project within sections 14 and 15 of the Planning Act 2008. It should then go on to justify why no upper limit on capacity has been provided. A further section could also be helpfully provided setting out the approach to the parameters of the Order and the use of the 'Rochdale Envelope' with reference to Paragraph 008 (Reference ID 04-008-20240430) of the aforementioned guidance.	Text has been added to section 2 of the EM to provide further detail on why the Proposed Development is an NSIP and why no upper limit on capacity has been provided. A new section 3 has been added to the EM to explain the parameters of the DCO.
	Draft DCO	
	1. Articles There are several provisions in the draft Development Consent Order where the local planning authority has 28 days to notify the undertaker of its decision otherwise consent is deemed to have been given (e.g. article 17(2)). The applicant is encouraged to discuss this time period with the relevant local planning authority to ensure that it gives the local planning authority sufficient time to make a decision, including in circumstances where it may be necessary for consultation with other parties to take place as part of the 28 day period.	The Applicant consulted the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on the draft DCO and EM on 17 October 2024.

	<p>2. Article 2 ‘authorised development’ – Bearing in mind the wide scope of the authorised development as set out in schedule 1, could the Explanatory Memorandum justify the need in this case for the reference to ‘and any other development authorised by the Order...’. Why is such a broad definition required for the proposed development?</p>	<p>This definition of authorised development reflects that the DCO provides for powers to carry out limited activities beyond the Order limits. These limited activities are included for the benefit of third parties, rather than the Applicant. For example, Articles 21 (protective works to buildings) and 22 (authority to survey and investigate land).</p> <p>There are buildings located in close proximity to the Site and whilst the Applicant has not identified negative impacts to those buildings it is prudent to retain flexibility to provide protective works to these if the need arises.</p> <p>In terms of surveys and investigations the Applicant considers it important to extend this power to surrounding areas that may be impacted by the authorised development.</p>
	<p>3. Article 2 ‘maintain’ – The Explanatory Memorandum notes that some flexibility must be built-in, including to keep up with advances in technology. Further explanation should be provided in respect of whether this definition might encompass the potential for the large-scale replacement of panels during the operational period and any implications arising from this. What are the implications of the use of the term ‘the whole of’ given that the use of this term would not prevent the replacement of, for example, 95% of the authorised development?</p>	<p>No change is proposed to the draft DCO. The reference to ‘whole of’ is well preceded in recently made solar DCOs. Further text has been added to paragraph 4.8.4 of the EM to emphasise that the definition of maintenance does not permit the whole of the Proposed Development to be removed, replaced or reconstructed and only permits works if they do not give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects in comparison to those reported in the environmental statement.</p>
	<p>4. Article 3 In respect of article 3(1), the Explanatory Memorandum should make clear how the provisions of Order will ensure</p>	<p>Further text has been added to the explanation of Article 3(1) in the EM. The approach taken to</p>

	<p>that the authorised development is only consented within the Order Limits, subject to any exception. Whilst noting the explanation provided in the Explanatory Memorandum for the inclusion of article 3(2), the list of legislation in schedule 3 is currently blank. As much information as possible should be provided about 'any enactments' together with clarification about how far from the Order limits the provision might apply</p>	<p>permit limited activities outside of the Order limits is set out in response to the Planning Inspectorate's comments on Article 2.</p> <p>Schedule 3 has now been populated and follows the approach in other recently made solar DCOs.</p>
	<p>5. Article 5 Should the power to maintain the authorised development be limited to maintenance works 'within the Order limits' as in other made solar Development Consent Orders? If not, justification should be provided in the Explanatory Memorandum.</p>	<p>This provision is limited by the definition of maintain which ensures that works are only permitted if they do not give rise to any materially new or materially different environmental effects in comparison to those reported in the environmental statement. As set out above, in response to the question raised on Article 2, as there are limited activities outside of the Order limits, this power to maintain extends to the maintenance of these too. This ensures that any third parties that benefit from works under Article 21 (protective works to buildings) also benefit from maintenance requirements.</p>
	<p>6. Article 6 Whilst noting the listed precedents, the Explanatory Memorandum should include justification of why this provision is specifically necessary for the proposed development, including reference to any specific drainage works that are expected to be required.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is located in an area where there are key water features. There are five Main Rivers within or in close proximity to the draft Order Limits: The River Hull, the Beverley and Barmston Drain, the Holderness Drain, Monk Dike, and the Meaux and Routh East Drain. The Site occupies predominantly low-lying land which relies on a network of drainage systems. The Applicant considers it necessary to include this provision, in the context of this Site, to ensure that any works to culvert or cross drainage systems that are carried out as part of the authorised development do not affect the existing allocation of responsibility for maintenance of the drainage systems, unless this is agreed between the Applicant and the responsible party. This is to avoid</p>

		any confusion as to future maintenance.
	<p>7. Article 7 Why is this provision necessary in the circumstances of the proposed development given that the works plans already appear to include flexibility within them?</p>	<p>The limits of deviation are illustrated by the flexibility of the works shown on the works plans. This provision allows for the Applicant to design the Proposed Development in the most effective way.</p> <p>The purpose of this provision is to provide the Applicant with a proportionate degree of flexibility when constructing the Proposed Development, reducing the risk that the Proposed Development as approved cannot later be implemented for unforeseen reasons but at the same time ensuring that the Applicant is permitted to exceed the limits of deviation only if it can demonstrate to the Secretary of State's satisfaction that no materially new or materially different environmental effects would arise.</p> <p>This would allow for minor changes such as relocation of temporary construction compounds, if necessary, by a distance that is not environmentally impactful. This provision ensures that design benefits from future technologies can be fully realised.</p>
	<p>8. Article 7 Limits of deviation have been referred to in the draft Development Consent Order but have not been explained within Environmental Statement Chapter 3. Where limits of deviation have been used in the draft Development Consent Order these should be clearly explained within the Environmental Statement and appropriately assessed.</p>	<p>The limits of deviation in the DCO have been assessed. Chapter 3 includes reference to the limits of deviation.</p>
	<p>9. Article 9 Article 9(3)(b) would allow the benefit of all or any part of the Order to be transferred or granted to a holding company or subsidiary of the undertaker without the written consent of the Secretary of State. A similar provision was removed by the Secretary of State in the</p>	<p>The Applicant has deleted Article 9(3)(b).</p>

	<p>recently made Mallard Pass 2024 and Gate Burton 2024 Orders and there does not appear to be any relevant justification for the inclusion of this provision in this case. The Secretary of State commented in the Gate Burton decision (paragraph 9.7) that if the applicant is to transfer the benefit of the Order to a holding company or subsidiary, the Secretary of State would expect that company to be a holder of a licence under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989 and therefore considers this additional exemption from the need for consent to be unnecessary.</p>	
	<p>10. Article 11 It is unusual for made solar Development Consent Orders to include paragraphs (d) and (ga) within this article. The Explanatory Memorandum should explain why this is required in this case. Why is this additional provision necessary over and above the broad defence in section 158 of the Planning Act 2008? Notwithstanding the above, the drafting of article 11(1) should be checked as it is unclear why the part in brackets (noise emitted from premises...) is referenced when the provision also includes other nuisances under paragraph (d) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.</p>	<p>Article 11 has been amended to refer to paragraphs (d) and (g) which is consistent with the Statement of Statutory Nuisance as being potentially engaged.</p>
	<p>11. Article 13 Notwithstanding that this article is included in other made solar Orders, the Explanatory Memorandum should make clear why it is necessary based on the particular circumstances of the proposed development.</p>	<p>The DCO includes works to widen highways in certain locations which is included at s86(3)(a) of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. As such it is considered necessary for this Article to be included to make clear that the works will be carried under the Order powers and the Order will regulate them.</p>
	<p>12. Article 14 The extent of street alteration works set out in article 14(2) are wide ranging. The applicant</p>	<p>The Applicant has set out the known works under this Article 14 in Schedule 4 (alteration of streets). However, the process of detailed</p>

	<p>should provide justification for why such a wide range of alteration works are necessary in this case. For clarity, should article 14(4) include the wording 'without the prior written consent...'? This may also need clarification in other articles. There appears to be some inconsistency between article 14(4) and other articles requiring the written consent of the street authority and article 17 requiring the written consent of the local planning authority.</p>	<p>design may result in additional streets being identified, hence the drafting in 14(2). These works will only be carried out once prior written consent of the street authority has been obtained.</p> <p>The addition of the word "prior" has been made to article 14(4). The same amendment has been made to article 9(3).</p> <p>The drafting has been amended so that articles 14 and 17 are consistent.</p>
	<p>13. Article 16</p> <p>Schedule 5 needs to be correctly referenced.</p>	<p>The consistency between Article 16 and Schedule 5 has been reviewed and updated.</p>
	<p>14. Article 17</p> <p>The wording of article 17(b) needs amending as it is currently unclear.</p>	<p>The wording of Article 17 has been amended for clarity and to refer to 'street authority' for consistency.</p>
	<p>15. Article 18</p> <p>A definition of 'private road' would be helpful in the context of this article to remove ambiguity as to what would qualify as a private road. A plan identifying such private roads that the applicant intends to use could also be helpfully provided in order that those with an interest in the private roads can be made aware of any implications that might arise can be properly assessed. Although the Explanatory Memorandum explains that this article is required for the temporary passage of private roads by the applicant, the drafting of the article does not wholly reflect this, as it would allow use of private roads during the entirety of the construction or maintenance of the authorised development.</p>	<p>The term 'private road' turns on its ordinary definition and is not defined in the DCO which is consistent with drafting in other DCOs that use this term.</p>
	<p>16. Article 19</p> <p>Whilst this is generally precededented, other Development Consent Orders regularly include reference to a schedule of known traffic</p>	<p>A schedule (Schedule 7) has now been added in respect of this article.</p>

	<p>regulation measures that will be required for this development (e.g. temporary speed limits, road closures and traffic signals). Can a schedule therefore be included for where such measures are known? This will help Interested Parties and the Secretary of State to understand the effect of the measures on highway users.</p>	
	<p>17. Article 21 The precedents in the Explanatory Memorandum do not all extend this power to buildings outside of the Order limits. It should therefore make clear why this is required and be justified based on the particular circumstances of this case.</p>	<p>There are buildings in close proximity to the Order limits. Whilst there is no impact assessed on these buildings, as this Article is for the benefit of third parties, its inclusion would allow the Applicant to undertake any protective works to buildings.</p>
	<p>18. Article 26 Article 26(1) includes general provision for the acquisition of rights or the imposition of restrictive covenants (in addition to those set out in schedule 7). Notwithstanding the reasons for this set out in the Explanatory Memorandum, details should also be provided to demonstrate that persons with an interest in the Order land are aware that undefined new rights and covenants are being sought over all the Order land and have been consulted on this basis. Also refer to the relevant guidance in Paragraph 11 (Reference ID 04-011-20240430) of the 'Content of a DCO' guidance. A clear indication of the sorts of restrictions that would be imposed and the justification for them, rather than generic reasons, should be provided in order that the Secretary of State can consider whether the imposition of restrictive covenants is necessary for the purposes of implementing the Development Consent Order</p>	<p>Schedule 8 has been updated to reflect the purposes for which rights and restrictions needed. Persons with an Interest in Land (PILS) have been consulted on the draft proposals as part of pre application consultation in accordance with s42 of the Planning Act 2008. The specific rights/ restrictions that were to be sought in the DCO were not consulted on as that level of information was not known at the time of the statutory consultation. The Applicant has entered into negotiations to acquire the necessary rights/ restrictions by agreement – see the Schedule of Negotiations. As part of those discussions the scope of the rights/ restrictions needed are being discussed.</p> <p>The provisions of Article 26(3) are necessary where the undertaker acquires rights or restrictions for others. In relation to the Proposed Development this could be in relation to utilities that may need to be diverted or in relation to Work No. 6 at the Creyke Beck Substation.</p>

	<p>and is appropriate in human rights terms.</p> <p>Explanation should also be provided for why the provisions of article 26(3) are necessary in the circumstances of the proposed development. Note that the paragraph referencing in the Explanatory Memorandum appears to need amending.</p>	
	<p>19. Article 34</p> <p>Article 29(10) provides that ‘the undertaker may not compulsorily acquire the land under this Order referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(i)’. Does this drafting need to be extended to also make clear that the undertaker may also not acquire new rights or imposed restrictive covenants over the land referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(i)? This would be to prevent any power, if not previously consulted on, to create undefined new rights in the land described as being for temporary possession. Given that this article potentially allows for powers of temporary possession across the Order land (not just the land specified in schedule 9), should this also be reflected in the Land Plans by altering the description in the key for land coloured pink? This would help to make clear to those with an interest in that land, that this land may also be subject to powers of temporary possession? The notice period for temporary possession of 14 days is very short and should be further justified in the circumstances of the proposed development including with reference to the implications of such a short notice period upon those with an interest in the land.</p>	<p>Amendment is not considered necessary as the term ‘compulsory acquisition’ includes both the compulsory acquisition of land and the compulsory acquisition of rights/ imposition of restrictive covenants.</p> <p>No amendments are proposed to the Land plans. The Land Plans’ ‘notes’ make it clear that the plans are to be read in conjunction with the DCO where the powers sought by the Applicant are clearly set out.</p>
	<p>20. Article 37</p> <p>The applicant may wish to review the drafting of this article</p>	<p>The typo has been corrected.</p>

	which appears to include a typo after 'altered'.	
	<p>21. Article 39 [40] Noting the explanation in the Explanatory Memorandum, the supporting justification in the Statement of Reasons should include the identification of the persons in whom the land is vested and other persons, if any, entitled to rights of common or other rights, and clarifying the extent of public use of the land.</p>	Noted. This information is within the Statement of Reasons.
	<p>22. Article 44 [45] The use of the wording 'near the Order limits' is ambiguous and lacks precision and could lead to unexpected works outside of the Order limits. Consideration should be given to amending this. For example, so that it only applies to trees or shrubs 'within or encroaching upon the Order limits'. The relevant links are noted to requirement 9 (landscape and ecological management plan). The content of outline landscape and ecological management plan should be drafted accordingly to include reference to appropriate protection and management measures.</p>	This drafting in the DCO is well precedented in recently made DCOs and no amendment is proposed. The power in Paragraph (1) is controlled by the remaining paragraphs of Article 45.
	<p>23. Article 44(3) [45(3)] The applicant may wish to review whether article 44(3) references the correct paragraph.</p>	Amendment made.
	<p>24. Article 45 It is noted that this has been included as the applicant has not been able to rule out the presence of human remains within the Order limits given the archaeological history of the site. It is relevant to note that the Secretary of State has recently removed similar articles from made solar Development Consent Orders, in the case of Mallard Pass</p>	This Article has been deleted.

	<p>'because there are no known burial grounds within the Order limits, and the provisions for any remains should be included in the written scheme of investigation'.</p>	
	<p>25. Article 48 [49] The approach to arbitration is different to that provided for in recently made solar Development Consent Orders where a separate schedule has set out the rules for arbitration. An explanation should be provided for why a different approach is being taken in this case. It is unlikely that a consenting Secretary of State would allow arbitration provision wording to apply arbitration to decisions he/she may have to make on future consents or approvals within their remit. This could be made clear in the article.</p>	<p>The Applicant has provided a precedented approach to arbitration, albeit not from Solar DCOs. The process of arbitration is not specific to solar schemes. No amendments are proposed.</p>
	<p>26. Schedule 1 The approach to the proposed Works could be more clearly set out in schedule 1 and explained in the Explanatory Memorandum. It is not clear why Work No.1 includes both a ground mounted solar generating station and associated battery energy storage system and subsequently Work No.2 also includes a battery energy storage system. In accordance with relevant Planning Act 2008 guidance on associated development, as far as practicable, the applicant should explain which parts of their proposal are associated development and why.</p>	<p>Schedule 1 has been revised and is considered to clearly set out what is proposed to be undertaken under each work number. The approach and drafting are considered consistent with made Solar DCOs.</p>
	<p>27. Schedule 1 In Work No.3 reference is made to 'the balance of solar system'. Should this be 'the balance of solar plant' to be consistent with the earlier interpretation? The list of further associated development at the end of</p>	<p>The drafting has been updated.</p>

	<p>schedule 1 is very extensive. It is important to ensure that such works all amount to associated development in order to accord with section 115 of the Planning Act 2008.</p>	
	<p>28. Schedule 1 Consideration should be given to whether further definitions are necessary to cover the various terms used?</p>	<p>The Applicant has carried out a review and updated the definitions in the DCO.</p>
	<p>29. Schedule 2 Requirements Several requirements relate to a 'part of the authorised development'. Paragraph 3.6.3 of the Proposed Development Description (Volume 1, Chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement) states that the land areas and cable routes would be constructed in phases. Taking account of the potential implications of a phased construction, is a requirement needed for the submission and approval of construction phasing, including a timetable? Is a requirement relating to the control/management of noise necessary in this case? Is a separate requirement needed to secure the provision and maintenance of the permissive paths?</p>	<p>The Article 1 of DCO makes clear that reference to 'part of the authorised development' is to be construed as references to stages, phases or elements of the authorised development. This wording is precedented, as is the drafting approach in the Requirements and the Applicant does not consider a further requirement to commit the Applicant to a set out the timetable for construction to be necessary.</p>
	<p>30. Schedule 2 Part 1 Requirement 3 Requirement 3(1)(g) includes 'power and communications cables' but does not include 'electrical cables' that are included in schedule 1. Does requirement 3(g) therefore need to include 'electrical cables' so that the siting and effects of these can be appropriately considered by the local planning authority? In requirement 3(2), does the 'design parameters document' need defining? It is noted that the certified documents in schedule 12 include an 'outline design parameters document'. This needs clarification as</p>	<p>It is not considered necessary to include 'electrical cables'. 3(1) applies to all of the works in Schedule 1 (see definition of authorised development). Sub paragraph (a) to (g) are what needs to be set out, where relevant, in relation to the schedule 1 works in the detailed design. The wording in this 3(1) is well precedented.</p> <p>A 'design parameters document' definition has been added.</p>

	<p>presumably the design parameters document should be a final detailed document following the principles of the outline design parameters document?</p> <p>In requirement 3(3) the use of the term 'substantially' is vague, open to interpretation and is likely to lead to a lack of clarity as to the final design of the development. It is not clear why the use of this term is necessary for the proposed development.</p> <p>Requirement 3(4) removes the need for approval under requirement 3 where matters have been consented under separate articles. This potentially creates inconsistency in how different approvals would be dealt with and who is responsible for the approval. Should requirement 3(4) refer to article 17 (Access to works) rather than article 18?</p>	<p>The use of the word "substantially" has now been removed.</p> <p>The drafting of Requirement 3(4) is intended to remove any ambiguity over where approvals to works are secured and to prevent duplication. The articles referenced in 3(4) require the Applicant to secure approval to the proposed works from the relevant street authority prior to undertaking them. As such, it is considered unnecessary for those same works to be subject to a second approval process under Requirement 3 from the local planning authority; in doing so this could create confusion and inconsistency. The cross-reference has now been updated.</p>
	<p>31. Requirement 7 For consistency, does the outline site waste management plan need to be included in the Interpretation section (1) and should it be a certified document?</p>	<p>Definitions have been added for all management plans referred to in Schedule 2.</p>
	<p>32. Requirement 8 Should 'local Fire and Rescue Service' be defined? Whilst the undertaker would want to carry out its own pre-submission consultation with the local Fire and Rescue Service, should the requirement require the local planning authority to carry out consultation with it prior to its determination of an application?</p>	<p>Amendment has been made to refer to Humberside Fire and Rescue; the local fire and rescue service.</p> <p>No amendment made to require the local planning authority to also consult on the battery safety management plan. Under Requirement 8 the Applicant must consult Humberside Fire and Rescue service on the battery safety management plan before submitting it to East Riding of Yorkshire Council</p>

		for approval. Requirement 19 provides that the application for approval to the local planning authority must be accompanied by a summary report setting out the consultation undertaken and include representations received from the consultee and the undertaker's response to those representations.
	33. Requirement 10 For consistency should 'outline rights of way and access management plan' be defined in the Interpretation section (1)? It is also noted that the certified documents (schedule 12) refers to an 'outline rights of way and access plan'.	DCO updated for consistency.
	34. Requirement 11 The drafting of requirement 11(6) is unclear. There is also some overlap and potential confusion between the drafting of requirement 11(6) and 11(7).	Requirement 11(6) is not needed and has been deleted.
	35. Requirement 15 Does the 'date of decommissioning' need defining? Is more precise drafting necessary to ensure that the decommissioning of the authorised development must commence no later than 40 years following the date of final commissioning?	Requirement 15(1) has been amended to provide this clarity.
	36. Requirement 47-[18] The drafting of this requirement goes beyond the justification provided in the Explanatory Memorandum. This is because the definition of 'Approved Documents' includes any document certified under article 46 as well as plans etc approved pursuant to any requirement. It therefore would potentially allow for amendments to any of the certified documents. Therefore, the Explanatory Memorandum should justify why such a wide-ranging provision is necessary in this case, noting section 153 of the Planning Act 2008 and the procedures for making any	The EM provides explanation on what is now Requirement 18 which is well preceded in solar DCOs.

	<p>post consent (material or non-material) amendments to schemes as set out in the Government's Guidance 'Planning Act 2008: changes to Development Consent Orders.</p>	
	<p>37. Requirement 48 [19] Whilst precedents for this requirement are cited in the Explanatory Memorandum, specific justification would be helpful to clarify why it is necessary for this case. The example given regarding consultation on draft control documents would still leave it necessary for the final version of any such documents to be approved in writing following any grant of development consent.</p>	<p>The EM has been updated. The inclusion of this Requirement ensures that any early engagement and consultation that the Applicant has with the local planning authority on the draft control documents prior to the DCO being made may be taken into account. The Applicant wishes to commence construction of the Proposed Development as soon as practicable once the DCO is made (should it be) and therefore this Requirement would facilitate the Applicant getting on site as soon as possible subject to all other requirements in the DCO being met.</p>
	<p>38. Schedule 2, Part 2 Paragraph 22(2)(c) (Appeals): Recently made solar Development Consent Orders have not included a specific time period for the Secretary of State to appoint a suitably qualified person. Similarly, justification should be provided in the Explanatory Memorandum of the 10 business day period provided in 22(2)(f) for the appointed person to make a decision, noting that the Mallard Pass DCO includes no such time period whilst the Cottam Development Consent Order includes a 30 day period. Paragraph 23 (Fees): Would the fees that would be required under 23(1) be sufficient, considering the likely nature of the submissions that the local planning authority would need to determine? Further discussion with the local planning authority is encouraged. The reference to paragraph 2(1) under 23(2)(b) appears to be incorrect. Should it be paragraph 20(1)?</p>	<p>The inclusion of timeframes is to give certainty to those involved in the appeal that it will be resolved as swiftly as possible and not delay matters relating to this nationally significant infrastructure project. 22(2)(f) has been updated to 30 days in line with the made Cottam DCO.</p>

	<p>39. Schedule 3</p> <p>This schedule has not been completed. The Explanatory Memorandum should also include an explanation of the purpose of relevant legislation and a clear justification for its disapplication in the particular circumstances of the proposed development.</p>	<p>This schedule has now been completed.</p>
	<p>40. Schedule 5</p> <p>Should the heading for column 1 say 'Public right of way to be temporarily closed' rather than 'Street to be temporarily closed'?</p>	<p>Schedule 5 has been revised to include streets and public rights of way to be temporarily restricted or closed.</p>
	<p>41. Schedule 7</p> <p>Plot numbers 14-5, 14-6, 15-11 to 15, 17-22, 17-23 and 17-29 to 31: The description of the purpose for rights may be acquired or restrictive covenants may be imposed is unclear for these plots.</p>	<p>This is now Schedule 8 and has been revised.</p>
	<p>42. Schedule 9 [10]</p> <p>Column 2 needs to be completed, including the relevant work number(s).</p>	<p>This is now Schedule 10.</p>
	<p>43. Schedule 10 [11]</p> <p>To help the efficiency of the examination, if not already done so, the applicant should engage at the earliest opportunity with the relevant parties to seek to agree the form of the protective provisions. This should not be left until the commencement of the examination. Part 4 of the Protective Provisions is currently blank. Whilst it is not clear whether any further protective provisions need to be included, it is not acceptable to submit a draft DCO with blank schedules for protective provisions on the basis these will be supplied during the examination.</p>	<p>This is now Schedule 11. Further protective provisions have been added in relation to the EA. The Applicant is in active discussions with Network Rail and National Grid with regards to any bespoke protective provisions they may need.</p>
	<p>44. Schedule 10 [11]</p> <p>The applicant may wish to review 'utility undertaker' 2(d)</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	and (e) which appear to be repeated	
	45. Schedule 44 [12] This Schedule is currently blank	This is now Schedule 12 and has been populated.
	46. Schedule 42 [13] The applicant may wish to review references to certified documents within the draft Development Consent Order and Explanatory Memorandum to ensure that titles are consistent. For example, schedule 12 refers to 'outline landscape and ecological management plan' whilst article 35(12) refers to a 'landscaping and ecology management plan'.	Consistency has been applied throughout the DCO.
	47. Schedule 42 [13] This schedule could helpfully include a column with the date of each document. A check should also be carried out prior to submission that all relevant documents requiring certification are included in the schedule.	Amendments have been made to this table.
	48. Explanatory Note It is noted that a deposit location has not been provided. Please note that, should the documents be made available at a third-party location, the applicant should confirm in writing that the stated third party has agreed.	The address will be inserted post-acceptance.
Draft DCO Explanatory Memorandum		
	1. Contents The applicant may wish to consider expanding the contents to include subheadings and relevant page numbers	The Applicant has carried out a review to correct these.
	2. Schedule 1 – Authorised development Paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 Paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of the Explanatory Memorandum explains that the applicant has chosen not to differentiate the nationally significant infrastructure project and	The Applicant has carried out a review to correct these.

	<p>the associated development works in schedule 1 of the Order and that all elements of the 'authorised development' either constitute part of the nationally significant infrastructure project or are 'associated development'. However, it is not clear how this relates to the way that the Work Nos. have been set out in schedule 1, including the battery energy storage system. See also the comments on schedule 1 above.</p>	
	<p>3. Schedule 1 – Authorised development More detail is recommended to be added to Explanatory Memorandum explaining the mechanics of the drafting of the schedule and how schedules 1 and 2 would ensure that the undertaker does not exceed the basis of the assessment in the Environmental Statement.</p>	The EM has been updated.
	<p>4. Article 10 Paragraph 3.39 Paragraph 3.39 refers to article 6, whereas it appears that it should refer to article 10.</p>	This has been amended.
	<p>5. Article 16 Paragraphs 3.65 – 3.69 The applicant may wish to review article 16 in the Explanatory Memorandum to ensure that it accurately cross references to the correct paragraphs in the draft Development Consent Order.</p>	This section of the EM has been updated.
	<p>6. Article 26 Paragraphs 3.98, 3.99 and 3.100 The applicant may wish to review article 26 in the Explanatory Memorandum to ensure that it accurately cross references to the</p>	This section of the EM has been updated.

	correct paragraphs in the draft Development Consent Order.	
	7. Article 49 Paragraph 3.171 Should this refer to article 49 being preceded?	This has been updated.
Draft Works Plans and Land Plans		
	1. Land Plans Sheets 1, 3, 4, 10, 15, 16 and 17 The applicant should review details on the Land Plans. The following issues have been noted: land adjacent 1- 5, 1-11, 16-12 and 16-17 appears to be missing a plot number. The applicant may wish to consider the inclusion of additional insets for the following plots 1-14, 3-6, 3-17, 4-5, 4-7, 10-9, 15-12, 15-13,15-14, 15-16, 15-18 and 17-29.	The Applicant notes these comments and has included the changes in the updated version of the Land Plans [EN010157/APP/2.4] for the application.
	2. Land Plans Sheets 1 and 14 Plot numbers 1-18, 14-10, 14-11, 14-12, 14-13, 14-14, 14-15, 14-16, 14-17, 14-18, 14-19, 14-20, 14-21, 14-22 are shown on the Land plans as 'land proposed for permanent acquisition of rights or imposition of restrictive covenants and to be used temporarily' but are not included in schedule 7 of the draft Development Consent Order.	The Applicant notes these comments and has included the changes in the updated version of the Land Plans [EN010157/APP/2.4] for the application.
	3. Land Plans Sheet 2 It would assist for clarity if a distinction could be made as to which part of the land continues on sheet 6 and which part on sheet 5.	The Applicant notes these comments and has included the changes in the updated version of the Land Plans [EN010157/APP/2.4] for the application.
	4. Land Plans It is noted that plots coloured pink in the Land Plans and described as 'land proposed to be permanently acquired' in the description key are included in the draft Development Consent	The Applicant notes these comments and has provided this information in the updated version of the draft Development Consent Order [EN010157/APP/3.1] .

	Order at column 1 of schedule 9 'land of which temporary possession may be taken'. Furthermore, it is noted that several plots coloured green in the Land Plans and described as 'land proposed for temporary possession' in the description key are not included in column 1 of schedule 9 of the draft Development Consent Order.	
	<p>5. Works Plans</p> <p>The applicant should review the Works Plans to ensure that all works are labelled. For example, it is noted that at sheet 16, Work No.3 has not been labelled.</p>	The Applicant notes these comments and has included the changes in the updated version of the Works Plans [EN010157/APP/2.2] for the application.
	Draft Project Description Chapter of the Environmental Statement (Chapter 3)	
	<p>1. Table 3-1</p> <p>Table 3-1 sets out the parameters applied for the assessment. It is unclear how these parameters have been secured. The Applicant is advised to clarify this in the Environmental Statement, and to consider including a table of parameters in the draft Development Consent Order.</p>	The DCO Application includes the Design Parameters Document [EN010157/APP/5.8] which sets out the secured design parameters. A cross reference to this document has been added to the Environmental Statement.
	<p>2. Table 3-10</p> <p>Table 3-10 references enhancement areas that will remain free of solar PV development to provide continued availability of habitat for ground nesting birds as well as creating suitable habitat for wintering birds and a range of other species such as meadow grassland, legume rich sowing, hedgerows, and field margin sowing. Any enhancement areas should be clearly explained in the ES, displayed on</p>	Table 3-10 has been removed from the ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1] submitted as part of the DCO Application. The embedded mitigation for each topic is now set out within the relevant ES chapter. The ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Indicative Operational Layout Plan [EN010157/APP/6.3] shows indicative areas for mitigation, and enhancement as separate to areas for solar PV development, and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.5] sets out how these enhancement areas would be

	appropriate figures and secured within the DCO	managed to ensure continued availability of habitat.
	<p>3. Paragraph 3.6.35</p> <p>Paragraph 3.6.35 sets out the construction working hours. It would be beneficial to break down the construction hours to explain further information such as when would construction activities incurring the highest level of noise occur.</p>	<p>Environmental Statement, Volume 2, Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010157/APP/6.2] includes more detail on noise, further to the information provided in Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description. Chapter 12 includes an assessment of when noisier construction activities would take place, and expected noise levels during the daytime and night-time hours.</p>

Appendix I-3 Regard to Pre-application guidance

Guidance Reference	Guidance	Applicant's regard to guidance
Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects		
Paragraph 004 Reference ID 02-004-20240430	The NSIP consenting process is intended to be front-loaded. The pre-application stage is therefore critical and should be used to ensure project proposals are prepared in line with applicable National Policy Statements (NPS) designated under Part 2 of the Planning Act . Relevant legislation and policies should also be taken into consideration where applicable to the proposed project. The pre-application stage should allow the likely effects of a project to be fully consulted upon, with the design of the project evolving up to the point of application submission.	<p>The development of the DCO application documents has considered relevant legislation and policies which are explained within the documents. It has also been prepared in line with the relevant National Policy Statements.</p> <p>The Applicant has consulted on the Proposed Development and both the Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Iteration [EN010157/APP/6.1] and Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] have shown how the design has progressed including feedback from stakeholders.</p>
Paragraph 004 Reference ID 02-004-20240430	The overriding objective of this guidance is to encourage a pre-application process which is effective and proportionate to the nature of the proposed project. This must ensure that the legal requirements of the Planning Act and the EIA Regulations 2017 are met, particularly involving consultation stages and the early consideration of alternatives.	The Environmental Statement [EN010157/APP/6.1-6.4] and Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] outline how legal requirements of the Planning Act and EIA Regulations 2017 have been met.
Paragraph 004 Reference ID 02-004-20240430	Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the Planning Act sets out statutory requirements for applicants to engage in pre-application consultation with local communities, local authorities, statutory consultees and those who would be directly affected by the project. This includes the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in section 42(2) of the Planning Act . The front-loaded emphasis on consultation in the NSIP consenting process is designed to ensure a	As outlined in the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] , the Applicant has undertaken a proactive and thorough approach to engagement and consultation including a non-statutory consultation, statutory consultation and targeted consultation, alongside ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, landowners and statutory bodies.

	good standard of preparation of applications enabling efficient acceptance and post-acceptance stages.	
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<p>During the pre-application stage an applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notify the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State of the proposed application on or before commencing statutorily required consultation under section 46 of the Planning Act, principally with statutory bodies, local authorities and persons with interests in the land; 	The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State, as outlined in Section 5.8 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] .
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> notify the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State that they intend to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of the proposed development, or that they will be asking the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application (Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017); this should be informed by early engagement with interested parties before formal consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act; 	A covering letter was sent to the Planning Inspectorate on 9 November 2023 to provide notification of the Applicant's intention to submit an Environmental Statement in respect of the Proposed Development. Details of the notification can be found in Section 3.2 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] .
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare a statement in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, commonly termed the Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC"), which describes how the applicant proposes to consult the local community about their project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that statement, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017; 	<p>The Applicant developed and consulted the relevant local authorities on the SoCC as outlined in Chapter 4 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p> <p>Details on how the consultation was delivered in line with the SoCC are included in Chapter 5 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>

<p>Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act; 	<p>The final SoCC was published on the Applicant’s project website, as shown in Consultation Report Appendix C-9 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p> <p>The SoCC was made available to view at Beverley Library, Leven Library and Tickton Village Hall which were considered the closest and most reasonable locations for local communities.</p> <p>A notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Yorkshire Post on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 The Hull Daily Mail on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 The Guardian on 14 May 2024 The London Gazette on 14 May 2024 <p>Clippings of the published notices are provided in the Consultation Report Appendix C-8 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p>
<p>Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and consult statutory consultees, local authorities and all persons with land interests as required by section 42 of the Planning Act and Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (“the APFP Regulations 2009”); 	<p>Persons prescribed under section 42(1)(a) are listed in column 1 of the Schedule to the “Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024”. These 2024 Regulations came into force on 30th April 2024 replacing the table in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (“2009 Regulations”), with an updated table of prescribed consultees. The statutory consultation took place after 30 April 2024, therefore the Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024 was used as the prescribed persons list.</p> <p>The Section 5.4 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] outlines the approach to identifying s42(1)(a) consultees and when they were consulted.</p>

		The Applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) and the dates they were notified in Consultation Report Appendix D-1 [EN010157/APP/5.2]
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> set a deadline for consultation responses required by section 42 of the Planning Act of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents as required by section 45 of the Planning Act; 	<p>Statutory parties were sent a letter on 13 May 2024 informing them the statutory consultation would run from 15 May 2024 to 26 June 2024 therefore providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p> <p>As detailed within Chapter 5 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] additional consultees were identified during the consultation and sent letters. Each of these were provided with more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p>
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> publicise the proposed application in accordance with section 48 of the Planning Act, Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009; 	<p>The S48 was published in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Yorkshire Post on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 The Hull Daily Mail on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 The Guardian on 14 May 2024 The London Gazette on 14 May 2024 <p>Clippings of the published notices are provided in the Consultation Report Appendix C-8 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p>
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation required by section 49 of the Planning Act; 	<p>Chapter 6 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] and Consultation Report Appendix G [EN010157/APP/5.2] set out how the Applicant had regard to the consultation responses received as part of the statutory consultation, including where a response has led to a change in the Proposed Development.</p>
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare a consultation report showing how the applicant has met the consultation requirements of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act and 	The Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] outlines how legal requirements of the Planning Act have been met.

	how the proposed application has been amended to take account of the relevant responses;	
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet the requirements of section 37 of the Planning Act by submitting this consultation report to the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State with the application for development consent for consideration in the decision whether the application is accepted for examination; and 	The Application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in February 2025, which will include the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] .
Paragraph 006 Reference ID 02-006-20240430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have regard to this guidance as required by section 50 of the Planning Act 	This document outlines how the Applicant has had regard to the Pre-application Guidance.
Paragraph 008 Reference ID 02-008-20240430	The purpose of the Inception Meeting is for the applicant to discuss with the Planning Inspectorate their Programme Document, which sets out the intended programme for the pre-application stage and what work and studies are required for the preparation of an application. This Inception Meeting should include discussion of any anticipated requests for screening or scoping to help inform decisions on the right level of pre-application service to be provided by the Planning Inspectorate.	<p>An Inception Meeting was held on 27 July 2023. This was before the requirement for a Programme Document, although at this meeting, and in subsequent meetings with the Planning Inspectorate the Applicant provided an update on the programme for the project.</p> <p>In this meeting the Applicant explained it was aiming to submit a scoping request accompanied by a Scoping Report to the Inspectorate in Q4 2023.</p> <p>Following the requirements for a Programme Document, the Applicant submitted a Programme Document for the Proposed Development to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024.</p>
Paragraph 008 Reference ID 02-008-20240430	In most cases applicants will need to engage statutory consultees and others early in the preparation of applications. Separate guidance on cost recovery explains where and how the Planning Inspectorate and some statutory consultees may recover	The Applicant has engaged with statutory consultees throughout the preparation of the application. Details of engagement that has been undertaken with technical stakeholders and the associated outcomes are

	costs for the services they provide in relation to NSIP applications / proposed applications.	provided in the stakeholder engagement section of ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-15 [EN010157/APP/6.2] .
Paragraph 008 Reference ID 02-008-20240430	Before commencing statutory consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act , section 46 of the Planning Act requires an applicant to notify the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State of their intention to make an application for development consent, and it must supply information in relation to the proposed application. This will be recorded and published by the Planning Inspectorate on the appropriate project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website .	<p>The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State, as outlined in Section 5.8 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p> <p>Acknowledgement of the section 46 notification was received on 15 May 2024. A copy of the acknowledgement received can be found in the Consultation Report Appendix D-4.6 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p>
Paragraph 009 Reference ID 02-009-20240430	<p>The pre-application process is applicant-led. To deliver a good pre-application process, including effective engagement and a well-prepared application, applicants should put together a Programme Document at the outset of the pre-application stage for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and agreement at the Inception Meeting. The Programme Document is an essential element of the quality standard for applications seeking a fast-track route to consent.</p> <p>The Programme Document will enable all those engaged in the pre-application process, particularly statutory consultees, to understand the timescales and ensure their contribution is programmed into the pre-application stage at the most effective point. It will also assist the applicant in managing the preparation and subsequent submission of the application documents for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate at the acceptance stage.</p> <p>Following the Inception Meeting, it is expected that the applicant will host and maintain the agreed Programme</p>	<p>The Pre-application Guidance and requirement for a Programme Document came into force on 30 April 2024. A Programme Document was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024.</p> <p>The document was uploaded to the project website on 15 August 2024 and has been updated as necessary during the pre-application period.</p> <p>A link to the Programme Document was included in an email to stakeholders and those that had responded to the consultation on 15 August 2024. A copy of this email is included in Consultation Report Appendix I-4 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p>

	Document on its website, and update it as necessary during the pre-application period to publicise completion of significant stages and demonstrate progress in preparation of the application.	
Paragraph 010 Reference ID 02-010-20240430	<p>It should set out the timetable and activities necessary for an effective pre-application process including the level of pre-application services from the Planning Inspectorate, and consultation with various parties required under the Planning Act.</p> <p>The Programme Document should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the date the applicant intends to submit their application; • a comprehensive timetable of the applicant's pre-application process, the main events with dates and milestones demonstrating how the pre-application process will be completed (using the maximum target of 2 years as a benchmark); • the applicant's view on the main issues for resolution and activities they will undertake to address those; • the applicant's proposals for engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities during the pre-application period and any intended financial support agreements, such as Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs); • the applicant's identification of risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed; and • cross references to the SoCC required by section 47 of the Planning Act. 	<p>The Programme Document for the Proposed Development was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024.</p> <p>This document was drafted in accordance with this paragraph of the Pre-application guidance.</p>

<p>Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430</p>	<p>Although it is not mandatory, an applicant can request the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to provide an opinion on the scope of the Environmental Statement (the ‘scoping opinion’) i.e. what the assessment does, and does not, need to consider. Such a request must be accompanied by the information provided by the applicant required by Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations 2017 in order that the Planning Inspectorate can make a fully informed view and respond within 42 days.</p> <p>The scoping opinion will take into account advice received from statutory consultees and other relevant organisations following the required consultation over a 28-day period within the 42 days. Any potential for transboundary effects must also be considered. The scoping opinion will confirm the programme of data collection and studies to be undertaken by the applicant, and contain recommendations where there is no need to explore certain topics (based on the information submitted at that time).</p>	<p>The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report, ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010157/APP/6.4] to the Planning Inspectorate on 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. An EIA Scoping Opinion, ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010157/APP/6.4] was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 20 December 2023.</p>
<p>Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430</p>	<p>Applicants should adopt a proportionate approach in the type and volume of information they request from statutory bodies during the preparation of their Environmental Statements to meet the requirements of Regulations 5, 14 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017</p> <p>At the same time, applicants also have to consider the level of detailed information which is actually available to enable the environmental effects to be assessed and included in the Environmental Statement. Applicants often naturally seek flexibility and may choose to describe the proposal in terms of the maximum parameters of the proposal and the establishment of a worst-case scenario</p>	<p>The Applicant has adopted a proportionate approach in the type and volume of information requested from statutory bodies during the preparation of the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The Applicant has used the Rochdale Envelope approach within the Application, adopting a worst-case scenario in the Environmental Impact Assessment in order to retain a degree of flexibility within the design. Assessments have been based on maximum parameters as outlined in ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1] and the Design Parameters Document [EN010157/APP/5.8], and informed by detailed plans, such</p>

	<p>for environmental assessment. The ‘Rochdale Envelope’ is now a well-established part of the approach to striking this balance.</p> <p>Applicants should always provide sufficiently robust and detailed data of the effects of the proposed development on the environment, so that these can be considered throughout the NSIP consenting process. Taking the Rochdale Envelope approach increases the spatial extent of the project, and will therefore increase the amount of evidence required to be submitted in support of the application. It is not an excuse to submit applications with insufficient supporting survey material. This can lead to an inadequate Environmental Statement and risk non acceptance of the application for examination.</p>	<p>as ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Indicative Operational Layout Plan [EN010157/APP/6.3], ES Volume 3, Figure 3.5: Indicative Construction Layout Plan [EN010157/APP/6.3] and ES Volume 3, Figure 3.4: Indicative Environmental Masterplan [EN010157/APP/6.3]. This has enabled a robust assessment while maintaining a degree of flexibility in the design.</p>
<p>Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430</p>	<p>Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that an Environmental Statement includes a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, including a comparison of the effects of the development on the environment (Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017). Inadequate consideration of alternatives has been used as a vehicle for legal challenge. Alternatives can range from matters such as micro-siting (where the development is located within the site) and alternative access points, to the size and scale of development, technological and design options. Applicants are advised to fully document all optioneering exercises and decision-making on alternatives from the inception of their projects in their application, and reference this appropriately in their Environmental Statement.</p>	<p>The Applicant has provided a description of the reasonable alternatives considered and their comparable effects on the environment, as well as the reasons behind the chosen option. This is presented in ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Iteration [EN010157/APP/6.1] and in Appendix 2 - Site Selection Assessment to the Planning Statement [EN010157/APP/5.5].</p>
<p>Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430</p>	<p>Regulations 11 to 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 set out the pre-application publicity and consultation</p>	<p>A combined section 47 and section 48 notice was created in accordance with Regulations 11 to 13 of the EIA Regulations</p>

	requirements for the EIA process pursuant to sections 47 and 48 of the Planning Act .	<p>2017. The notice was published on the Applicant's website and in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Yorkshire Post on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 • The Hull Daily Mail on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 • The Guardian on 14 May 2024 • The London Gazette on 14 May 2024 <p>A copy of the combined section 47 and section 48 notice can be found in Consultation Report Appendix C-8 [EN010157/APP/5.2]. Detail of activity undertaken pursuant to section 47 and section 48 is included in Section 5.9 and Section 5.10 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>
Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430	Applicants need to give consultation bodies sufficient information about the characteristics of the proposed NSIP in order to enable them to respond in an effective and timely way about the likely environmental effects and avoid unnecessary delay. Applicants should discuss providing digital material where possible with relevant statutory consultees.	<p>A Preliminary Environmental Information Report was produced for the Statutory Consultation and a non-technical summary.</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary were made available on the consultation website from 15 May 2024 as part of the statutory consultation. Screenshots of the consultation website from statutory consultation can be found in Consultation Report Appendix F-11 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p>
Paragraph 011 Reference ID 02-011-20240430	Part 6 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 contains provisions to replace the current Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and EIA requirements with a new regime of Environmental Outcome Reports (EOR). Until the EOR regulations are in place to commence this new regime, the existing arrangements for environmental assessment remain in place and this guidance should be followed accordingly.	The Applicant notes this and has followed the EIA requirements.

<p>Paragraph 012 Reference ID 02-012-20240430</p>	<p>Where an NSIP is determined to be EIA development in line with Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017 the applicant is required by Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to publish sufficient Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development. The information required will be different for different types and sizes of projects and it may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation.</p> <p>Applicants are advised to consult any relevant existing environmental assessments or survey information, in the first instance to get an idea of what environmental effects could arise. The key issue is that the information presented must be clear to all consultees, even if it is of specialised technical nature. As required by Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017 any difficulties or areas of uncertainty such as in data collection, forecasting methods or scientific knowledge must be identified and acknowledged.</p> <p>There is no prescribed format for PEI. However, depending on the availability of material, applicants are encouraged to prepare this as an early draft of the Environmental Statement and include it as such as part of the statutory consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act. If applicants decide to take a different approach, they should be clear with consultees about the status of the PEI.</p>	<p>A Preliminary Environmental Information Report was produced for the Statutory Consultation and a non-technical summary. The document was available on the Applicant's project website, at deposit points and consultation events during the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary were both made available on the consultation website from 15 May 2024 as part of the statutory consultation. Screenshots of the consultation website can be found in Consultation Report Appendix F-11 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p> <p>A hard copy of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report 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.</p> <p>The non-technical summary 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.</p> <p>Detailed information about the availability of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary is included in Section 5.11 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>
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<p>Paragraph 012 Reference ID 02-012-20240430</p>	<p>Applicants will need to maintain close dialogue with statutory consultees throughout the pre-application period. The provision of PEI can help statutory consultees to understand the environmental effects of the development and may assist in the identification and addressing of potential issues at an early stage in the pre-application process.</p>	<p>Chapter 3 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] outlines how statutory consultees have been engaged. In addition, within ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-15 [EN010157/APP/6.2], each chapter provides a summary of any stakeholder engagement activities undertaken by the Applicant in relation to the respective environmental factors separately from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping, non-statutory consultation, statutory consultation and targeted consultation processes, including details of the matters raised, how such matters have been addressed, and where they have been addressed within the DCO Application documentation.</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report was developed to provide detailed preliminary environmental information regarding the Proposed Development, while a non-technical summary was developed to provide an accessible version of this information for consultation. Detailed information about the availability of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary is included in Section 5.11 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p> <p>As part of the DCO application, the Applicant has also submitted a Potential Main Issues for Examination [EN010157/APP/5.6] document.</p>
<p>Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430</p>	<p>The Habitats Regulations provide for the designation of sites for the protection of certain species and habitats. When considering whether a proposed NSIP has the potential to significantly affect the integrity of such sites, the applicant must provide a report as required by Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations 2009. This must include the site(s) that may be affected, together</p>	<p>The Stage 1 Screening of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process was undertaken and considered each of the five European sites identified within 10km of the Proposed Development sites (Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, Hornsea Mere SPA, and Greater Wash SPA), to determine the potential for likely significant effects. The screening assessment concluded that for four of the European sites</p>

	with sufficient information to enable the relevant Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment is required under the Habitats Regulations, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment. Further relevant information can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's advice and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs guidance on Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) .	(Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site and Hornsea Mere SPA) the potential for likely significant effects could not be ruled out (either alone or in combination). Further Appropriate Assessment, Stage 2 of the HRA process, was therefore required of these four sites. See Habitats Regulations Assessment - Information to inform Appropriate Assessment [EN010157/APP/5.3] for further information.
Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430	As NPSs reiterate, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide all the material and evidence as part of the application to enable the Secretary of State to carry out their statutory obligations. Where the applicant is of the view that there are no likely significant effects, this is best presented in the form of a report which contains all the material necessary to justify the conclusions reached, and evidence of the extent of agreement with statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs). One way of doing this is for an applicant to agree an evidence plan with the SNCBs to support a HRA where there are extensive or complex issues.	The Stage 1 Screening of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process concluded likely significant effects (alone or in-combination) could not be ruled out and therefore further assessment was required. Further Appropriate Assessment, Stage 2 of the HRA process, determined that with the implementation of mitigation measures secured through the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.2] , Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.4] and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.5] , there would be no adverse effects (alone or in-combination) on the integrity of the European sites screened into the assessment, as a result of the Proposed Development. See Habitats Regulations Assessment - Information to inform Appropriate Assessment [EN010157/APP/5.3] for further information.
Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430	The Planning Inspectorate can also comment on the applicant's draft HRA report if agreed as part of the pre-application service in advance of formal submission of the application. Applicants must therefore build in sufficient time during the pre-application stage to consult with the SNCBs and, if they consider it appropriate, with any relevant non-statutory nature conservation bodies, in order to gather the necessary evidence and material.	<p>The Applicant has not sought comment from the Planning Inspectorate on a draft HRA report in advance of formal submission of the application. However, the draft HRA report has been shared with Natural England and the Environment Agency via email for their comment.</p> <p>A Microsoft Teams meeting was also held with Natural England on 15 July 2024 to seek advice on the assessment of</p>

		<p>impacts to qualifying species associated with the internationally designated sites potentially relevant to the Proposed Development (Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, Greater Wash SPA and Hornsea Mere SPA) and approaches to mitigation. The responses received during that meeting and in the subsequent written response (DAS/A012737, 459920, dated 2 August 2024) have been taken into consideration in Habitats Regulations Assessment - Information to inform Appropriate Assessment [EN010157/APP/5.3].</p>
<p>Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430</p>	<p>Where any potential for likely significant effects cannot be ruled out and the applicant needs to move to the subsequent stages of the HRA process, it is for the applicant to include as part of the HRA documentation included with the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a shadow appropriate assessment; • where necessary a draft of the applicant's case for derogations involving imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures, together with evidence of landowner agreements where necessary. <p>Full HRA material must be provided as part of the application. This guidance requires the Planning Inspectorate not to accept applications for examination which are incomplete or not comprehensive in this regard. It is also expected that additional material should not be submitted by the applicant for validation during the examination stage. If such additional material is needed it will be requested by the Examining Authority or raised by SNCBs in their representations.</p>	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment – Information to Inform Appropriate Assessment [EN010157/APP/5.3] determined that with the implementation of mitigation measures secured through the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.2], Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.4] and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.5], there would be no adverse effects (alone or in-combination) on the integrity of the European sites screened into the assessment, as a result of the Proposed Development. Therefore, the Applicant considers that no further assessment or documentation is required.</p>

<p>Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430</p>	<p>By placing the responsibility of compiling all the necessary HRA material on the applicant, coupled with agreed SoCG with SNCBs submitted with the application wherever possible, the expectation is that the range of disputed factual material should be reduced. In turn, the need for the Planning Inspectorate to produce its own document, the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES), for the Examining Authority to take into account during the examination and as part of the recommendation should also be decreased. This will contribute to improving the efficiency of the examination and reducing the burden placed on the Secretary of State as competent authority during the decision stage of the NSIP consenting process.</p>	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment – Information to Inform Appropriate Assessment [EN010157/APP/5.3] is submitted with the DCO Application.</p> <p>The Applicant is not submitting a Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement (PADSS) or any Statement of Common Grounds (SoCG) with the DCO Application, however it intends on providing SoCGs during the examination stage with relevant stakeholders. A document outlining identified potential main issues for examination (Potential Main Issues for Examination [EN010157/APP/5.6]) is submitted as part of the DCO Application.</p>
<p>Paragraph 013 Reference ID 02-013-20240430</p>	<p>Regulation 26 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that where an EIA and HRA are required, the processes should be co-ordinated. The HRA process should form part of, and reference, the work carried out for the broader EIA process, particularly with respect to consideration of alternatives, cumulative effects and mitigation options. However, care should be taken to ensure that the information relevant to the HRA and its conclusions are clearly discernible.</p>	<p>There has been regular communication and collaboration between the teams producing ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010157/APP/6.2], Habitats Regulations Assessment – Information to Inform Appropriate Assessment [EN010157/APP/5.3] and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010157/APP/7.5] to ensure that consideration of alternatives, cumulative effects and mitigation options are aligned, whilst still maintaining the distinction between the EIA and HRA processes and their conclusions.</p>
<p>Paragraph 014 Reference ID 02-014-20240430</p>	<p>Applicants should involve a diverse range of people including where appropriate, planners, environmental specialists, landscape architects, architects, engineers and community groups in informing the project vision, narrative, design principles, and project design process to support delivery of the outcomes of the project. Applicants should explain how the design responds to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) design</p>	<p>The wider Project team, including planners, environmental specialists and engineers have been involved in the project design process.</p> <p>The Design Approach Document [EN010157/APP/5.7] sets out how the design responds to the NIC design principles.</p>

	principles for national infrastructure: climate, people, places and value.	
Paragraph 015 Reference ID 02-015-20240430	Applicants do now routinely set out in brief the main alternatives to their preferred scheme which were considered early during the pre-application stage and the consultees' responses to them. Applicants are encouraged to do so as this can demonstrate how project designs have been refined to take into account environmental, socio-economic and community effects. Any such consideration of alternatives should be submitted as part of the application, perhaps as part of the Planning Statement. All this will help to reinforce the applicant's case for promoting the NSIP in the particular form of the submitted application.	The Applicant has provided a description of the reasonable alternatives considered and the reasons behind the chosen option in ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Iteration [EN010157/APP/6.1] and in Appendix 2 - Site Selection Assessment to the Planning Statement [EN010157/APP/5.5] .
Paragraph 015 Reference ID 02-015-20240430	Very exceptionally, there may be some real alternatives to elements of a proposed NSIP which the applicant chooses to put forward for examination on the basis that the Examining Authority could be able to recommend a preference to the Secretary of State. There may also be circumstances where an element of a proposed NSIP is so exceptional it is in the applicant's interest to provide a more particular consideration of alternatives to help demonstrate their eventual preference in the light of the policy requirements of the relevant NPS. In such cases, the applicant will need to ensure that sufficient technical material is included as part of the application to enable it to be properly investigated during the examination without leading to substantial delays.	Not relevant for the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 016 Reference ID 02-016-20240430	Applicants will often need to compile detailed records of land interests as part of the preparation of an NSIP application. These will be principally for the assembly of the Book of Reference required by Regulations 5 and 7 of	A Book of Reference [EN010157/APP/4.2] has been submitted as part of the DCO application.

	the APFP Regulations 2009 where applicable, including where compulsory acquisition of land is proposed, or where applicants require rights to use land (for example, to undertake surveys) or carry out protective works to buildings.	
Paragraph 016 Reference ID 02-016-20240430	The strong expectation is that applicants of proposed NSIPs will act reasonably in engaging with landowners, and likewise landowners will cooperate with applicants to provide them with the information that they need and facilitate access to their land as required, even if they object to the principle of the development. Such cooperation does not preclude, remove or reduce any of the landowner's rights to participate in the consultation on an application or make representations about it during the examination.	The Applicant has been proactive in engaging with the key land area landowners through meetings and emails. More detail on engagement with landowners can be found in Section 5.7 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] .
Paragraph 016 Reference ID 02-016-20240430	These Planning Act provisions help to minimise delays resulting from a lack of co-operation from people with interests in land. They are a back stop however, and the procedures involved are detailed and relatively time consuming. If an applicant does find themselves in this position, it is important to recognise this early in the process to lose as little time as possible during the pre-application period. Equally, there is an expectation that the Planning Inspectorate has procedures in place to handle requests from applicants in as efficient and timely a manner as possible. The Planning Act does not specify statutory timeframes for determining requests from applicants for authorisation. The complexity of circumstances varies of course, but the expectation is that the Planning Inspectorate should be able to process a straightforward request under either section 52 or section 53 of the Planning Act in no more than 3 months.	The Applicant does not consider that there is an issue of lack of co-operation with those with land interests.

<p>Paragraph 017 Reference ID 02-017-20240430</p>	<p>One of the main advantages of the Planning Act is the ability to embrace several non-planning consents within the Development Consent Order (DCO). This enables a decision to be implemented as quickly as possible avoiding the need for a substantial volume of post-DCO consents, permits and licences to be obtained. However, a consent or authorisation listed under section 150 of the Planning Act can only be included in a DCO if the relevant body responsible for granting it has agreed, and such consent or authorisation is prescribed in the Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015 (as amended) (“the IPMPP Regulations 2015”). The experience from those DCOs granted to date suggests that rather less use has been made of the provision in section 150 of the Planning Act than had been expected, with several statutory bodies preferring to continue to retain these decisions to themselves subsequent to the making of the DCO. Whilst this can be complex to organise, the example of the Marine Management Organisation in handling deemed marine licences under section 149A of the Planning Act within the body of DCOs shows that this should not be an impediment.</p> <p>The presumption should be therefore that where an applicant proposes a provision within their DCO to remove a requirement for a prescribed non-planning consent to be granted by the relevant body, the body that would normally be responsible for granting this consent is expected to make every effort to agree to the proposal. Such a body should only object to the inclusion of such provision with good reason, and after careful</p>	<p>Where possible, the Applicant is seeking the disapplication of legislation with the relevant bodies, as required under section 150 of the Planning Act. For example, the Applicant has agreed with the Environment Agency the disapplication of Schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and Regulation 12 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 subject to the agreement and inclusion of suitable Protective Provisions within the DCO and to the provision of drawings of any new structures and a basic method statement for all major works, prior to or during the Examination.</p>
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	consideration of reasonable alternatives. It is therefore essential that such bodies are consulted at an early stage, and that applicants give thorough and early consideration to this aspect of pre-application preparation.	
Paragraph 017 Reference ID 02-017-20240430	Some permits regularly required to implement DCOs lie outside the provisions of section 150 of the Planning Act , for example an environmental permit to operate a particular development issued by the Environment Agency. In this case, an applicant should confirm if an environmental permit is required for the proposed project at an early stage in the preparation of an application. Further guidance is provided by the Environment Agency (Check if you need an environmental permit and guidelines for development requiring planning permission and environmental permits).	Other Consents and Licences [EN010157/APP/5.9] outlines the other consents and licences that are relevant to the Proposed Development and states which ones the Applicant has sought to disapply.
Paragraph 018 Reference ID 02-018-20240430	Section 149A of the Planning Act provides that a DCO may include a marine licence deemed to have been issued under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 . Such marine licences are issued by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and where an applicant intends to seek such a licence as part of the DCO it is essential that the MMO is consulted at the earliest opportunity to agree the content of the deemed marine licence (DML) and the range of conditions which will be applied. The MMO is responsible for enforcing these conditions, post-consent monitoring, and varying, suspending, or revoking any DML(s) included as part of a made DCO.	Not relevant for the Proposed Development.
Paragraph 020 Reference ID 02-020-20240430	The pre-application consultation undertaken should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the project and its effects. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not appropriate. For a straightforward and uncontroversial	The Applicant planned for a two-stage consultation. Non-statutory consultation introduced the plans to the community and stakeholders, whilst the statutory consultation provided more detailed information on the design and environmental

	<p>application, an applicant may choose to discharge the obligations of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act concurrently in a single round of consultation, or in separate stages. For more complex proposals, an applicant may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may choose to run a multi-stage statutory consultation process.</p>	<p>assessments. Further to this, a subsequent targeted consultation was undertaken on 19 revisions to the draft Order Limits which require additional land for the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>More detail on the stages of consultation can be found in the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>
<p>Paragraph 020 Reference ID 02-020-20240430</p>	<p>What consultation is planned and when will form a key part of the applicant's overall programme for completing the pre-application stage. It will need to be included in the Programme Document supplied by the applicant to the Planning Inspectorate for the Inception Meeting. Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted. Larger, more complex applications are likely to warrant going beyond the statutory 28-day minimum timescales for consultation laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response.</p>	<p>The latest Pre-application Guidance, including the need for a Programme Document, was published after the Inception Meeting. In the Inception Meeting and subsequent meetings with the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant has provided an update on the approach and timeline for engagement and consultation.</p> <p>A Programme Document was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024. The document was uploaded to the project website on 14 August 2024 and has been updated as necessary during the pre-application period.</p> <p>The Applicant ran a 4-week non-statutory consultation, a 6-week statutory consultation and a 4-week targeted consultation. More detail on the stages of consultation can be found in the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>
<p>Paragraph 020 Reference ID 02-020-20240430</p>	<p>The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from project to project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the effects. Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. Equally, it is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they respond in good time to applicants. Where</p>	<p>The Applicant ran a 4-week non-statutory consultation, a 6-week statutory consultation and a 4-week targeted consultation. More detail on the stages of consultation can be found in the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>

	responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.	
Paragraph 020 Reference ID 02-020-20240430	<p>Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.</p> <p>Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.</p> <p>In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and</p>	<p>The Applicant ran a non-statutory targeted consultation on 19 identified proposed changes to the draft Order Limits, where additional land is required to enable the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. This consultation ran from Tuesday 8 October 2024 to Friday 8 November 2024. 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 Consultation Report Appendix C-7 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p> <p>The Applicant kept the consultation proportionate due to the limited changes and agreed the proposed engagement mechanisms in advance with East Riding of Yorkshire Council.</p> <p>Details of the targeted consultation are included in Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1]</p>

	<p>targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.</p> <p>Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 021 Reference ID 02-021-20240430</p>	<p>Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act, Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 set out details of who must be consulted, including statutory bodies, the Marine Management Organisation where appropriate, local authorities, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed. Section 47 of the Planning Act sets out the applicant's statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants will want to consider the issues that may need to be addressed ahead of submission and may also wish to seek the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.</p>	<p>Details of who was consulted as part of the statutory consultation are included in Chapter 5 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p> <p>Chapter 6 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] and Consultation Report Appendix G [EN010157/APP/5.2] explains how regard has been had to the issues raised in the statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 021 Reference ID 02-021-20240430</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 amended the APFP Regulations 2009 by substituting a new table of persons prescribed for the purpose of section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act (duty to consult) and also section 56(2) of the Planning Act (notifying persons of an accepted applications) which is covered in the acceptance guidance. It is the</p>	<p>Persons prescribed under section 42(1)(a) are listed in column 1 of the Schedule to the "Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024". These 2024 Regulations came into force on 30th April 2024 replacing the table in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ("2009 Regulations"), with an updated table of prescribed consultees. The statutory consultation took place after 30 April 2024, therefore the</p>

	applicant's responsibility to ensure all relevant prescribed consultees are consulted about a proposed application.	<p>Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations 2024 was used as the prescribed persons list.</p> <p>Section 5.4 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] outlines the approach to identifying s42(a) consultees and when they were consulted.</p>
Paragraph 021 Reference ID 02-021-20240430	While the list of prescribed bodies who must be consulted was updated in April 2024, from time to time a body may cease to exist but may still be listed as a statutory consultee in the Regulations pending their updating. In such situations applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Planning Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.	The Applicant consulted all prescribed bodies. Section 5.4 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] outlines the approach to identifying s42(a) consultees and when they were consulted.
Paragraph 022 Reference ID 02-022-20240430	It is good practice for applicants to work with local stakeholders in the formative stages of the project, through early engagement. This can help inform the Programme Document that they later take to the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Early engagement with local authorities, parish and town councils can help applicants to ensure they find the best approach to engage the relevant communities in the most effective and proportionate way.	The Applicant has taken a proactive approach to engagement with the local authority and parish councils. Briefings to key councils and parish councils were made before and during the non-statutory and statutory consultations. All details are included in the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] .
Paragraph 022 Reference ID 02-022-20240430	Under section 47 of the Planning Act , applicants are required to produce a SoCC, setting out how they intend to consult the local community on the proposed	The Applicant developed and consulted the relevant local authorities on the SoCC as outlined in Chapter 4 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] .

	<p>application. Applicants should consider how they can engage communities in a way that supports them to understand the necessary issues at an appropriate stage to support preparation of their application, and how they will show how they have responded to their issues of concern.</p>	<p>The SoCC includes a range of ways to promote the consultation, including via social media. The Applicant also held online and in person events to aid accessibility to the consultation for a range of people.</p> <p>Details on how the consultation was delivered in line with the SoCC are included in Section 5.18 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>
<p>Paragraph 022 Reference ID 02-022-20240430</p>	<p>Local communities may need support to help them to input to the NSIP consenting process. Independent community liaison chairs or forums can be used to provide support to local communities and non-statutory consultees to enable them to provide an effective input to the pre-application process. Applicants will want to consider whether these should be used, not least to assist an applicant's own assessment of potential examination issues in preparing their Programme Document and SoCC.</p>	<p>The Applicant has not established a community forum. Instead, parish councils have been offered in person briefings where the project team has provided information on the Proposed Development, consultations and DCO process.</p>
<p>Paragraph 023 Reference ID 02-023-20240430</p>	<p>Applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consult the prescribed bodies as appropriate under Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as well as the Marine Management Organisation in certain circumstances, under section 42 of the Planning Act, giving the consultees at least 28 days to respond; publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act, and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009 sets out the detail of what this publicity must entail; and 	<p>The Applicant has met all requirements of the Planning Act and the APFP Regulations 2009 as outlined in the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by section 49 of the Planning Act have regard to any relevant consultation responses from either statutory consultees under section 42 of the Planning Act, local communities under section 47 of the Planning Act, or wider publicity under section 48 of the Planning Act. 	
Paragraph 023 Reference ID 02-023-20240430	<p>Applicants will often need detailed technical input from statutory consultees as expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the impacts of projects, and other important matters. In many cases applicants will need to engage statutory consultees and others before the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Some statutory consultees have cost recovery arrangements in place for the advice they provide. The ability for statutory consultees to respond effectively to pre-application requests for advice means they have the information they need from applicants to do so. It is essential therefore that applicants arrange early engagement with statutory consultees to avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the consenting process. It is equally important that statutory consultees respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. This requires statutory consultees to allocate the necessary resource and work with applicants to support them in developing their application, taking account of the issues they raise.</p>	<p>The Applicant has proactively engaged with statutory bodies, especially as part of the EIA process, as outlined in Chapter 3 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p> <p>Since their introduction in April 2024, the Applicant has had cost recovery agreements in place with Natural England and the Environment Agency. Prior to this, a Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) with both agencies was in place. These arrangements have enabled ongoing engagement throughout the pre-application process.</p> <p>A Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with the Local Planning Authority was also agreed in the early stages of the pre-application process and has been used to enable the LPA officers (and any external consultant support) to engage in the process, provide advice and responses to the consultation.</p>
Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430	<p>Where an applicant proposes to compulsorily acquire an interest or take temporary possession of land it does not own in order to implement a proposed NSIP, under section 42 of the Planning Act they must identify</p>	<p>Section 5.7 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] outlines the method for identifying by which the Applicant made diligent inquiry to identify and consult persons with an</p>

	<p>and consult people, including those who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question. It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. Applicants must ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is sufficiently up to date at the time of submission (acknowledging the timescales for preparing and updating it) and fully meets the requirements of Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009.</p>	<p>interest in lands impacted by the Proposed Development and when they were consulted.</p> <p>The full methodology is provided in the Statement of Reasons [EN010157/APP/4.1].</p> <p>A list of those persons consulted under s42(1)(d) is provided in the Book of Reference [EN010157/APP/4.2] and a sample of the letter sent can be found in Consultation Report Appendix D-2.2 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p> <p>As detailed in Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] a further targeted consultation was carried out between 8 October and 8 November 2024, including with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons with an interest in land (PILs) who had been newly identified as a result of the proposed changes and were therefore being consulted on a statutory basis. • PILs who were previously contacted at statutory consultation and who the Applicant believed had additional land interests affected by the changes.
<p>Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430</p>	<p>Where appropriate, the Book of Reference should be supplemented by a Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker, submitted by the applicant and updated during the examination, setting out the status of negotiations with landowners, Crown bodies and statutory undertakers affected by proposals for compulsory acquisition of land or rights and temporary possession.</p>	<p>The Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [EN01057/APP/4.4] sets out the position in relation to the negotiations undertaken to date with affected owners, occupiers and others.</p> <p>Appendix A of the Statement of Reasons [EN01057/APP/4.1] sets out the purpose for land acquisition by reference to the works carried out in each plot.</p>

Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430	It should be noted that for an accepted application, the situation concerning compilation of land interests can continue to evolve during the examination as new information becomes available, and it is not uncommon for the Book of Reference to be revised and resubmitted more than once. This is usually a substantial undertaking and applicants should dedicate sufficient time and resource, particularly as in many cases there may be parcels of land where there is little information available. With this in mind, applicants are advised to make maximum use of electronic data bases when compiling the Book of Reference to enable such changes to be made easily.	The Applicant notes this advice and has employed a specialist Land Referencing company to undertake this work who utilise a database to produce the Book of Reference [EN010157/APP/4.2] .
Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430	In addition, land interests can change over time and new or additional interests may emerge after an applicant has concluded statutory consultation but just before an application is submitted. In such a situation, the applicant should provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with a land interest to make their views known on the application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of an application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process, it may be difficult at that stage for applicants to consult and take account of any responses from those new interests before submitting their application as intended. If this situation arises applicants should be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person understands how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination.	<p>The Applicant notes this advice and has undertaken diligent enquiry to identify and consult affected land interests. As the Applicant undertook targeted consultation in October 2024, a Land Registry refresh was undertaken to identify any new interests since the main Statutory Consultation. This ensured any changes in land ownership were picked up and consulted at this time. A refresh will be undertaken again prior to Section 56 notices being sent out.</p> <p>More detail on the identification of interests ahead of the targeted consultation can be found in Section 7.3 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>
Paragraph 024 Reference ID 02-024-20240430	Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having	Chapter 8 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] outlines how new interests have been identified and managed.

	regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.	
Paragraph 025 Reference ID 02-025-20240430	The Programme Document will enable the Planning Inspectorate to determine at the Inception Meeting that the proposed consultation arrangements are adequate for the level of complexity of the proposed project. The Programme Document should also identify an appropriate milestone during the pre-application stage to enable the Planning Inspectorate to test the progress of the consultation.	The Applicant had conducted its non-statutory and statutory consultation before this guidance (including the requirement for a Programme Document to be prepared) was published. The Applicant submitted a Programme Document on 10 July 2024.
Paragraph 025 Reference ID 02-025-20240430	This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.	The Applicant submitted the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement to the Planning Inspectorate on 29 August 2024. A copy can be found in Consultation Report Appendix I-1 [EN010157/APP/5.2] .
Paragraph 025 Reference ID 02-025-20240430	The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.	The Applicant submitted the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement to the Planning Inspectorate on 29 August 2024. The structure was in line with that presented to the Planning Inspectorate in the meeting and in line with Planning Inspectorate guidance. A copy can be found in Consultation Report Appendix I-1 [EN010157/APP/5.2] .
Paragraph 025 Reference ID 02-025-20240430	The adequacy of consultation milestone is an informal but nonetheless important opportunity to check that the pre-application programme is on track, and if it is seriously adrift the Planning Inspectorate will advise the applicant about the steps necessary to enable the application to be submitted having fulfilled the statutory requirements. Inevitably this could mean a renegotiation	Section 51 advice was received from the Planning Inspectorate on 17 September 2024 regarding the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement. Details on how this has been considered are included in Consultation Report Appendix I-2 [EN010157/APP/5.2] .

	of the expected date of submission, with the objective of avoiding the prospect of an application not being accepted for examination.	
Paragraph 026 Reference ID 02-026-20240430	<p>This report should not include an excessively detailed description of every element of the consultation programme. The main objective should be to provide clarity not just on what consultation has been done but, crucially, how the applicant has taken it into account. It should therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline; • 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; • set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC; • set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses); • provide a description of how the proposed application for submission has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses, showing any significant changes made as a result; • provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to a proposed project, including advice from statutory consultees and local authorities on effects, were not followed; and • be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how 	<p>The Applicant submitted the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Statement to the Planning Inspectorate on 29 August 2024. The structure was in line with the Pre-application Guidance. A copy can be found in Consultation Report Appendix I-1 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p>

	consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to.	
Paragraph 026 Reference ID 02-026-20240430	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.	<p>The Applicant has committed to developing a simple to read 'You Said, We Did' consultation document that outlines how community feedback has directly resulted in changes to the Proposed Development, as well as providing details of where to access the Consultation Report. On acceptance of the application, the Applicant intends to publish this on the consultation website.</p> <p>Details of how people will be informed of the results of the statutory consultation are included in Chapter 8 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1].</p>
Paragraph 026 Reference ID 02-026-20240430	A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant effects, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate.	<p>All feedback from non-statutory, statutory and targeted consultation, along with responses, is provided in the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] and Consultation Report Appendices A-2, G and H-8 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p> <p>Technical responses to points raised by consultees through stakeholder engagement are detailed further in ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-15 [EN010157/APP/6.2].</p> <p>Where relevant, reports containing technical information have been shared with consultees to demonstrate how points have been addressed. For example, drafts of 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] have been shared with the EA for consultation purposes, with updated versions shared to evidence how comments have</p>

		been addressed. Further details are provided in detailed in ES Volume 2, Chapters 6-15 [EN010157/APP/6.2] .
Paragraph 027 Reference ID 02-027-20240430	Applicants should discuss with the Planning Inspectorate which support package is most suitable for their project, in advance of the Inception Meeting if necessary. The Planning Inspectorate will assess as early as possible what is likely to be expected of them and will offer the applicant the most appropriate level of service, which will be expected to run for a fixed period of time in order to help the applicant and the Planning Inspectorate manage their resources efficiently. Applicants who wish to switch between the levels of service should discuss this with the Planning Inspectorate, which will advise on the consequences of any change.	The Applicant had held its inception meeting before this guidance was published. The Applicant submitted an Expression of Interest form on 10 July 2024 setting out the service tier it considered most appropriate for the Proposed Development. This was the Standard service tier.
Paragraph 030 Reference ID 02-030-20240430	<p>The programme-led approach, driven by the applicant through their Programme Document, is intended to support preparation of the application and address the issues it gives rise to in such a way as those which remain outstanding at examination are minimised. Applicants, working with those engaged in the pre-application process, have an important role to play to ensure that an examination focuses on the main differences between the parties.</p> <p>Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) can support this by providing a written statement (prepared by the applicant and another party or parties), setting out matters on which they agree or disagree. Applicants are encouraged to submit SoCGs as part of the application documents, even if they are of a provisional or draft nature to be developed during the examination. It is therefore important that these are prepared during the pre-application period wherever possible, particularly with statutory consultees and affected local authorities.</p>	<p>The latest Pre-application Guidance, including the need for a Programme Document, was published between the Applicant's non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation. A Programme Document was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 July 2024. The document was uploaded to the project website on 14 August 2024 and has been updated as necessary during the pre-application period.</p> <p>The Applicant is not submitting a Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement (PADSS) or any SoCGs with the DCO Application, however it intends on providing SoCGs during the examination stage with relevant stakeholders.</p>

	Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS) record the key areas of disagreement together with a statement as to what precise change to the draft DCO is sought by the relevant interested party to resolve the issues. Submission of PADSS are suitable for all types of application but are an essential element of a potential fast-track application .	
Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430	<p>An application for an Order granting development consent must be made in the form and include such matters prescribed by section 37 of the Planning Act and Regulations 5, 6 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009. These cover a wide range of plans and documents which must be submitted and compliance with the requirements of these regulations is one of the main tests the Planning Inspectorate applies in reaching a decision about whether or not to accept the application for examination.</p> <p>The content of a proposed application set out in the regulations consists of 3 types of matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those elements which must be included in any application such as the draft DCO, Explanatory Memorandum and works plans; • those elements which must be included but only where applicable, such as an Environmental Statement, Book of Reference and certain land plans (where altered means of access, and particular documents required by specific types of projects; and • any other documents or plans considered necessary to support the application. 	The Applicant has had regard to the matters prescribed by section 37 of the Planning Act and Regulations 5, 6 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009 when producing the DCO Application.

<p>Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430</p>	<p>In practice therefore, each application will differ in content contingent on the nature of the proposed NSIP and the impact on local features such as heritage assets and important habitats. There is flexibility offered by Regulation 5(2)(q) of the APFP Regulations 2009, and in the light of experience of many proposals there are documents which most applicants now routinely submit such as a Design and Access Statement and a Code of Construction Practice, sometimes as part of the Environmental Statement.</p>	<p>The Applicant has had regard to the nature of its Proposed Development when deciding documents to submit as part of its DCO Application.</p>
<p>Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430</p>	<p>The expectation now in this guidance is that there are standard documents which the Examining Authority will normally require as part of an application to support an informed decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Planning Statement which provides a description of the proposed development and a summary of the main impacts, the policy context for the proposed development and how the project relates to the requirements of a designated NPS; • where the application involves a request for compulsory acquisition powers a Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker which identifies each plot of land and enables the progress of negotiations relating to each one during the examination to be easily monitored; and • for proposed fast-track applications (and good practice for all applications) a document which sets out the applicant's view of the principal issues identified through pre-application process and the applicant's view on the extent to which they can be settled during the examination (this is 	<p>The DCO Application is not a fast-track application.</p> <p>The DCO Application includes a Planning Statement [EN010157/APP/5.5], a Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [EN010157/APP/4.4] and Potential Main Issues for Examination [EN010157/APP/5.6].</p>

	explained more fully in guidance covering fast-track).	
Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430	<p>A further consideration is the desire for flexibility sought by many applicants particularly in the draft DCO, so that refinements to the approved development can be accommodated as detailed design and implementation takes place. This is supported by specific references in some NPSs, but at the same time the DCO as a statutory instrument needs to be legally certain.</p> <p>A common way of balancing these requirements is to express the approved development by way of maximum parameters such as dimensions of buildings, reflecting the cautious worst-case approach also for the purposes of environmental assessment. This 'Rochdale Envelope' approach can be acceptable in formulating an NSIP application, but subject to the following considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the application documents such as the Planning Statement should explain and justify the need for, and the timescales associated with, the flexibility sought and this should be established within clearly defined parameters; • the parameters established for the proposed development must be sufficiently detailed to enable a proper assessment of the likely significant environmental effects and to allow for the identification of necessary mitigation; • the assessments in the Environmental Statement must be consistent with the parameters to ensure a robust worst-case assessment of the likely significant effects has been undertaken; and • there must be sufficient information to enable all consultees to appreciate the impacts and effects 	<p>In order to maintain flexibility in the design, the Applicant has used the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach in assessing the impacts of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The maximum and minimum parameters used to inform the Environmental assessments are set out in the Design Parameters Document [EN010157/APP/5.8] and the Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010157/APP/6.1].</p>

	of the proposed development and to meet the statutory consultation requirements; flexibility is not a reason for falling short in this regard.	
Paragraph 031 Reference ID 02-031-20240430	Unless specifically requested by the Planning Inspectorate, there is no requirement to submit the application documents in hard copy form, and the expectation is that all material will be submitted electronically and published in due course on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website . Documents should also be made available on the applicant's website. In due course the provisions of sections 84 and 85 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 will be implemented to apply to the NSIP consenting process by requiring the submission of planning data as will be specified in regulations. This will further enhance the ability of applicants to submit applications in up-to-date digital formats.	The Planning Inspectorate has confirmed that the Applicant does not need to submit the application documents in hard copy form.
Paragraph 032 Reference ID 02-032-20240430	Applicants are required to consult the local authority in whose area a proposed NSIP project lies (the 'host' local authority). They are also required to identify and consult the neighbouring local authorities under the requirements of section 43(2) and (2A) of the Planning Act . This explains how lower tier or unitary authorities adjacent to the host authority, and upper tier authorities adjacent to the upper tier authority within which the proposal is located, should be consulted. Determining which neighbouring authorities should be involved can only be done on a case-by-case basis. If the boundaries of the proposed applications change, applicants will need to consider whether there are any changes to the local authorities they need to consult.	<p>Section 5.5 of the Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] lists the relevant local authorities which were identified under s43 and consulted on 13 May 2023, in accordance with s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008.</p> <p>The host 'B' authorities consulted were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Riding of Yorkshire Council <p>The boundary 'A' authorities consulted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hull City Council • North Lincolnshire Council • Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council • City of York Council • North Yorkshire Council

		<p>There are no relevant 'C' or 'D' category neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to the s42(1)(b) relevant authorities sent on 13 May 2024 is provided in Consultation Report Appendix D-2.1 [EN010157/APP/5.2].</p>
<p>Paragraph 032 Reference ID 02-032-20240430</p>	<p>Applicants need to appreciate the range of local government structures in England particularly, and the meaning of 'local authority' in section 43(3) of the Planning Act for the purposes of consultation under the section 42 of the Planning Act. Where a combined authority or combined county authority is in place, applicants are recommended to review whether the relevant legislation which established those authorities brings them within scope of the consultation requirements under the Planning Act. Unless functions of county, district or unitary authorities have been specifically transferred by legislation, then these type of government bodies would not be a 'local authority' under these sections of the Planning Act. However, it is good practice for applicants to work with the constituent local authorities to consider how a combined authority could best support development of the application.</p>	<p>There are currently no combined authorities impacted by the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The creation of Hull and East Yorkshire's Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) was signed off by the Government on 19 September.</p> <p>Following Mayoral elections in May 2025, the Applicant will look to engage the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA).</p>
<p>Paragraph 032 Reference ID 02-032-20240430</p>	<p>Depending on the nature and scale of the NSIP, and the extent to which a particular authority is affected, Planning Performance Agreements or mechanisms that provide cost recovery may be appropriate. This should be set out in the applicant's Programme Document for discussion and agreement with the Planning Inspectorate at the Inception Meeting.</p>	<p>The Applicant has entered into a Planning Performance Agreement with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.</p>

Paragraph 035 Reference ID 02-035-20240430	<p>When an application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, local authorities affected by a proposed NSIP are invited by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act to confirm whether the consultation has been adequate in meeting the expectations set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>It is therefore vital that local authorities have been fully engaged during the consultation process undertaken by the applicant during the pre-application stage so that they are fully informed and able to respond authoritatively within tight deadlines in order that a decision on whether the application to proceed to examination can be made within 28 days. Accordingly, local authorities are advised to prepare their adequacy of consultation responses in advance of the acceptance stage, and to raise any concerns with applicants ahead of submission, and as part of the early adequacy of consultation milestone.</p>	The Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] includes details on how the local authorities have been engaged through the pre-application process.
Paragraph 036 Reference ID 02-036-20240430	Where a local authority raises an issue or concern about the draft SoCC which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to work with the authority to find an appropriate way forward. Where this is not possible, they should explain the reasons for this and rationale for their course of action in the consultation report submitted as part of their application.	No issues were raised about the SoCC from the local authorities.
Paragraph 036 Reference ID 02-036-20240430	Applicants have a statutory duty to consult any local authority in whose land a project is sited. So, where an offshore project also features land-based development such as an onshore cable route and substation, the applicant should treat the local authority where the land-based development is located as the main consultee for the SoCC. The applicant is also advised to consider seeking views on the SoCC from local authorities whose	The Consultation Report [EN010157/APP/5.1] includes details on how the local authorities have been identified and engaged through the pre-application process.

	communities may be affected by the project, for example visually or through construction traffic, even if the project is in fact some distance from the area in question. In addition, applicants may find it beneficial to discuss their SoCC with any local authorities in the vicinity where there could be an effect on harbour facilities.	
Paragraph 037 Reference ID 02-037-20240430	From the applicant's perspective, it is important that local authorities respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. Applicants are expected to work with local authorities in preparing their Programme Document, including about how they support authorities to be effectively resourced to engage in a way that supports this Programme Document. Further consideration to these matters is provided in guidance dealing with fees, cost recovery and Planning Performance Agreements.	Agreement regarding response timeframes was included within the Planning Performance Agreement, entered into with East Riding of Yorkshire Council. This Planning Performance Agreement was agreed and signed by both parties prior to the requirement to produce a Programme document was published.

Appendix I-4 End of statutory consultation email

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

15 August 2024 14:20

To:

Subject:

Thank you for engaging with our plans for Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Good afternoon,

As our statutory consultation has closed, we would like to thank the community for providing feedback on our progressed proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm, a proposed new solar farm in East Riding of Yorkshire that would generate enough energy to power approximately 167,000 homes.

More than 150 local people attended the four in-person events in Cottingham, Leven, Tickton, and Wawne, as well as the two online webinars, with attendees providing insight that will help to shape the final proposals.

We will now be carefully reviewing and considering all feedback received and using it to help finalise our proposals prior to submitting a Development Consent Order application to the Planning Inspectorate later this year.

We received feedback from more than 160 local people and organisations during the statutory consultation. A summary of the responses we received, as well as our responses to issues raised, will be included in the Statutory Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the application and then made publicly available.

RWE[MR1] remains committed to transparency and collaboration and will continue to keep the community informed about the progress of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.

As part of the pre-application process and in line with Government guidance, we have developed a Programme Document, which outlines a high-level overview of engagement, main issues for resolution with key stakeholders and our timetable of activities. This live document has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and is now available to view on our website at the following link: <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/documents/>.

Detailed information about the proposals can be found at the project website, which we will keep up to date throughout the planning process: <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/>.

If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact the communications team by responding to this email or by calling our communications team on 01482 695 004.

Many thanks,

Peartree Hill Solar Farm Communications Team



Appendix I-5 End of targeted consultation email to elected members

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2024 14:14
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Update on Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Good afternoon,

We are writing to provide an update on our application for Peartree Hill Solar Farm, a proposed new solar farm in East Riding of Yorkshire. As we work toward the submission of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, we would like to share our recent progress, next steps and offer an opportunity for a briefing on the updated proposals.

Our final round of consultation, involving a targeted consultation held from 8 October to 8 November 2024 has now concluded. In this latest consultation, we sought feedback on minor proposed changes to the draft Order Limits where additional land has been identified as required.

In responses to this targeted consultation, we received comments from 44 local residents, land interests and statutory parties. We will now be carefully reviewing and considering all feedback received and using it to help finalise our proposals prior to submitting the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of 2024.

In addition to the responses received during our targeted consultation, we received feedback from more than 160 local people and organisations during our statutory consultation held in Spring this year.

A summary of the responses we received at these consultations, as well as our responses to issues raised and changes made, will be included in the Statutory Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the application, alongside other documents including the Environmental Statement and updated plans.

We value ongoing engagement with key stakeholders and would like to offer the opportunity to meet with us to discuss the progressed proposals ahead of Christmas. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please contact us by responding to this email or by calling our communications team on 01482 695 004.

RWE remains committed to transparency and collaboration and will continue to keep the community informed about the progress of Peartree Hill Solar Farm.

Detailed information about the proposals can be found at the project website, which we will keep up to date throughout the planning process: <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/>.

Many thanks,
Mike Greslow
Lead DCO Development Project Manager
RWE Renewables Europe & Australia
Development UK & IRE, Solar & Storage UK



Appendix I-6 Email to Cllr Gary McMaster

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 November 2024 15:58
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Peartree Hill Solar Farm: meeting request

Dear [REDACTED]

Congratulations on your new role as Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Infrastructure at East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

As you may be aware, RWE is progressing an application for Peartree Hill Solar Farm, a proposed new solar farm in East Riding of Yorkshire. As we work towards the submission of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, we would like to offer you the opportunity of a briefing on the proposals, so we can share with you an update on our plans and discuss next steps.

Peartree Hill is a large-scale solar project and associated battery storage spread across several separate land parcels, located to the east of Beverley, extending north towards Leven and will connect into the Creyke Beck Substation via underground cables.

Peartree Hill would generate approximately 320MW of renewable energy, contributing to local and national climate commitments. Due to the size of the project, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) requiring a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct and operate the project.

We have undertaken three rounds of consultation on the plans, the first commencing in October 2023 and then our statutory consultation in May/June 2024. Following these, including the recent targeted consultation (ending on 8 November 2024), all feedback has been collected and analysed, and is being used alongside ongoing environmental and technical assessments to shape the final proposals ahead of submitting the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in the new year.

A summary of the responses we received at these consultations, as well as our responses to issues raised and changes made, will be included in the Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the application, alongside other documents such as the Environmental Statement and updated plans.

We appreciate that in your new role, you may be unfamiliar with our proposals and would like to offer the opportunity to meet with us to discuss the proposals at a time convenient to you in the coming weeks. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please contact us by responding to this email or by calling our dedicated communications team on 01482 695 004.

RWE remains committed to transparency and collaboration and continues to keep the community informed about the progress of Peartree Hill Solar Farm. As such, we remain contactable on the community contact channels, and all of our consultation materials including consultation brochures, plans and preliminary environmental information report remain available to view on our website at peartreehillsolar.co.uk.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you as we progress our application.

Many thanks,

Mike Greslow
Lead DCO Development Project Manager
RWE Renewables Europe & Australia



Appendix I-7 Email sharing draft DCO for comment

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 October 2024 12:10
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Peartree Solar Farm - draft DCO and EM
Attachments: Peartree Hill Solar Farm - Draft DCO - 17.10.24(31939147.1).doc; Peartree Hill Solar Farm - Draft EM 17.10.24(31939151.1).docx

Dear [REDACTED]

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010157

I am writing on behalf of RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Limited in relation to the proposed Peartree Hill Solar Farm. The site will interface with Northern Gas assets.

Please find attached the working draft of the Development Consent Order and Explanatory Memorandum for the project for your consideration. We are sharing these drafts at an early stage and would welcome any comments you may have on them. Please can any comment be sent to us no later than **Thursday 14 November 2024** so that we can consider these as we further refine them ahead of submitting our application which is proposed for the end of the year.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks

Mike Greslow

Lead DCO Development Project Manager

RWE Renewables Europe & Australia

Development UK & IRE, Solar & Storage UK

Address: 14 Bird Street, London, W1U 1BU

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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