

## **Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park**

Consultation Report Appendix 5.1.1

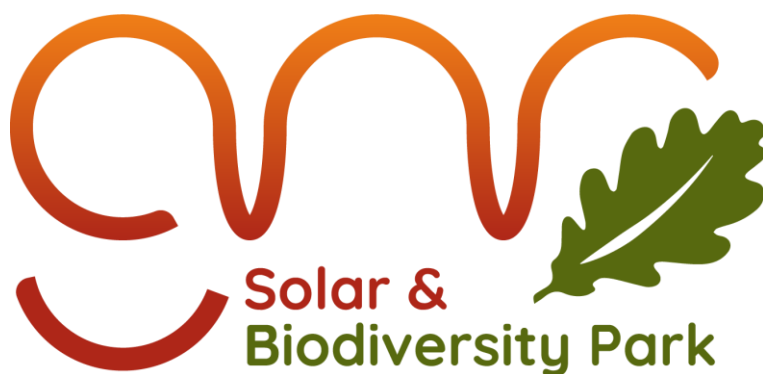
Statement of Compliance

June 2025

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# **1 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**



## **Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park**

Consultation Report

Appendix 5.1.1: Consultation Compliance Checklist

PINS Reference: [EN010162/APP/5.1.1]

June 2025





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## 1 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

- 1 This Appendix includes a Consultation Compliance Checklist, provided as Table 1.1, Table 1.2, Table 1.3 and Table 1.4.
- 2 These tables set out relevant legislation and guidance relevant to pre-application consultation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
- 3 The legislation and guidance comprise:
  - The Planning Act 2008 (Table 1.1);
  - The Infrastructure Planning: (Application: Prescribed Form and Procedure) Regulation 2009 (Table 1.2);
  - Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Table 1.3);
  - Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 guidance on the pre-application process (2015) (Withdrawn) (Table 1.4); and
  - Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024) (Table 1.5).
- 4 This Appendix includes the Applicant's written statement on the adequacy of consultation undertaken, which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 13 March 2025.

### 1.1 TABLE 1.1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR THE PLANNING ACT 2008

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
<b>The Planning Act 2008</b>		
Section 42 (The applicant must consult the following about the proposed consultation:)	a) Such persons as may be prescribed,	<p>The Applicant consulted all relevant prescribed consultees; defined in Regulation 11 (1)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("the EIA Regulations") and the Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure (APFP) Regulations.</p> <p>A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 19 December 2023 and included the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11 (1)(a) of the</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>EIA Regulations. The Applicant ensured consistency with this list of consultees.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Applicant included further 'non-prescribed' consultees in addition to this, such as the National Farmers Union, Country Land and Business Association, Chartered Association of Agricultural Valuers, Royal Society for the Projection of Birds, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and National Trust.</p>
	<p>b) Each local authority that is within section 43</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted each local authority that is within Section 43.</p> <p>These are listed below:</p> <p>'A' Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melton Borough Council</li> <li>• West Lindsey District Council</li> <li>• North Kesteven District Council</li> <li>• Bassetlaw District Council</li> <li>• Rushcliffe Borough Council</li> <li>• Gedling Borough Council</li> <li>• South Kesteven Borough Council</li> <li>• Ashfield District Council</li> <li>• Mansfield District Council</li> <li>• Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</li> </ul>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council</li> </ul> <p>'B' Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newark and Sherwood District Council</li> </ul> <p>'C' Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nottinghamshire County Council</li> </ul> <p>'D' Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Lincolnshire Council</li> <li>Nottingham City Council</li> <li>Derbyshire County Council</li> <li>Leicestershire County Council</li> <li>Lincolnshire County Council</li> </ul>
	c) The Greater London Authority if land is in Greater London, and	Not applicable
	d) Each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.	The Applicant consulted each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.
Section 45 (Timetable for consultation under section 42)	(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	The Applicant notified all those consulted under Section 42 of the deadline in writing by email and/or post.
	(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that	All defined consultation periods (statutory and non-statutory) for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	<p>Park have exceeded 28 days.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook consultation on the PEIR from 09 January 2025 to 20 February 2025.</p> <p>Section 42 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of Statutory Consultation on or before 09 January 2025 by written letter and/or email, depending on the availability of contact details to the Applicant. The deadline for responding to the Section 42 consultation was 20 February 2025 (at 42 days and therefore exceeding the 28-day requirement).</p>
	(3) In subsection (2) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	<p>The consultation documents provided to Section 42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials;</li> <li>• A site plan showing the location of the Development; and</li> <li>• A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).</li> </ul> <p>A USB with all the above materials was also</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		available upon request, free of charge.
Section 46 (Duty to notify Commission of proposed application)	(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.	<p>The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the 2008 Act on 07 January 2025 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 09 January 2025 and closing on 20 February 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A covering letter;</li> <li>• Example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being for prescribed consultees and the other one to land interests);</li> <li>• A site plan showing the location of the Development; and</li> <li>• A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).</li> </ul>
	(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.	The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the 2008 Act on 07 January 2025 that it was intending

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 09 January 2025 and closing on 20 February 2025.
Section 47 (Duty to consult the local community)	(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	The Applicant prepared and published a Statement of Community Consultation.
	(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.	<p>To inform the preparation of the statement, the Applicant consulted each local authority that is within Section 43(1) on the content of the SoCC, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newark and Sherwood District Council; and</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the Applicant also consulted Bassetlaw District Council on the draft SoCC. While the Development is not within their administrative boundary, the Applicant's proposed consultation area extends into their area and the Applicant therefore considered it prudent to consult with them on the proposed approach to community consultation.</p>
	(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with	Between 09 July 2024 and 07 August 2024, the Applicant formally consulted host and local authorities on a draft of the SoCC prior to commencing Phase Two Consultation. The host and local

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.	<p>authorities were contacted on 02 July 2024 to provide one week's notice before formal consultation on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>Feedback was also sought by the Applicant on a draft list of Section 42 statutory consultees.</p>
	(4) In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).	The consultation documents supplied by the Applicant included a covering letter and email, and the draft SoCC.
	(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).	<p>The Applicant had regard to all relevant comments received on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant shared a response table with each local authority to explain how their comments had been considered. This detail will also be included in the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
	(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must — (za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land, (a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating	<p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act on 19 December 2024.</p> <p>The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's website and made available to view and collect from the public venues (Community Access Points) listed in the document and accompanying notice.</p>



Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>where and when the statement can be inspected, and</p> <p>(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.</p>	<p>Notices were published in the Newark Advertiser on 19 December 2024 and the Nottingham Post on 19 December 2024 to publicise the SoCC and its availability.</p> <p>The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of Development updates.</p>
	(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.	<p>The Applicant undertook consultation under s. Section 47 of the 2008 Act in accordance with the SoCC.</p> <p>This is evidenced in Section 8 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
Section 48 (Duty to publicise)	(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.	<p>The Applicant prepared and publicised the application in the prescribed manner set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 by publishing a Section 48 notice.</p> <p>The Section 48 notice was published in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newark Advertiser (02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025)</li> <li>• Nottingham Post (02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025)</li> <li>• The London Gazette (06 January 2025)</li> </ul>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Guardian (06 January 2025)</li> </ul>
	(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.	The Section 48 notice included a deadline of 20 February 2025 for receipt of responses to the publicity. The final notice was published on 09 January 2025, providing a total of 42 days for responses, therefore exceeding the 28 days statutory minimum response time.
Section 49 (Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity)	<p>(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant —</p> <p>(a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and</p> <p>(b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).</p> <p>(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means:</p> <p>(a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by</p>	<p>The Applicant has had regard to all relevant responses made pursuant to Section 42, Section 47 and Section 44 in accordance with Section 49.</p> <p>A summary of relevant responses received and how the Applicant has considered these is provided in Sections 12 and 13 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1].</b></p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>section 45 in that person's case,</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or</p> <p>(c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.</p>	
<p>Section 50 (Guidance about pre-application procedure)</p>	<p>1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Section.</p> <p>(2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Planning Inspectorate or the Secretary of State.</p> <p>(3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.</p>	<p>The Applicant has had regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, 2015), Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process.</p> <p>The Applicant has also had regard to updated guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2024 and the updated Advice Note on the Consultation Report, published in August 2024.</p>

**1.2 TABLE 1.2: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING: (APPLICATION: PRESCRIBED FORM AND PROCEDURE) REGULATION 2009**

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
<b>The Infrastructure Planning: (Application: Prescribed Form and Procedure) Regulation 2009</b>		
Reg 3	The persons prescribed for the purposes of Section 42(a) (duty to consult) are those listed in column 1 to these in Schedule 1 to these Regulations, who must be consulted in the circumstances specified in relation to each person in column 2 of that table.	The Applicant consulted all persons prescribed in column 1 who were deemed relevant to this application by the descriptions set out in column 2 of that table. A full list is provided in Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.7]</b> .
Reg 4 (2)	The Applicant must publish a notice, which must include the matters prescribed by paragraph (3) of this regulation, of the proposed application – (a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the proposed development would be situated;	<p>The Applicant published a notice which included all the matters set out in paragraph (3). Copies of the notice are provided in Appendix 5.1.8: Section 48 Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.8]</b>.</p> <p>The Section 48 notice was published in local newspapers as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newark Advertiser (02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025)</li> <li>• Nottingham Post (02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025)</li> <li>• The London Gazette (06 January 2025)</li> </ul>
Reg 4 (2)	(b) once in a national newspaper;	<p>The Section 48 notice was published in a national newspaper as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Guardian (06 January 2025)</li> </ul>
Reg 4 (2)	(c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette;	The Section 48 notice was published in the London Gazette on 06 January 2025.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		The Development does not affect land in Scotland and therefore a notice was not placed in the Edinburgh Gazette.
Reg 4 (2)	(d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyd's List; (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.	Not applicable.
Reg 4 (3)	<p>The matters which the notice must include are:</p> <p>(a) the name and address of the applicant;</p> <p>(b) a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Commission;</p> <p>(c) a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;</p> <p>(d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development;</p> <p>(e) a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location are available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the proposed development) and times set out in the notice;</p> <p>(f) the latest date on which these documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection (being a date not earlier than the deadline in sub-paragraph);</p> <p>(g) whether a charge will be made for copies of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;</p> <p>(h) details of how to respond to the publicity; and</p> <p>(i) a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the</p>	<p>The Applicant's Section 48 notice included all matters required by this regulation, including stipulation of a deadline for responses being 20 February 2025.</p> <p>References below refer to the specific paragraphs of the notice where the information was provided:</p> <p>(a) in paragraph 1;</p> <p>(b) in paragraph 1;</p> <p>(c) in paragraph 4;</p> <p>(d) in paragraph 3;</p> <p>(e) in paragraph 3, 6, 8, 9, 10;</p> <p>(f) in paragraph 7;</p> <p>(g) in paragraph 8, 15;</p> <p>(h) in paragraph 14, 16, 17;</p> <p>(i) in paragraph 17</p> <p>The published Section 48 Notices are included in Appendix 5.1.8: Section 48 Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.8]</b>.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	dates when the notice is last published.	

### 1.3 TABLE 1.3: CONSULTATION COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
<b>The Infrastructure Planning: (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017</b>		
Reg 8	(1) A person who proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent must, before carrying out consultation under Section 42 (duty to consult) either – (a) request the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates; or (b) notify the Secretary of State in writing that the person proposes to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development.	The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 8 November 2024. Through this report, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate that it intended to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Development pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIS Regulations.
Reg 12	The consultation statement prepared under Section 47 (duty to consult local community) must set out – (a) whether the development for which the applicant proposed to make an application for an order granting development consent is EIA development; and (b) if that development is EIA development, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.	<p>The S47 notice states that the Development is an EIA development in paragraph 5.</p> <p>The Applicant's SoCC sets out how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information in Section 3 (Method of Consultation), Section 6 (What We Will Consult On), Section 7 (How We Will Consult and How Respondents Can Participate).</p> <p>The Applicant's SoCC also explained that environmental information, through the PEIR and PEIR NTS, would be published as part of the consultation materials during the statutory consultation.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
Reg 13	Where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the Applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under Section 48(1), send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c)	<p>The Applicant provided a copy of the notice published in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act.</p> <p>The list of Section 42 consultees is included in Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.7]</b>.</p> <p>A copy of the Section 48 notice is included in Appendix 5.1.8: Section 48 Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.8]</b>.</p>



**1.4 TABLE 1.4: CONSULTATION COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DCLG) PLANNING ACT 2008 GUIDANCE ON THE PRE-APPLICATION PROCESS (2015) (WITHDRAWN)**

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
<b>Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 guidance on the pre-application process (2015)</b>		
17	When circulating consultation documents, developers should be clear about their status, for example ensuring it is clear to the public if a document is purely for the purposes of consultation.	The Applicant strived to ensure that the status on any documents prepared to inform the consultation was clear throughout. For example, the PEIR was clearly marked “preliminary”, and this was reiterated in public documents. A clearly titled “Community Consultation Leaflet” was produced for two distinctly titled phases of consultation (“Phase One” and “Phase Two”).
18 and 20	<p>(18) Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties.</p> <p>(20) Experience suggests that to be of most value, consultation should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• based on accurate information that gives a clear view of what is proposed including any options;</li> <li>• shared at an early enough stage so that the proposals can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed;</li> <li>• and engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant commenced early engagement with consultees, including local authorities, in October 2023, prior to the launch of non-statutory Phase One Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined phases of consultation during the pre-application period, to allow for iterative involvement, engagement and feedback throughout the development of proposals.</p> <p>This included a non-statutory Phase One Consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 16 January and 27 February 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant’s strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the Development in a timely manner, including reporting</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>back to consultees at an interim stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative approach to the Development, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared and published a range of consultation materials available in various formats to cater for differing preferences and levels of interest and expertise. For example, this includes: a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR; Phase Two Consultation Central Booklet; and a Feedback Form.</p>
23	<p>In brief, during the pre-application stage applicants are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notify the Secretary of State of the proposed development;</li> <li>• identify whether the project requires an environmental impact assessment; where it does, confirm that they will be submitting an environmental statement along with the application, or that they will be seeking a screening opinion ahead</li> </ul>	<p>As set out in this document as well as detailed in the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>, the Applicant has complied with all requirements listed under point 23 of the DCLG Guidance (2015).</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>of submitting the application;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• produce a Statement of Community Consultation, in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, which describes how the Applicant propose to consult the local community about their project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that Statement;</li> <li>• make the Statement of Community Consultation 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, as required by Section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulations;</li> <li>• identify and consult statutory consultees as required by Section 42 of the Planning Act and Regulations;</li> <li>• publicise the proposed application in accordance with Regulations;</li> <li>• set a deadline for consultation responses of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt/last publication;</li> <li>• have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation; and</li> <li>• prepare a consultation report and submit it to the Secretary of State.</li> </ul>	
24 and 25	The requirements of the Planning Act and associated Regulations form the framework for the pre-application consultation process.	The Applicant carried out the pre-application consultation in accordance with the SoCC, which was informed through

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>The Government recognises that major infrastructure projects and the communities and environment in which they are located will vary considerably. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not, therefore, appropriate. Instead, Applicants, who are best placed to understand the detail of their specific projects, and the relevant local authorities, who have a unique knowledge of their local communities, should as far as possible work together to develop plans for consultation. The aim should be to ensure that consultation is appropriate to the scale and nature of the project and where its impacts will be experienced.</p> <p>Consultation should be thorough, effective and proportionate. 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.</p> <p>Larger, more complex applications are likely to need to go beyond the statutory minimum timescales laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response. Many proposals will require detailed technical input, especially regarding impacts, so sufficient time will need to be allowed for this.</p> <p>Consultation should also be sufficiently flexible to response to the needs and requirements of consultees, for example where a consultee has indicated that they would prefer to be consulted via email only, this should be accommodated as far as possible.</p>	<p>consultation with host local authorities. All responses received from local authorities were considered in the preparation of the SoCC. The comments received, alongside the Applicant's consideration, are presented in Tables 7.1 and 7.2 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The SoCC included defining a core consultation zone within which all properties were issued with consultation notifications. The methodology of defining this zone involved extending an initial distance of 2km from the edge of the proposed solar development areas, and 500m from the proposed cable route. The core consultation zone extends beyond 2km in certain areas, for instance to incorporate the host parish areas, so as not to bisect these areas.</p> <p>The Applicant allowed for consultation periods exceeding the minimum 28 days for the Section 47 and Section 42 consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant maintained a range of free-to-use communication channels (Freephone, Freepost and email) throughout the pre-application period.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
26 and 27	<p>(26) The Planning Act requires certain bodies and groups of people to be consulted at the pre-application stage but allows for flexibility in the precise form that consultation may take place depending on local circumstances and the needs of the project itself [...] In addition, applicants may also wish to strengthen their case by seeking the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.</p> <p>(27) Applicants are therefore encouraged to consult widely on project proposals.</p>	<p>In addition to statutory consultees identified under Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant sought to identify and consult who may have an interest in the Development. A full list of non-prescribed consultees identified by the Applicant and consulted with under Section 42 of the 2008 Act is provided in Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.7]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant also strived to raise awareness of the application more widely. This included sharing press releases, advertisement in regional publications, and through hosting information events.</p> <p>As detailed in Section 8 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>, the Applicant made documents available at Community Access Points (CAP) sites and distributed posters with Local Information Points (LIPs) throughout the consultation zone. Along with advertisements and the publication of notices, in addition to directly distributing postcards to over 5,800 properties, the Applicant ensured wide consultation on the Development.</p>
28	<p>From time to time a body may cease to exist but, for legislative timetabling reasons, may still be listed as a statutory consultee. In such situations the Secretary of State will not expect strict compliance with the statutory</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed the consultee list on a regular basis to ensure that the contact details were up to date and that any successor body was consulted.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>requirements. Applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have the original body.</p> <p>Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the 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.</p>	<p>See the Consultation Report Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.7]</b> for the list of Section 42 consultees.</p> <p>The Applicant also had regard to any changes in contact details that it was made aware of via the information lines.</p>
29	<p>Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the pre-application requirements. [...] Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with consultees for the provision of such inputs.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken extensive engagement with expert bodies and technical consultees throughout the pre-application process. This began in 2023, and continued through iterative phases of consultation, as described in the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
34 and 35	<p>(34) Local authorities have considerable expertise in consulting local people. They will be able to draw on this expertise to provide advice to applicants on the makeup of the community and on how consultation might best be undertaken. In addition, many authorities will already have a register of local interest groups, and should be able to readily provide applicants with an appropriate list of such groups for the purposes of consultation.</p> <p>(35) The Applicant has a duty under Section 47 of the Planning Act to prepare a Statement of</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with the Section 43(1) local authorities on the draft SoCC between 19 July 2024 and 27 August 2024, as detailed in Section 7 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council on 2 July 2024 for any initial comments. No comments were received on the early working draft, but a meeting was held with Newark and Sherwood District Council</p>



Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>Community Consultation, and then to conduct its consultation in line with that statement. Before doing so, the applicant must consult on their Statement of Community Consultation with each local authority in whose area the proposed development is situated. This may require consultation with a number of different local authorities, particularly for long linear.</p>	<p>on 22 July, during the draft SoCC consultation, to discuss its contents and the Applicant's approach to consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant shared a draft of the SoCC with Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council for consultation on Friday 19 July 2024. Although Bassetlaw District Council is not a host authority to the Development, the council were provided with the opportunity to provide comment on the draft SoCC due the Development's core consultation zone overlapping with the council's boundary. The Applicant requested feedback on the draft to be provided on 27 August 2024, allowing just over five weeks, and therefore exceeding the 28-day statutory minimum timescale, to review and provide comments on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The comments received, alongside the Applicant's consideration, are presented in Tables 7.1 – 7.2 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Table 7.3 described how the Applicant has complied with commitments set out within the published SoCC.</p>
36	<p>Even where it is intended that a development would take place within a single local authority area, it is possible that its impacts could be significantly wider than just that local authority's area – for example if the development was</p>	<p>Section 4 of the Applicant's SoCC (as provided in Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.5]</b>) sets out who the Applicant intended to consult. This included</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	located close to a neighbouring authority. Where an applicant decides to consult people living in a wider area who could be affected by the project (e.g. through visual or environmental impacts, or through increased traffic flow), that intention should be reflected in the Statement of Community Consultation.	describing the methodology behind a defined core consultation zone of over 5,800 properties, as well as the Applicant's methods for publicising consultation opportunities beyond the core consultation zone through advertising in local media, maintaining a register of interested individuals, publishing informative consultation materials online, and making them available for collection from defined Community Access Points.
37	...prior to submitting their draft Statement of Community Consultation applicants may wish to seek to resolve any disagreements or clarifications about the public consultation design. An applicant is therefore likely to need to engage in discussions with local authorities over a longer period than the minimum requirements set out in the Act.	<p>The Applicant engaged relevant local authorities prior to undertaking a non-statutory phase of consultation, as described in Section 5 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a non-statutory phase of consultation on early-stage proposals between 16 January to 27 February 2024. This consultation included inviting feedback on the methods of consultation. The Applicant reflected on this feedback, alongside the level of engagement with the consultation when preparing the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant's preparation of the SoCC is described in Section 7 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>. The Applicant sought feedback from host local authorities on an early working draft of the SoCC between 2 July and 16 July 2024, prior to commencing</p>



Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>formal consultation on the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant formally consulted on a draft of the SoCC between 19 July and 27 August 2024.</p>
38, 39, 40 and 41	<p>(38) The role of the local authority in such discussions should be to provide expertise about the make-up of its area, including whether people in the area might have particular needs or requirements, whether the authority has identified any groups as difficult to reach and what techniques might be appropriate to overcome barriers to communication. The local authority should also provide advice on the appropriateness of the applicant's suggested consultation techniques and methods. The local authority's aim in such discussion should be to ensure that the people affected by the development can take part in a thorough, accessible and effective consultation exercise about the proposed project.</p> <p>(39) Topics for consideration at such pre-consultation discussions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The size and coverage of the proposed consultation exercise (including, where appropriate, consultation which goes wider than one local authority area);</li> <li>• The appropriateness of various consultation techniques, including electronic based ones;</li> <li>• The design and format of consultation materials;</li> <li>• Issues which could be covered in consultation materials;</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant consulted host authorities on the content of an early working draft of the SoCC and then formally on the draft SoCC, as detailed in Section 7 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant endeavoured to respond to all issues or concerns raised following consultation on the Draft Statement of Community Consultation. Where this was not possible the Applicant provided an explanation of the course of action.</p> <p>The comments received, alongside the Applicant's consideration, are presented in Tables 7.1 – 7.2 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions for places/timings of public information events as part of the consultation;</li> <li>• Local bodies and representative groups who should be consulted; and</li> <li>• Timescales for consultation.</li> </ul> <p>(40) It is expected that in most cases applicants and local authorities will be able to work closely together and agree on the local consultation process.</p> <p>(41) Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the Statement of Community Consultation which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.</p>	
43	<p>Local authorities are also themselves statutory consultees for any proposed major infrastructure project which is in or adjacent to their area. Applicants should engage with [local authorities as statutory bodies] as early as possible to ensure that the impacts of the development on the local area are understood and considered prior to the application being submitted to the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>The Applicant commenced engagement with local authorities in October 2023, prior to undertaking any formal consultation on the Development, as described in Section 3 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with 'B' and 'C' host authorities (in which the Development is located) and neighbouring 'A' and 'D' authorities, in the pre-application stage. The identification of these local authorities is described in Section 9 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
49	<p>Applicants will also need to identify and consult people who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question, or</p>	<p>The Applicant has sought to identify and consult with those with an interest in the land.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>who could be affected by a project in such a way that they may be able to make a claim for compensation. This will give such parties early notice of projects, and an opportunity to express their views regarding them.</p>	<p>The Applicant sought to identify the Section 42(1)(d) consultees by undertaking diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. This included reviewing publicly available data (for example at the Land Registry), sending out Land Interest Questionnaires, undertaking site visits and erecting site notices.</p> <p>The Applicant notified 569 identified Section 44 consultees by post on 08 January 2025, ahead of the statutory consultation period commencing on 09 January 2025. These consultees were informed of a response deadline of 20 February 2025, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days.</p> <p>Identified of Section 44 consultees is described in Section 9.6 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
52	<p>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 regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.</p>	<p>The Applicant notified a further 20 Section 44 consultees following the start of the phase two statutory consultation period (09 January 2025). Each consultee was notified by letter and provided with a response deadline of at least 28 days.</p> <p>Where owners, lessees, tenants or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Development site area.</p> <p>The list of all land interests consulted is presented in Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.7]</b> (hereafter referred to in this Consultation Report as 'Section 44 consultees'). This appendix details the date on which they were notified of consultation and the deadline provided to them for responding.</p> <p>All persons listed in the Book of Reference <b>[EN010162/APP/4.3]</b>, which is up to date at the time of submitting the application for a DCO, were consulted under Section 42(1)(d). It is noted that the list of persons with an interest in land is subject to change over time, as a result of changes to land ownership.</p> <p>This is described in Section 9.6 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
53	<p>Local people have a vital role to play at the pre-application stage. People should have as much influence as is realistic and possible over decisions which shape their lives and communities. It is therefore critical that they are engaged with project proposals at an early stage...</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined phases of consultation during the preapplication period, to allow for iterative involvement, engagement and feedback throughout the development of proposals.</p> <p>This included a non-statutory Phase One Consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 16 January and 27 February 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the development of the Development in a timely manner, including reporting</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>back to consultees at an interim stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative design of the Development, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p>
54	<p>In consulting on project proposals, an inclusive approach is needed to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. Applicants should use a range of methods and techniques to ensure that they access all sections of the community in question.</p>	<p>The Applicant's SoCC set out a range of methods to support an accessible and inclusive preapplication consultation.</p> <p>In seeking input from local authorities on the approach set out in the SoCC, the Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC on 02 July 2024 by email. A copy of the early working draft SoCC is provided as Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.5]</b>. The early working draft included a list of organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups and other community and interest groups, and host authorities were given the opportunity to comment on this list and suggest additional organisations for inclusion.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Through consultation, the Applicant has prepared and published a range of consultation materials available in various formats to cater for differing preferences and levels of interest and expertise. For example, this includes: a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR; Community Consultation Information Booklet; and a Feedback Form.</p> <p>The Applicant also maintained a range of free-to-use communication channels (Freephone, Freepost and email) throughout the pre-application period.</p>
55	<p>Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed. Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the project proposals and outlining the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. [...] Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities if requested. There may be cases where documents may need to be bilingual...but it is not the policy of the Government to encourage documents to be translated into non-native languages.</p>	<p>Section 6 (What We Will Consult On?) of the Applicant's SoCC set out the intended scope of each phase of consultation.</p> <p>In support of this, a Community Consultation Leaflet was published for each defined phase of consultation, to clearly set out the proposals and information being consulted on.</p> <p>The back page of the Phase Two Consultation Central Booklet and Section 3 (Method of Consultation) of the Applicant's SoCC explained that materials could be provided in alternative formats upon request.</p>

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56	Applicants are required to set out in their Statement of Community Consultation how they propose to consult those living in the vicinity of the land. They are encouraged to consider consulting beyond this where they think doing so may provide more information on the impacts of their proposals...	<p>Section 6 (Who Will We Consult?) of the Applicant's SoCC (as provided in Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.5]</b>) sets out who the Applicant intended to consult. This includes describing the methodology behind a defined core consultation zone of over 5,900 properties, as well as the Applicant's methods for publicising consultation opportunities beyond the core consultation zone through advertising in local media, maintaining a register of interested individuals, publishing informative consultation materials online making them available to collect from defined Community Access Points.</p> <p>The SoCC included defining a core consultation zone within which all properties were issued with consultation notifications. The methodology for defining this zone involved extending an initial distance of 2km from the edge of the proposed solar development areas, and 500m from the proposed cable route.</p> <p>Where proportionate, the core consultation zone was extended further subject to consideration of existing natural and human boundaries, for example the River Trent and railway lines; to cover host district council wards and parishes; and where the Applicant proposes to undertake additional works to</p>



Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications.
57	The Statement of Community Consultation should act as a framework for the community consultation generally, for example setting out where details and dates of any events will be published. The Statement of Community Consultation should be made available online, at any exhibitions or other events held by applicants. It should be laced at appropriate local deposit points (e.g. libraries, council offices) and send to local community groups as appropriate.	<p>The SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act on 19 December 2024.</p> <p>The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's Development website and made available to view and collect from the public venues (Community Access Points) listed in the document and accompanying notice.</p> <p>Evidence of the SoCC being hosted on the Development website is provided in Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.5]</b>.</p> <p>Notices were published in the Newark Advertiser on 19 December 2024 and Nottingham Post on 19 December 2024 to publicise the SoCC and its availability. Copies of these notices are provided in Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.5]</b>.</p> <p>The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of updates to the Development.</p> <p>The SoCC was available at statutory consultation</p>



Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>information events and available in hard copy format free of charge upon request.</p> <p>The SoCC outlined the consultation process for the Development and the details of the Phase Two Consultation, including public information event dates, times and venues.</p>
58	<p>Applicants are required to publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act and the Regulations and set out the detail of what this publicity must entail. [...] Where possible, the first two required local newspaper advertisements should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities. However, given the detailed information required for the publicity in the Regulations, aligning publicity with consultation may not always be possible, especially where a multi-stage consultation is intended.</p>	<p>The Section 48 notice was published in local newspapers as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025 in the Newark Advertiser; and</li> <li>• 02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025 in the Nottingham Post.</li> </ul> <p>This aligned with the commencement of statutory consultation on 09 January 2025.</p>
68, 69 and 70	<p>(68) To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time, consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.</p> <p>(69) Applicants will often require detailed technical advice from consultees, and it is likely that their input will be of the greatest value if they are consulted when the project proposals are fluid, followed up by confirmation of the approach as proposals become firmer. In principle, therefore</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined phases of consultation during the pre-application period, to allow for iterative involvement, engagement and feedback through the development of the proposals.</p> <p>This included a non-statutory Phase One Consultation on early stage proposals, held for six weeks between 16 January and 27 February 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the development of the</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>applicants should undertake initial consultation as soon as there is sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the project properly.</p> <p>(70) To manage the tension between consultation early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for larger projects with long development periods. For example, the applicant might wish to consider undertaking non-statutory early consultation at a stage where options still being considered. This will be helpful in informing the proposals and assisting the applicant in establishing a preferred option on which to undertake statutory consultation.</p>	<p>Development in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative design of the Development, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b> sets out the pre-application stages and consultation undertaken.</p>
72	<p>The Planning Act requires a consultation period of a minimum of 28 days from the day after receipt on the consultation documents. It is expected that this may be sufficient for projects which are straightforward and uncontroversial in nature. But many projects, particularly larger or more controversial ones, may require longer consultation periods than this.</p> <p>Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. It is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they</p>	<p>The Applicant held a series of defined phases of consultation, each exceeding 28 days.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	respond in good time to applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.	
73, 74, 75 and 76	<p>(73) Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the project proposals have changed very substantially. [...] When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.</p> <p>(74) Where a proposed application changes to such a large degree that the proposal could be considered a new application, the legitimacy of the consultation already carried out could be questioned. In such cases, applicants should undertake further re-consultation on the new proposals, and should supply consultees with sufficient information to enable them.</p> <p>(75) If the application only changes to a small degree [...] the applicant should ensure that all affected statutory consultees and local communities are informed of the changes.</p> <p>(76) In circumstances where a particular issue has arisen during the pre-application consultation, or where it is localised in nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non-statutory, targeted consultation. A developer's Statement of Community Consultation should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Following the close of Phase Two (statutory) Consultation, the Applicant continued to refine the proposals for the Development in preparation for submitting a DCO application.</p> <p>This refinement was informed by further design work and due diligence, consideration of consultee feedback, and responding to the results and data from environmental assessments.</p> <p>This results in a series of specific amendments to the proposed Development site boundary (indicative Order Limits) compared to the Development boundary presented in the PEIR and for Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook further statutory consultation targeted on these specific changes to ensure communities and consultees had an opportunity to comment on the full proposed Development boundary prior to a DCO application being submitted.</p> <p>This consultation is described in Section 11 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
77	<p>Consultation should also be fair and reasonable for applicants as well as communities. To ensure that consultation is fair to all parties, applicants should be able to demonstrate that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities.</p>	<p>The pre-application consultation process that the Applicant held complied with its commitments as consulted on for the draft SoCC and set out in the final published SoCC captured in Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.5]</b>.</p> <p>The consultation reached widely across the community, welcoming over 550 public attendees to the Phase Two Consultation information events and receiving 276 submissions of feedback.</p> <p>The Applicant was able to undertake all methods of consultation and engagement it committed to in the SoCC.</p>
78 and 79	<p>(78) Applicants are required under section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a consultation report alongside their application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Act.</p> <p>(79) Therefore, the consultation report should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline;</li> <li>• set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant has prepared a Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b> consistent with this guidance.</p> <p>Relevant sections of the Consultation Report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 1 (Introduction) sets out the Applicant's approach to consultation and includes Table 1.2 setting out the pre-application stages and consultation undertaken in chronological order.</li> <li>• Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.1]</b> sets out how the Applicant has complied with relevant legislation and guidance.</li> </ul>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>published by Government or the Inspectorate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set out how the applicant has taken account of any responses to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's statement of community consultation;</li> <li>• set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);</li> <li>• provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed;</li> <li>• provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to the project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts;</li> <li>• where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken; and</li> <li>• be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 7 (Preparation for Statutory Consultation) sets out how the Applicant consulted relevant local authorities to inform the SoCC, including comments received and consideration given to these.</li> <li>• Sections 12 and 13 provide a summary of responses received to Section 47 and Section 42 consultation and the Applicant's consideration of these responses. These sections are supported by Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.10]</b> and Appendix 5.1.11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.11]</b>.</li> </ul>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	technical explanations of these matters.	
81	It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results ...	<p>The Applicant's Development communications channels remained open following the close of the Phase One Consultation period. Through these channels, the Applicant continued to receive and respond to enquiries regarding the Development.</p> <p>The Development website continued to be available for any interested parties to access Development information, including updates on the proposals, Frequently Asked Questions, and a dedicated News webpage.</p> <p>Following the review and consideration of feedback received, the Applicant prepared a Phase One Consultation Summary Report to share details of the level engagement, themes of responses received, and updates regarding the Applicant's consideration of feedback and next steps for the Development.</p> <p>The Applicant distributed a postcard publicising the Phase One Consultation Summary Report to over 5,800 residential and business properties within the vicinity of the Development area. The Applicant emailed the proactively engaged key political and representative stakeholders and anyone who had registered to be kept updated on the Development.</p>



Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>The Phase One Consultation Summary Report was also published on the Development website. A copy of the Phase One Consultation Summary Report is captured in Appendix 5.1.4: Post-Phase One Communications Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.4]</b>.</p>
93	<p>For the pre-application consultation process, applicants are advised to include sufficient preliminary environmental information to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the project. [...] The preliminary environmental information is not expected to replicate or be a draft of the environmental statement. [...] The key issue is that the information presented must provide clarity to all consultees. Applicants should be careful not to assume that non-specialist consultees would not be interested in any technical environmental information. It is therefore advisable to ensure access to such information is provided during all consultations. The applicant's Statement of Community Consultation must include a statement about how the applicant intends to consult on preliminary environmental information.</p>	<p>The Applicant set out in the SoCC how it would be publicising and consulting on the PEIR. This included making available a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR.</p> <p>The PEIR and accompanying Non-Technical Summary was available to any interested party through the Development website, at Phase Two Consultation information events, and at the identified Community Access Points.</p> <p>The availability of the PEIR was publicised through the Section 48 notice.</p>

**Table 1.5: Compliance checklist for Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)**

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
<b>Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)</b>		
Paragraph 020	<p><b>How can applicants ensure consultation is appropriate?</b></p> <p>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 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 consultation process.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined phases of consultation during the pre-application period, to allow for iterative involvement, engagement and feedback throughout the development of proposals.</p> <p>This included a non-statutory Phase One Consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 16 January and 27 February 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the Development in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative progress of the Development, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p>



Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>The Applicant's approach to consultation was set out in the SoCC, which in turn was informed through consultation with relevant local authorities, as described in Section 7 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 020	<p>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>All defined consultation periods (statutory and non-statutory) for the Development have exceeded 28 days.</p>
Paragraph 020	<p>Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in the SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in light of responses to the 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 within 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>For any material change to be 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</p>	<p>Following the close of Phase Two (statutory) Consultation, the Applicant continued to refine the proposals for the Development in preparation for submitting a DCO application.</p> <p>This refinement was informed by further design work and due diligence, consideration of consultee feedback, and responding to the results and data from environmental assessments.</p> <p>This resulted in a series of localised additions to the PEIR Order Limits consulted on during Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook further consultation targeted on these localised additions to ensure communities and consultees had an opportunity to comment on the full proposed Development boundary prior to</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and 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 needed 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>a DCO application being submitted.</p> <p>This consultation is described in Section 11 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 021	<p><b>Who should be consulted?</b></p> <p>Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act, Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 set out details of who must be consulted...</p> <p>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 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</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed the consultee list on a regular basis to ensure that the contact details were up to date and that any successor body was consulted with.</p> <p>See Consultation Report Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.7]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant also had regard to any changes in contact details that it was made aware of via the information lines.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.	
Paragraph 022	<p><b>How can applicants consult communities effectively?</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant engaged relevant local authorities prior to undertaking a non-statutory phase of consultation, as described in Section 3 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a non-statutory phase of consultation on early-stage proposals between 16 January 2024 and 27 February 2024. This consultation included inviting feedback on the methods of consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant reflected on this feedback, alongside the level of engagement with the consultation when preparing the SoCC.</p>
Paragraph 022	<p>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 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 Applicant's preparation of the SoCC is described in Section 7 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant sought feedback from host local authorities on an early working draft of the SoCC between 02 July 2024, prior to commencing formal consultation on the SoCC later that month.</p> <p>The Applicant formally consulted on a draft of the SoCC between 19 July and 27 August 2023.</p> <p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		of the 2008 Act on 19 December 2024.
Paragraph 022	<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 notes this updated guidance. The Applicant has sought to ensure consultation activities are accessible and has been open to engagement requests.</p> <p>As detailed in the Applicant's SoCC, <i>"the Applicant's consultation methodology has been developed to accommodate communicating as effectively as possible with these groups so they can have their say. Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for their members will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This will then be agreed and planned with the requesting organisations."</i></p> <p>A copy of the Applicant's published SoCC is captured in Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.5]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 024	<p><b>What do applicants have to do to consult people with an interest in land?</b></p> <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 and consult people, including those who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question.</p> <p>It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of</p>	<p>The Applicant has sought to identify and consult with those with an interest in the land.</p> <p>The Applicant sought to identify the section 42(1)(d) consultees by undertaking diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. This included reviewing publicly available data (for example at the Land Registry), sending out Land Interest Questionnaires, undertaking site visits and erecting site notices.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>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>[...]</p> <p>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 regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.</p>	<p>The Applicant notified 569 identified Section 44 consultees by post on 08 January 2025, ahead of the statutory consultation period commencing on 09 January 2025. These consultees were informed of a response deadline of 20 February 2025, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days.</p> <p>The Applicant notified a further 20 Section 44 consultees following the start of the phase two statutory consultation period (09 January 2025). Each consultee was notified by letter and provided with a response deadline of at least 28 days.</p> <p>Where owners, lessees, tenants or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Development site area.</p> <p>The list of all land interests consulted is presented in Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.7]</b> (hereafter referred to in this Consultation Report as 'Section 44 consultees'). This appendix details the date on which they were notified of consultation and the deadline provided to them for responding.</p> <p>All persons listed in the Book of Reference <b>[EN010162/APP/4.3]</b>, which is up to date at the time of submitting the application for a DCO, were consulted under</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Section 42(1)(d). It is noted that the list of persons with an interest in land is subject to change over time, as a result of changes to land ownership.</p> <p>This is described in Section 9.6 of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 025	<p><b>What is the early adequacy of consultation milestone?</b></p> <p>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 preapplication stage to enable the Planning Inspectorate to test the progress of the consultation.</p>	<p>A Programme Document was prepared and shared with the Planning Inspectorate in October 2024.</p> <p>The Programme Document was prepared to identify the engagement and application preparation activities that have been carried out by the Applicant during the pre-application process.</p> <p>The Applicant has since hosted the Programme Document on the Development website.</p>
Paragraph 025	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Prior to submitting an application for a DCO, the Applicant prepared a written statement in response to the government's guidance regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. A copy of this written statement is provided in Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant submitted their written statement on the adequacy of consultation undertaken to the Planning Inspectorate on 13 March 2025. This was to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant, prior to the</p>



Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>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.</p> <p>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 of the expected date of submission, with the objective of avoiding the prospect of an application not being accepted for examination.</p>	<p>acceptance stage of a DCO application.</p>
<p>Paragraph 026</p>	<p><b>What is the consultation report and how should applicants respond to consultees?</b></p> <p>[The Consultation 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"> <li>• provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline;</li> <li>• set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant has prepared a Consultation Report <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1]</b> consistent with this guidance.</p> <p>Relevant sections of the Consultation Report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 1 (Introduction) sets out the Applicant's approach to consultation and includes Table 1.2 setting out the pre-application stages and consultation undertaken in chronological order.</li> <li>• Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.1]</b> sets out how the Applicant has complied with relevant legislation and guidance.</li> </ul>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC;</li> <li>• set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 7 (Preparation for Statutory Consultation sets out how the Applicant consulted relevant local authorities to inform the SoCC, including comments received and consideration given to these. Table 7.3 sets out the commitments from the SoCC and describes how the Applicant has complied with these commitments;</li> <li>• Sections 12 and 13 provide a summary of responses received to Section 47 and Section 42 consultation and the Applicant's consideration of these responses. These sections are supported by Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.10]</b> and Appendix 5.1.11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.11]</b>.</li> </ul>
Paragraph 026	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	The Development website continued to be available for any interested parties to access Development information, including updates on the proposals, Frequently



Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>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>	<p>Asked Questions, and a dedicated News webpage.</p> <p>Following the review and consideration of feedback received, the Applicant prepared a Phase One Consultation Summary Report to share details of the level of engagement, themes of responses received, and updates regarding the Applicant's consideration of feedback and next steps for the Development.</p> <p>The Applicant distributed a postcard publicising the Phase One Consultation Summary Report to over 5,800 residential and business properties within the vicinity of the Development area. The Applicant emailed the proactively engaged key political and representative stakeholders and anyone who had registered to be kept updated on the Development.</p> <p>The Phase One Consultation Summary Report was also published on the Development website. A copy of the Phase One Consultation Summary Report is captured in Appendix 5.1.4: Post-Phase One Communications Materials <b>[EN010162/APP/5.1.4]</b>.</p>

## **2 EARLY ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE**

# Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

**Planning Inspectorate**

**Guidance: Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage  
for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects**

February 2025

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# 1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

## Overview

- 1.1 This early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document has been prepared by Elements Green Trent Limited ('the Applicant') in preparation for the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park ('the Project').
- 1.2 In 2024, the Government introduced new guidance relevant to the application for a DCO:
  - Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024;)<sup>1</sup> and
  - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024)<sup>2</sup>
- 1.3 In setting out the requirements and expectations for the preparation of an application for a DCO, both the updated Guidance and the Prospectus introduced an early adequacy of consultation milestone (AoCM).
- 1.4 The Applicant understands this to be aimed at providing them with an opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a document setting out the consultation undertaken during the pre-application phase, how this aligned with the approaches set out in a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and how responses to consultation are being considered in preparation for a DCO application.
- 1.5 The early AoCM should involve a written statement prepared by the Applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This is to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant, prior to the acceptance stage of the DCO application.
- 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."*
- 1.7 *"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."*

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<sup>1</sup> Planning Act (2008). Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>).

<sup>2</sup> PINS (2024). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>)

## 2 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

### Overview

- 2.1 The Applicant has consulted iteratively throughout the pre-application phase of the Project and in preparation of a DCO application. This has included a series of defined non-statutory and statutory periods of consultation, alongside ongoing engagement.
- 2.2 The Applicant has undertaken statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements set by the Planning Act 2008 (the ‘2008 Act’).
- 2.3 In accordance with Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant has undertaken pre-application consultation on the Project ahead of submission of the Application to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:
- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a));
  - Local authorities (in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and as set out in Section 43(1));
  - Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and as set out in Section 44);
  - Community and other organisations in the “vicinity” of the Project who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Project (in accordance with Section 47);
  - Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Project proposals (in accordance with Section 48).

### Stages of consultation undertaken

- 2.4 The key stages of pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant are set out in Table 1.

**Table 1 Pre-application stages and consultation activities undertaken**

Date		Consultation undertaken
1	October 2023 – onwards	<p><b>Project introduction and ongoing engagement and consultation with local authorities and political stakeholders</b></p> <p>Prior to the start of non-statutory consultation in January 2024, the Applicant commenced early engagement with consultees including Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council. This engagement was organised to introduce the Project, and engagement with these bodies has been ongoing throughout the pre-application period.</p> <p>The Applicant also commenced engagement with locally elected members and representatives including ward and parish councillors and members of Parliament (MPs) through briefing meetings. For example, the Applicant approached Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council on 12 October 2023 to offer a briefing. The</p>

Date		Consultation undertaken
		<p>team met with Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council on 18 and 25 October 2023.</p> <p>The Applicant approached host MPs on 27 October 2023 to offer a briefing. The team met with Robert Jenrick, MP for Newark, prior to non-statutory consultation on 01 December 2023.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the Project through a press release and launching a dedicated website on 27 October 2023. This included publicising the Applicant's free-to-use communications channels (phone, post and email), which have remained open for questions and comments throughout the pre-application consultation phase.</p>
2	8 November 2023	<p><b>Scoping Report submitted</b></p> <p>The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 08 November 2023. Through this report, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate that it intended to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Project pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
3	19 December 2023	<p><b>Scoping Opinion and receipt of Schedule 1</b></p> <p>A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 19 December 2023 and included the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
4	16 January – 27 February 2024	<p><b>Phase one community consultation (non-statutory)</b></p> <p>The Applicant held a six-week non-statutory community consultation on early-stage proposals for the Project.</p> <p>During this time the Applicant held two community webinars and six in-person exhibition events.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributing a postcard to over 5,800 residential and business properties;</li> <li>• Advertising consultation opportunities in the Newark Advertiser on 18 January 2024 and the Nottingham Post on 18 January 2024;</li> <li>• Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display;</li> </ul>

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing details of the events on the Project website; and</li> <li>• Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.</li> </ul> <p>During this consultation, the Applicant welcomed over 550 attendees to their series of in-person and online events and received 276 submissions of written feedback.</p>
5	<p>March 2024 – July 2024</p> <p><b>Post-phase one communications (Consultation Summary Report, early visual amenity changes, and operational solar farm sit visit)</b></p> <p>Following the close of Non-Statutory Consultation, the Applicant made early design changes to the Project in response to feedback. These early visual design changes were shared with key political and representative stakeholders, as well as interested parties who signed up to the Applicant's 'keep informed' list.</p> <p>Shortly following the announcement of these changes, the Applicant arranged visits to a local operational solar farm within the Newark and Sherwood district. The Applicant hosted two open days for local residents and interested parties to see what an operational solar farm looks like, giving them the opportunity to witness sustainable, renewable energy in action. 69 members of the public, along with councillors and the MP for Sherwood Forest, attended across the two days.</p> <p>The Applicant published a Phase One Consultation Summary Report in July 2024 to summarise the feedback received during the phase one consultation and how this feedback was being used to inform the Project.</p> <p>The Phase One Consultation Summary Report was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicised in a community postcard that was sent to over 5,800 residential and business properties;</li> <li>• Shared via email with stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed; and</li> <li>• Uploaded to the Project website.</li> </ul> <p>As part of the Applicant's ongoing engagement following the close of consultation, the Applicant organized meetings and conducted visits with several</p>



Date		Consultation undertaken
		host parish councils. These took place from the early summer months through to late November 2024.
6	18 July 2024 – 27 August 2024	<p><b>Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with local authorities under Section 47 of the 2008 Act</b></p> <p>The Applicant consulted with the Section 43(1) local authorities of the draft SoCC between 19 July 2024 and 27 August 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council on 2 July 2024 for any initial comments. No comments were received on the early working draft, but a meeting was held with Newark and Sherwood District Council on 22 July, during the SoCC consultation, to discuss its contents and the Applicant's approach to consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant shared a draft of the SoCC with Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council for consultation on Friday 19 July 2024. The Applicant requested feedback on the draft to be provided on 27 August 2024, therefore allowing just over five weeks, and therefore exceeding the 28-day statutory minimum timescale, to review and provide comments on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant considered all comments received when finalising the SoCC for publication.</p>
7	19 December 2024	<p><b>Publication of SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act</b></p> <p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act on 19 December 2024.</p>
8	07 January 2025	<p><b>Notification to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 46 of the 2008 Act</b></p> <p>The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the 2008 Act on 07 January 2025 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the</p>

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<p>2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 09 January 2025 and closing on 20 February 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A covering letter;</li> <li>• Example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being for prescribed consultees and the other one to land interests);</li> <li>• A site plan of the location of the Project; and</li> <li>• A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).</li> </ul>
9	<p>09 January 2025</p> <p><b>Publication of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (and Non-Technical Summary)</b></p> <p>The Applicant undertook consultation on the PEIR from 09 January to 20 February 2025. Section 42, 47 and 48 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of statutory consultation on or before 09 January by written letter and/or email, depending on the availability of contact details to the Applicant. The deadline for responding to the consultation was 20 February 2025 (therefore exceeding the 28-day requirement).</p> <p>The consultation documents provided to Section 42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials;</li> <li>• A site plan showing the location of the Project; and</li> <li>• A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).</li> </ul> <p>The PEIR and PEIR Non-technical Summary (NTS) were made available to the community as part of the phase two Section 47 consultation via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project website;</li> <li>• In hard copy form at the community information events; and</li> <li>• The PEIR NTS was available in hard copy form at the Community Access Point (CAP) sites.</li> </ul>

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<p>Details of how to access the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project website;</li> <li>• The community consultation leaflet; and</li> <li>• The Section 48 notice.</li> </ul>
10	<p>09 January – 20 February 2025</p> <p><b>Phase two consultation (statutory under Section 47 of the 2008 Act)</b></p> <p>The Applicant held a six-week community consultation on more detailed proposals for the Project, including the PEIR in accordance with the SoCC.</p> <p>During phase two consultation the Applicant held eight in-person information events and one online webinar. Additionally, the Applicant held two preview events on the 15 and 16 of January 2025 for landowners, Members of Parliament (MPs), parish councils, elected ward members and other stakeholders. During the consultation period the Applicant also attended a meeting organised with residents of Moorhouse.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the consultation information and opportunities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributing a community consultation postcard to over 5,900 residential and business properties;</li> <li>• Publishing two rounds of Section 48 notices in the Newark Advertiser (02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025) and the Nottingham Post (02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025);</li> <li>• Publishing one Section 48 notice in the Newark Advertiser on 30 January 2025 with the remaining consultation events and extension of the Newark Town Hall event;</li> <li>• Erecting Section 48 notices around the Project site;</li> <li>• Distributing a press release on 09 January 2025 containing details of the consultation to regional media publications;</li> <li>• Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display;</li> <li>• Distributing hard copies of consultation documents to four CAP sites;</li> <li>• Providing details of the events on the Project website; and</li> <li>• Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.</li> </ul>

Date		Consultation undertaken
		The Applicant invited feedback from the community via a paper feedback form, an online feedback form, and feedback to the Project communication channels over a stated 42-day response period.

### 3 COMPLIANCE WITH THE 2008 ACT

- 3.1 Table 2 describes how the Applicant has complied with the consultation requirements set by the 2008 Act.

**Table 2 Consultation compliance checklist with 2008 Act**

Section	Requirement	Compliance
Section 42 (The Applicant must consult the following about the proposed application)	a) such persons as may be prescribed,	<p>The Applicant consulted all relevant prescribed consultees; defined in Regulation 11 (1)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”) and the Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure (APFP) Regulations.</p> <p>A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 19 December 2023 and included the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11 (1)(a) of the EIA Regulations. The Applicant ensured consistency with this list of consultees.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Applicant included further ‘non-prescribed’ consultees in addition to this, such as the National Farmers Union, Country Land and Business Association, Chartered Association of Agricultural Valuers, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and National Trust.</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	(b) each local authority that is within section 43	<p>The Applicant consulted each local authority that is within Section 43.</p> <p>These are listed below:</p> <p>‘A’ Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melton Borough Council</li> <li>• West Lindsey District Council</li> <li>• North Kesteven District Council</li> <li>• Bassetlaw District Council</li> <li>• Rushcliffe Borough Council</li> <li>• Gedling Borough Council</li> <li>• South Kesteven Borough Council</li> <li>• Ashfield District Council</li> <li>• Mansfield District Council</li> <li>• Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</li> <li>• Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council</li> </ul> <p>‘B’ Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newark and Sherwood District Council</li> </ul> <p>‘C’ Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council</li> </ul> <p>‘D’ Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Lincolnshire Council</li> <li>• Nottingham City Council</li> <li>• Derbyshire County Council</li> <li>• Leicestershire County Council</li> <li>• Lincolnshire County Council</li> </ul>
	(c) the Greater London Authority if land is in Greater London, and	Not applicable.
	d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44	The Applicant consulted each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.
Section 45 (Timetable for consultation under section 42)	(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	The Applicant notified all those consulted under Section 42 of the deadline in writing by email and/or post.
	(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the	All defined consultation periods (statutory and non-statutory) for Great North Road Solar and

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	<p>Biodiversity Park have exceeded 28 days.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook consultation on the PEIR from 09 January 2025 to 20 February 2025.</p> <p>Section 42 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of Statutory Consultation on or before 09 January 2025 by written letter and/or email, depending on the availability of contact details to the Applicant. The deadline for responding to the Section 42 consultation was 20 February 2025 (at 42 days and therefore exceeding the 28-day requirement).</p>
	(3) In subsection (2) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	<p>The consultation documents provided to Section 42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials;</li> <li>• A site plan showing the location of the Project; and</li> <li>• A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).</li> </ul> <p>A USB with all the above materials was also available upon request, free of charge.</p>
Section 46 (Duty to notify Commission of proposed application)	(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.	<p>The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the 2008 Act on 07 January 2025 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 09 January 2025 and closing on 20 February 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A covering letter;</li> </ul>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being for prescribed consultees and the other one to land interests);</li> <li>• A site plan showing the location of the Project; and</li> <li>• A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).</li> </ul>
	(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.	The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the 2008 Act on 07 January 2025 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 09 January 2025 and closing on 20 February 2025.
Section 47 (Duty to consult the local community)	(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	The Applicant prepared and published a Statement of Community Consultation.
	(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.	<p>To inform the preparation of the statement, the Applicant consulted each local authority that is within Section 43(1) on the content of the SoCC, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newark and Sherwood District Council; and</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the Applicant also consulted Bassetlaw District Council on the draft SoCC. While the Project is not within their administrative boundary, the Applicant's proposed consultation area extends into their area and the Applicant therefore considered it prudent to consult with them on the proposed approach to community consultation.</p>
	(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to	Between 09 July 2024 and 07 August 2024, the Applicant formally consulted host and local authorities



Section	Requirement	Compliance
	consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.	on a draft of the SoCC prior to commencing phase two consultation. The host and local authorities were contacted on 02 July 2024 to provide one week's notice before formal consultation on the draft SoCC.  Feedback was also sought by the Applicant on a draft list of Section 42 statutory consultees.
	(4) In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).	The consultation documents supplied by the Applicant included a covering letter and email, and the draft SoCC.
	(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).	The Applicant had regard to all relevant comments received on the draft SoCC.  The Applicant shared a response table with each local authority to explain how their comments had been considered. This detail will also be included in the Consultation Report.
	<p>(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must —</p> <p>(za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,</p> <p>(a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and</p> <p>(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.</p>	<p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act on 19 December 2024.</p> <p>The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's website and made available to view and collect from the public venues (Community Access Points) listed in the document and accompanying notice.</p> <p>Notices were published in the Newark Advertiser on 19 December 2024 and the Nottingham Post on 19 December 2024 to publicise the SoCC and its availability.</p> <p>The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of Project updates.</p>
	(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the	The Applicant undertook consultation under s. Section 47 of

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	proposals set out in the statement.	the 2008 Act in accordance with the SoCC.  This is evidenced in <b>Table 5</b> of this document and will be further detailed in the Consultation Report.
Section 48 (Duty to publicise)	(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.	The Applicant prepared and publicised the application in the prescribed manner set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 by publishing a Section 48 notice.  The Section 48 notice was published in the following publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newark Advertiser (02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025)</li> <li>• Nottingham Post (02 January 2025 and 09 January 2025)</li> <li>• The London Gazette (06 January 2025)</li> <li>• The Guardian (06 January 2025)</li> </ul>
	(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.	The Section 48 notice included a deadline of 20 February 2025 for receipt of responses to the publicity. The final notice was published on 09 January 2025, providing a total of 42 days for responses, therefore exceeding the 28 days statutory minimum response time.
Section 49 (Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity)	(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant — (a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and (b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).  (2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.	The Applicant has had regard to all relevant responses made pursuant to Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 in accordance with Section 49.  <b>Section 5</b> of this document describes the Applicant's consideration of consultation feedback.  A summary of relevant responses received and how the Applicant has considered these will be provided in the Consultation Report.

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means:</p> <p>(a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case,</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or</p> <p>(c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.</p>	
Section 50 (Guidance about pre-application procedure)	<p>1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Section.</p> <p>(2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Planning Inspectorate or the Secretary of State.</p> <p>(3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.</p>	<p>The Applicant has had regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, 2015), Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process.</p> <p>The Applicant has also had regard to updated guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2024 and the updated Advice Note on the Consultation Report, published in August 2024.</p>

## 4 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

### Overview

- 4.1 In accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act, a draft Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') was prepared, consulted on with relevant authorities, finalised and published ahead of commencing statutory consultation on the Project.
- 4.2 The Applicant prepared a draft SoCC for consultation following undertaking a phase of non-statutory consultation. The experience of this initial consultation, including feedback received on consultation methods, informed the content of the draft SoCC, alongside relevant guidance and the experience of the Applicant's Project team.
- 4.3 Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act states that before preparing the SoCC, the Applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) in regard to the content of the SoCC.
- 4.4 The Applicant consulted the following host and neighbouring local authorities on the content of the SoCC:
- Nottinghamshire County Council;
  - Newark and Sherwood District Council; and
  - Bassetlaw District Council.
- 4.5 The Applicant considered comments made by these host authorities, before publishing the SoCC in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act.
- 4.6 The Applicant has subsequently undertaken consultation consistent with the principles and commitments set out in the published SoCC, in accordance with Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act.

### Consultation on a draft SoCC

- 4.7 The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council on 2 July 2024 for any initial comments. No comments were received on the early working draft, but a meeting was held with Newark and Sherwood District Council on 22 July, during the SoCC consultation, to discuss its contents and the Applicant's approach to consultation.
- 4.8 The Applicant formally provided a draft SoCC to host authorities for consultation on 20 July 2024. This was provided with a covering email and letter to explain the purpose of the draft SoCC, the response process and deadline for comments.
- 4.9 The Applicant stated a response deadline of 27 August 2024. This provided a consultation period of 40 days therefore exceeding the requirement set in Section 47(3) to provide a period of 28 days.
- 4.10 Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council provided comments in response to consultation on the draft SoCC. Bassetlaw District Council did not provide comments in response to consultation on the draft SoCC.
- 4.11 The responses received from host authorities to this consultation on the draft SoCC were considered by the Applicant when finalising the SoCC prior to publication.
- 4.12 A copy of the final SoCC, alongside a table explaining how comments received had been considered by the Applicant when finalising the SoCC, were shared with each host authority prior to publication on 5 December 2024. A copy of the final SoCC can be found in Appendix 1.

- 4.13 The feedback submitted to the consultation on the draft SoCC and how this was considered by the Applicant, is described in **Table 3** and **Table 4**.

**Table 3 Applicant consideration of feedback received to the draft SoCC from Nottinghamshire County Council**

Comment	Applicant response
Section 3: Method of Consultation	
Reference to online media. More attention should be given to publicity via social media. A dedicated Facebook or X account should link to the project website. It's not clear if this is proposed but given most people pick up and share things online, it is a main way communities can be reached.	<p>Noted. The Applicant created dedicated Facebook accounts for GNR Solar Park and NG+ Community Benefit Scheme linked to the proposed GNR Solar Park. These social media accounts were established in November 2023 and December 2023 respectively, and can be found via the following links:</p> <p>GNR Solar Park Facebook page [REDACTED]</p> <p>NG+ Facebook page: [REDACTED]</p> <p>As detailed on page 7 of the SoCC, Section 3: Method of Consultation, these Facebook pages will be used to publicise consultation opportunities, which can then be shared via external existing social media channels to further publicise the consultation.</p> <p>In light of this comment and to ensure the GNR Solar Park Facebook page is easily accessible for interested parties, the Applicant will ensure a link to the GNR Solar Park Facebook page is included in the footer of each webpage on the project dedicated website [REDACTED]</p>
SoCC should reference social media engagement and how this will be handled. It must be easy for people to submit comments via social media accounts.	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment; however, the Applicant has not committed to utilise social media platforms to collect feedback on the proposals.</p> <p>As detailed in the 'About' section of both the GNR Solar Park and NG+ Facebook pages, these channels will be used to broadcast details of the community consultation and provide updates on key milestones throughout the development of the proposals. Whilst these pages will be monitored by the Applicant, all formal feedback and questions about the project should be submitted through the following communications channels:</p> <p>Email: info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk Write to: FREEPOST GNR SOLAR Freephone: 0808 175 4054</p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>This is to ensure that comments and questions can be fully recorded and responded to efficiently by the Applicant as part of the development process.</p> <p>To ensure interested parties are aware of this, the Applicant has committed to update Section 3 of the SoCC to state: <i>"The Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park Facebook page will be used to broadcast details of the community consultation and provide updates on key milestones throughout the development of our proposals for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park. Please note, that whilst this page will be monitored by the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park project team, all formal feedback and questions about the project should be submitted through our communications channels."</i></p> <p><i>This is to ensure that comments and questions can be fully recorded and responded to efficiently by our team as part of our development process."</i></p>
Section 7: How we will consult and how respondents can participate	
<p>It must be easy for specific evidence documents to be accessed given plethora of documentation online at PEIR stage. It is often hard to navigate to specific documents or parts of documents and a simple guide to the evidence base with links straight to relevant documents should be provided. The SoCC should cover how the website will be improved to make it easy to navigate during the consultation.</p>	<p>Noted. The Applicant has a dedicated Document Library webpage, which is where all pre-application consultation materials will be hosted. Materials will be hosted with clear headings and in order of the most recent document at the top.</p> <p>The Applicant will be mindful of navigation and file size of consultation materials, and clearly titling all documents when they are uploaded to the Project website. This will likely involve publishing clearly titled individual chapters of the PEIR to ensure they are easy to navigate.</p>
<p>A telephone helpline should be considered - to be staffed during the consultation phase for advice or information on the project consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant has established a range of communications channels including email (info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk), freephone information line (0808 175 4054), and Freepost address (FREEPOST GNR SOLAR) to ensure interested parties can get in touch with a member of the project team.</p> <p>In relation to the freephone information line specifically, this phonenumber is manned between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays), and has been established since October 2023.</p>

Comment	Applicant response
	The freephone information line, along with the Freepost and email address remain open throughout and in between phases of consultation.

**Table 4 Applicant consideration of feedback received on the draft SoCC from Newark and Sherwood District Council**

Comment	Applicant response
Section 1: Background	
At paragraph 1.16 it is stated that: Comments received from the authorities on the draft SoCC will be considered by Elements Green when preparing a final SoCC for publication. For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure understanding by members of the public, we would recommend that it is made clear at this section that the applicant has a statutory duty to have 'regard' to responses received in accordance with Section 47 (5) of the Planning Act 2008 (hereafter referred to as the 'Act').	Noted. The Applicant has committed to update this section of the SoCC to state: <i>"The Applicant has a statutory duty to have regard to the responses received on the draft SoCC in preparing a final SoCC for publication. This is in accordance with Section 47 (5) of the Planning Act (hereafter referred to as the 'PA 2008')."</i>
In respect of Figure 1 – Site Location Plan and given this is a document where the applicant has a duty to consult 'host' authorities, we recommend that the LPA administrative areas are shown on this figure for increased clarity.	<p>In Figure 2 of the SoCC, the Applicant presents the Red Line Boundary and Core Consultation Zone with local authority boundaries overlaid. Whilst the Applicant makes note of this comment, Figure 1 will not be updated to present the local authority boundaries as they are already displayed in Figure 2 of the SoCC. With the level of detail presented in Figure 1, the Applicant has utilised Figure 2 as a clear way to present the local authority boundaries.</p> <p>In finalising the SoCC for publication, the Applicant has committed to annotate Figure 2 to assist readers in locating the site against authoritative boundaries (i.e. Newark and Sherwood District, Bassetlaw District).</p>
Section 2: Our Consultation Process	
NSDC note the content of this section and whilst it is useful context, much of it relates to the Phase One (Non-Statutory Consultation) whereas the principal purpose of the SOCC as set out under Section 47(1) is to explain how an applicant will deliver its statutory consultation. The applicant should consider the value of this section in fulfilling the purpose of the SOCC.	<p>Noted. Following consideration of this comment, the Applicant still intends to include Section 2: Our Consultation Process, in the final version of the SoCC.</p> <p>The purpose of providing an overview of the Applicant's iterative two-phase consultation process is to clarify the scope and objectives of the consultation, the structure and stages of engagement, and how respondents' feedback received at each phase of consultation will be considered to inform further updates to the proposals.</p>



Comment	Applicant response
	<p>The Applicant is keen to reassure those that took part in the phase one (non-statutory) consultation that, although this was held before the SoCC was published, it is an important part of the pre-application consultation process.</p>
Section 3: Method of Consultation	
<p>It is noted that paragraph 3.11 refers to the MHCLG Guidance (2015), However, this guidance was withdrawn on 30 April 2024. The applicant should ensure they have taken full account of the latest available government guidance in preparing the SOCC and delivering their statutory consultation as can be found here: Planning Act 2008: Preapplication stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - GOV.UK)</p>	<p>Noted. The Applicant has taken full account of the latest government guidance in preparing the SoCC. The Applicant has updated the wording of this section of the SoCC to state:</p> <p><i>"Elements Green is fully committed to good practice in public consultation. <del>Consultation for the Project is also informed by the requirements of the 2008 Act and by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance (published by the former Department for Communities and Local Government. Dec 2015).</del> <b>Consultation for the Project has been informed by the latest government guidance for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, published in April 2024. The latest guidance on the pre-application stage for NSIPs can be found via this link:</b></i></p> <p><b><i><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects</a></i></b>. We are committed to ensuring that the consultation process and associated communications are well publicised and accessible."</p>
<p>In paragraph 3.11 it is also stated that: We are committed to ensuring that the consultation process and all associated communications are made accessible to as many people, communities and interested organisations as possible. It would be beneficial to explain at this point in the document or link to other parts of the report which explains how the applicant will deliver against this commitment.</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the consultation process and all associated communications are made accessible to as many people and organisations as possible, and the Applicant's commitments to fulfil this are outlined in the following sections:</p> <p>Section 3: Method of Consultation. This section of the SoCC provides an overview of the tools and techniques that will be used to ensure communications are made accessible to as many people, communities, and interested organisations as possible, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of communications channels – the Applicant has established a variety of communications lines (email, freephone and freepost address), as well as adopt a variety of methods to publicise information about the consultation, such as direct mail of consultation information within the defined Core Consultation Zone and use of local media. The Applicant has also established digital platforms to further</li> </ul>



Comment	Applicant response
	<p>publicise the consultation and act as a database for Project information (e.g. dedicated project website and social media accounts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible events – including in-person and virtual meetings and presentations, in-person information events at publicly accessible locations, and an online webinar.</li> <li>• Engagement – including proactive communications with MPs, local planning authorities, councillors, parish councils, seldom heard groups, and local interest groups.</li> <li>• Project documentation – the Applicant is also committed to the provision of information in alternative languages and formats by request and as necessary.</li> </ul> <p>Section 4: Who we will consult. This section of the SoCC provides an overview of the efforts made to ensure that interested parties and communities within the vicinity of the proposals are aware of consultation opportunities. There is no set rule that defines those people, groups and organisations; however, the Applicant has adopted a variety of methods based on common practice, potential effects, and existing infrastructure to ensure communities and organisations are aware of the consultation. This section provides an overview of the Project's Core Consultation Zone, efforts to engage with Seldom Heard Groups, and the wider consultation area.</p> <p>Whilst the Applicant makes note of this comment, the SoCC provides an overview of the methods of consultation (Section 3) and who we will consult (Section 4), and therefore, has not committed to updating the wording of the SoCC in this paragraph.</p>
Section 4: Who we will consult	
<p>At paragraph 4.1.2 it is stated as follows: In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that communities within the vicinity of the proposals are aware of consultation opportunities. There is no set rule that defines those people, groups or organisations falling into this category. Firstly, NSDC are concerned by the use of the term 'reasonable efforts' as this does not seem to marry with the applicant's commitment to make the consultation</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to undertaking a meaningful and accessible consultation, but we note that the level of effort may be subjective.</p> <p>We have therefore removed the reference to 'reasonable efforts' from the sentence and instead remained factual with Section 47 of the Planning Act. The Applicant has committed to update the wording of the SoCC to say:</p>

Comment	Applicant response
<p>accessible, nor does it reflect the importance of a statutory consultation that must be conducted in accordance with the Act if it is to be judged to be acceptable. NSDC consider that the applicant should be demonstrating the very best endeavours to deliver a robust and thorough statutory consultation.</p>	<p><i>"In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant <b>will consult people living in the vicinity of the land</b> to ensure that communities within the vicinity of the proposals are aware of consultation opportunities."</i></p>
<p>Paragraph 4.16 sets out a 'Core Consultation Zone' which includes definition of a zone of 2km from the boundary of the solar areas and 1km from the edge of cable route corridor. NSDC consider additional explanation in this section of the SOCC is needed as to the basis of why and how these areas were defined and are judged to be appropriate.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that two kilometers is consistent with the approach taken by other consented solar NSIPs.</p> <p>The Core Consultation Zone includes approximately 5,900 properties, and the Applicant notes that relative to the level of respondents to the Phase One Consultation (276 feedback responses), we consider this to be a substantial number and sufficient for proactively contacting properties in the vicinity of the site.</p>
<p>Paragraphs 4.1.13 and 4.1.14 refer to hard to reach groups. We separately enclose with these comments a list of additional parties that the applicant should consider engaging with. Notwithstanding this, it would be beneficial for the applicant to consider what barriers may exist to engaging with these hard-to-reach groups in this section of the SOCC and any specific methods the applicant is seeking to deploy to improve the prospects for positive engagement.</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment, and in response, contacted Newark and Sherwood District Council to obtain a list of additional parties the Applicant should consider engaging with. The Applicant contacted the Council on Thursday 29 August to request a list of additional parties as this was not enclosed in the Council's response. The council confirmed by response that this comment had been included erroneously.</p> <p>The Applicant is aware that there may be certain barriers which could prevent seldom heard groups from fully participating in the consultation, or make them less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. Some reasons for this could include a limited access to traditional communications channels (e.g. newspapers, online platforms), time and resource constraints, and traditional format of consultation materials.</p> <p>The Applicant's methodology has been developed to accommodate communicating as effectively as possible with these groups to ensure they can have their say. The Applicant will adopt the following methods to improve engagement with seldom heard groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted outreach: the Applicant will contact with bodies and gateway organisations representing these groups ahead of the launch of consultation to ensure our approach meets the specific</li> </ul>

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>needs of their members. The Applicant will utilise existing networks to share information and encourage participation (e.g. via the Project website, social media and email).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tailored communication materials: the Applicant is committed to providing information in alternative languages and formats by request and as necessary.</li> <li>• Flexible engagement options: the Applicant will host in-person information events at different times and locations, including evenings and the weekend. The Applicant will also host an online webinar for those who are not able to attend a public drop-in event. In addition to the above, requests for specific consultation activity to cater for seldom heard groups and their members will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>
Section 5: When we will consult	
<p>NSDC note that a 6-week consultation period is proposed, which seeks to avoid core public holiday periods. Such a period of time is considered to be reasonable and reflects a best practice approach as deployed on other similar NSIP Projects.</p>	<p>Noted. The Applicant is committed to hold a six-week consultation period for its statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant has now defined its consultation period for Phase Two Consultation, and will update the wording of the SoCC to state:</p> <p><i>“5.1 The Applicant will hold their Phase Two Consultation for a period of six weeks. The timing of consultation has taken into account potential conflicting events, such as recognised school and public holidays.</i></p> <p><i>5.2 This is consistent with the approach taken to the non-statutory Phase One Consultation and exceeds the statutory requirement of 28 days.</i></p> <p><i>5.3 <del>The specific dates of Phase Two Consultation are yet to be defined but will be confirmed and included in the final published version of the SoCC. Our Phase Two Consultation is going to take place between Thursday 09 January 2025 and 20 February 2025.</del></i></p> <p><i>5.1.4 <del>For the purposes of this draft, the Applicant is working towards the dates of Wednesday 23 October and Wednesday 4</del></i></p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<p><del>December 2024 for their six-week consultation period.</del></p> <p>5.4 Please see Table 2 for a schedule of public information events to be held during Phase Two Consultation.”</p>
Section 6: What we will consult on	
NSDC note that the consultation material will comprise the proposed layout/masterplan, the PEIR and associated mitigation and community benefits. NSDC would urge the applicant to present information that is easy to understand and interpret. Visual information should be as clear and concise as possible and technical information (particularly the Non-Technical Summary to the PEIR) should include summary information in non-technical language to make it easier to interpret and understand.	Noted and agreed. The Applicant will provide clear, easy to interpret consultation materials to ensure readers understand the information provided.
Section 7: How we will consult and how respondents can participate	
Paragraphs 7.15 – 7.1.9 refers to the project website and how information regarding the statutory consultation will be made available. NSDC would suggest that the information made available is in a distinct separate part of the website, which is dedicated to the statutory consultation only, including making clear which documents form part of this statutory consultation and how parties are able to respond to the process.	<p>Noted. The Applicant has a dedicated Document Library webpage, which is where all pre-application consultation materials will be hosted. Materials will be hosted with clear headings and in order of the most recent document at the top. This will include a specific heading for statutory consultation materials and the PEIR.</p> <p>We will be mindful of navigation and file size of consultation materials, and clearly titling all documents when they are uploaded to the Project website. This will likely involve publishing clearly titled individual chapters of the PEIR.</p>
Paragraph 7.1.10 – It would be useful if NSDC is provided with a copy of this postcard for information purposes and it is included as an Appendix to the SOCC when finalised. This would equally apply to the feedback form, as referenced from paragraph 7.1.17 onwards. Paragraphs 7.2.1 – 7.2.4 – refer to technical documents, maps, and plans. As mentioned earlier in our response, best endeavours should be made to ensure documentation is presented in a form that is easy to understand and interpret. In particular, we would suggest the Non-Technical Summary to the PEIR is as short and succinct as possible.	<p>Our intention is for the SoCC to be published on Thursday 12 December, approximately four weeks before the start of consultation to begin publicising the details of Phase Two Consultation in advance.</p> <p>A postcard will be produced to land much closer to the launch of consultation to further inform local communities of the opportunities to find out more information (including details of public information events), how to provide feedback, and the response deadline for comments to be submitted. The Applicant has intentionally staggered these documents to ensure local communities are informed of the launch of consultation on numerous occasions,</p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>including at the time of the consultation period commencing.</p> <p>Whilst the content will be different, the structure and format will likely be similar to the equivalent documents produced as part of Phase One Consultation. These documents can be found on the Documents page of the Project website via the following links:</p> <p><a href="#">Phase One Postcard</a>  <a href="#">Phase One Feedback Form</a></p> <p>The Applicant will share PDF versions of these documents with the Local Planning Authority once finalised in the run up to Phase Two Consultation.</p>
<p>Paragraphs 7.3.1 – 7.3.8 – Refer to the public information events. Whilst NSDC would support the proposals to deliver events approximately at the mid-way point during the consultation, there is lack of clarity around the details of the events.</p> <p>Whilst venue locations are referred to within the table on this page, there is no further details on schedule or timings. The earlier paragraph in this section (paragraph 7.3.3) refers to events being held on different days of the week and a range of times, but again no detail is provided. The venue locations, timings and format are critical to supporting the delivery of effective public consultation events and whilst we understand that there is a need to check availability and suitability, we would expect the applicant to have been able to define their preferred days of the week and timings of the events at this stage, including a split of the number and type of events, noting that this may be subject to change when venues are confirmed and booked.</p>	<p>The Applicant has prepared a schedule of information events for Phase Two Consultation, which has been appended to this document.</p> <p>The Applicant can confirm that as of 04 December 2024, all venues have been confirmed at the dates and times shown in Appendix 1.</p>
<p>Further to this, there also appears to be a lack of explanation in the methodology for how venue locations have been considered and selected and why some have been deemed suitable or unsuitable. In the absence of further detail at this stage NSDC are unable to confirm the suitability of the type and timings of the public information events.</p>	<p>As detailed in Appendix 1 on page 14 of this document, the Applicant has provided a proposed schedule of information events for Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant has sought to identify venues across the project area for convenience of residents and stakeholders throughout the core consultation zone. The accessibility, size</p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>and location of venues has been considered in determining suitable venues.</p> <p>The Applicant has considered the experience from in-person events held during the Phase One Consultation when designing the schedule of events for statutory consultation. The Applicant made a conscious decision to propose events at the same locations as the Phase One Consultation information events, and has taken feedback received during Phase One Consultation into account in preparing this schedule.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that comments made at the Carlton on Trent information event made reference to the size of the venue and location of information events. The Applicant has sought to host information events in villages near Carlton on Trent to alleviate concerns that the venue was overcrowded. The Applicant has proposed to hold information events in Sutton on Trent Sports Club (to the north of Carlton on Trent) and North Muskham Rural Community Centre (to the south of Carlton on Trent) to provide local communities with the opportunity to attend an information event in their village (i.e. Sutton on Trent and North Muskham).</p> <p>It should also be noted that the Applicant has had regard to the comments received from Newark and Sherwood District Council on our approach to Phase One Consultation. NSDC commented that additional events should be held in villages where Parish Councils responded to the EIA Scoping Report, two of which were Sutton on Trent and North Muskham.</p>
<p>NSDC also note at paragraph 7.2.4 that it is stated that ‘reasonable’ charges will apply for a copy of the PEIR. NSDC would suggest this charge is confirmed for clarity.</p>	<p>Noted. The PEIR is still being drafted at the time of drafting the SoCC. If the total cost to print the PEIR is determined prior to the publication of the SoCC, the Applicant will outline the cost. However, if the cost for a hard copy of the PEIR has not been determined at this time, the Applicant is committed to outlining the cost of this in the Section 48 Notice to be published in local and national media and on the Project website.</p> <p>The Applicant is cognisant of printing costs applied to statutory consultations undertaken for other consented solar NSIPs, and will refer to this as guidance when publicising a cost. The Applicant notes that in practice this cost will be subsidised.</p>



Comment	Applicant response
	<p>The Applicant is committed to ensuring the PEIR can be accessed in other means free-of-charge.</p>
<p>Paragraphs 7.4.1 – 7.4.2 relates to Community Access Points. There is no explanation of the rationale for selecting these locations and/or other locations that may have been considered. NSDC would expect the applicant to be able to demonstrate how this issue has been considered.</p>	<p>To propose a variety of suitable locations for Community Access Points, the Applicant undertook desk-based research to locate publicly accessible venues with regular opening hours in the vicinity of the site.</p> <p>In the draft SoCC, the Applicant proposed that Newark and Sherwood District Council Offices, Sutton on Trent Community Partnership Library, Southwell Library, and YMCA Newark and Sherwood Activity Village could be appropriate Community Access Points. Geographically, these venues are situated near the northeast, southeast, and southwest of the Project.</p> <p>During discussions with the proposed Community Access Points listed above, Sutton on Trent Community Partnership Library determined they could not accommodate this request. The Applicant is also yet to receive a response from YMCA Newark and Sherwood Activity Village. In light of this, the Applicant contacted additional venues with the aim to have the same number of Community Access Points as proposed in the draft SoCC. The additional venues contacted include Newark Library, Ollerton Library and Edwinstowe Library. Both Ollerton and Edwinstowe Library are located towards the northwest of the site and would accommodate villages in the nearby area, such as Eakring, Laxton, and Egmanton.</p> <p>The Applicant has received confirmation that Newark and Sherwood District Council Offices, Newark Library, Southwell Library, and Ollerton Library can accommodate our request to be a Community Access Point during Phase Two Consultation.</p>
<p>Whilst NSDC consider it likely acceptable in principle to be identified as a Community Access Point, this will require further discussions on the practicalities of holding information and making it available, to ensure it is efficient for front line staff at the authority.</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment and is pleased to confirm that Newark and Sherwood District Council Offices have agreed to accommodate our request of being a Community Access Point during Phase Two Consultation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7.5.1 includes a table summarising the availability of consultation materials. Subject to discussion and agreement, NSDC</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment and will consider whether a library copy of the PEIR will be made available at the Council Offices.</p>

Comment	Applicant response
would recommend a 'library' copy of the PEIR be made available at the Council Offices, including electronic copies on USB for members of the public that wish to take a copy away.	<p>In light of this comment, the Applicant has committed to uploading PDF copies of the statutory consultation materials, including the PEIR, to USBs. The Applicant will ensure USBs are available at information events for attendees to take away with them.</p> <p>The Applicant can also supply Newark and Sherwood District Council with a supply of USBs with the consultation materials pre-uploaded on request.</p>
Section 8: Consultation Reporting	
NSDC note that section 8 is useful context and information, but as it does not relate to the delivery of the statutory consultation, we have no further comments to make.	Noted. The Applicant will include <i>Section 8: Consultation Reporting</i> in the SoCC to ensure readers are informed of the contents of the Consultation Report and the timescales for the DCO application for the Project to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

#### Publication and publicity of the SoCC

- 4.14 The final SoCC was published in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act on 19 December 2024.
- 4.15 The SoCC was uploaded to the document library of the Applicant's website and made available to view and collect from the public venues (Community Access Points) listed in the document and accompanying notice.
- 4.16 Notices were published in the Newark Advertiser and Nottingham Post on 19 December to publicise the SoCC and its availability.
- 4.17 The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of project updates.

#### Compliance with the SoCC

- 4.18 The Applicant undertook consultation consistent with the commitments in the published SoCC, in accordance with Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act.
- 4.19 **Table 5** describes how the Applicant has complied with commitments set out within the published SoCC.

**Table 5 SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance**

Section	Commitment	Compliance
4. Our Publication Consultation Process	This SoCC relates to the delivery of the phase two consultation. If there are any subsequent consultation (including any targeted consultations) following phase two that may be triggered by events such as a material change to the red line boundary, or as a result of feedback from the phase two consultation, they will be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the principles	The Applicant has undertaken the phase two Statutory Consultation as described in the SoCC. No subsequent targeted consultation was required.



Section	Commitment	Compliance
	and methods set out in this SoCC to the extent they are relevant to the subsequent consultation.	
	[Phase two consultation:] We will consult on our developed proposals using the results from the ongoing environmental and technical surveys that have been carried out to date. This information will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).	The Applicant published a PEIR on 09 January 2025 to be consulted on as part of a statutory Section 42, 47 and 48 consultation with prescribed consultees and the community (Phase two consultation), requesting responses by 20 February 2025 (providing a 42-day consultation response period).
5. What Will We Consult On?	<p>The aim of our pre-application consultations is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have a chance to understand and influence our proposals.</p> <p>At each phase of consultation, we will be seeking feedback to help refine our proposals.</p> <p>This will include producing plans and documents to understand and explore topics such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts and accompanying mitigation.</li> <li>• Opportunities for community benefits associated with the Project.</li> <li>• Temporary impacts during construction.</li> <li>• Operational impacts.</li> </ul> <p>The description and proposed layout of the development of Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, will be set out in the consultation materials.</p>	<p>The Applicant held consultation with community and technical consultees in parallel under Section 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act.</p> <p>A suite of consultation materials was published on 09 January 2025 to provide information on the topics referred to in the SoCC.</p> <p>This involved publishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A PEIR;</li> <li>• An accompanying Non-Technical Summary;</li> <li>• A central booklet</li> <li>• Site location plan;</li> <li>• Illustrative masterplan;</li> <li>• Event displays; and</li> <li>• A Feedback form to encourage responses.</li> </ul>
6. Who Will We Consult?	<p>We will consult anybody who is interested in taking part in the consultation.</p>	The Applicant accepted all feedback submitted in response to consultation. Opportunities to provide feedback were publicised through a range of methods including national and local media.
	We will proactively contact individuals, groups and organisations within the CCZ (Core Consultation Zone). The properties within the CCZ will receive communications such as consultation postcards from us	The Applicant issued a community consultation postcard to all properties (over 5,900) within the defined Core Consultation Zone to publicise and encourage responses to the phase two consultation.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	in the post (as set out in Section 7).	
	Information events will be held at locations within the Core Consultation Zone.	During the phase two consultation, the Applicant hosted eight in-person public information events at locations within and across the defined Core Consultation Zone.
	Relevant organisations, such as parish councils and community groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.	The Applicant maintained a register of prescribed and non-prescribed consultees and has notified them at the commencements of each phase of consultation.
	<p>We recognise that there may be some interested individuals or parties who are not within the Core Consultation Zone.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to view our proposals and have their say.</p>	<p>The Applicant has publicised consultation opportunities to communities beyond the Core Consultation Zone by advertising in local media and maintaining a register of interested individuals.</p> <p>The Applicant published all consultation materials on the dedicated Project website to view online, as available on request via the Applicant's free-to-use communications channels (Freephone, Freepost, and email) and collect from advertised Community Access Points.</p>
	<p>We will design the consultation and prepare the materials so that they are accessible and clear. Additionally, we will also carry out the activities below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with the host local authorities to identify a range of other groups and individuals, including representatives of local seldom heard groups and inform them of the consultation and to see if they need any further assistance to enable their participation and the individuals and groups that they represent.</li> <li>2. Display the Project contact information prominently on all materials to enable individuals to contact them with any questions or requests.</li> <li>3. Ensure that the central booklet can be made available in alternative forms on request.</li> </ol>	<p>The Applicant maintained a contact list of organisations representing community members and groups that may be seldom heard or less likely to take part in consultation.</p> <p>Comments and additions to an identified list were invited from host authorities as part of the SoCC development process. These organisations have been contacted throughout the pre-application process, including ahead of phases of consultation, to publicise opportunities to take part and invited suggestions for any further measure to increase accessibility.</p> <p>Public consultation materials, such as the central booklet and Project website, clearly signposted to the Applicant's free-to-use communications channels. They also encouraged anyone who might require consultation materials in alternative formats to contact the team to request this.</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	Where possible we will aim to hold events at venues that are accessible and can be reached by public as well as private transport. For anyone with specific additional requirements please contact us via our communications channels listed in this document.	<p>The Applicant held public information events at venues across the Core Consultation Zone, to increase the proximity to various communities.</p> <p>Venues were identified based on the Applicant's research and assessment of suitability, and informed by the experience of events held during Applicant's phase one (non-statutory) consultation. The proposed list of venues was shared with relevant local authorities through consultation on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant welcomed over 500 attendees to their series of information events during their phase two consultation.</p>
	You can get in touch with us at any stage of the development process. Our contact details can be found in Section 12 of this SoCC.	<p>The Applicant publicised their range of free-to-use communications channels since the Project launched in October 2023. These were subsequently publicised during the launch of Phase Two consultation.</p> <p>These channels include a Freephone information line, Freepost address and email address, and have remained open throughout the pre-application phase.</p>
7. How Will We Consult?	Our Statutory Consultation (phase two) is planned to take place from 09 January 2025 until 20 February 2025.	The Applicant undertook a six-week community consultation on more detailed proposals for the Project between 09 January 2025 and 20 February 2025.
	<p>In-person information events will be held at locations across the Core Consultation Zone.</p> <p>They will be advertised in consultation postcards, across local media, at local information points and at Community Access Points (CAP) sites.</p> <p>We will hold nine in-person information events during our Phase Two consultation. Considering the feedback received during the first phase of consultation, we are committing to an extensive programme of events, including</p>	<p>The Applicant held the following events during their Phase Two consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maplebeck Village Hall (Thursday 23 January 2025, 2pm – 7:30pm)</li> <li>• Sutton on Trent Sports Club (Friday 24 January 2025, 2pm – 7:30pm)</li> <li>• North Muskham Rural Community Centre (Saturday 25 January 2025, 11am – 3pm)</li> <li>• Laxton Village Hall (Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2pm – 8pm)</li> </ul>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>an event in North Muskham. These events will be held on different days of the week including weekends, with various hours to accommodate different availability within the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelham House Country Manor (Thursday 30 January 2025, 11am – 3pm)</li> <li>• Carlton on Trent Village Hall (Friday 31 January 2025, 2pm – 7:30pm)</li> <li>• Eakring Cator Hall (Tuesday 04 February 2025, 2pm – 6:30pm)</li> <li>• Newark Town Hall (Wednesday 05 February 2025, 11am – 3pm)</li> <li>• Online Community Webinar (Monday 10 February 2025, 5:30pm – 7pm)</li> </ul> <p>These event details were published on the Applicant's dedicated Project website, central booklet, Section 47 and Section 48 notices published in local and national media, press release, and posters at local information points.</p> <p>Due to venue availability, three in-person events were extended and subsequently published on the Project's website. The Applicant extended the following events during their Phase Two consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maplebeck Village Hall (Thursday 23 January 2025, 2pm – 8pm)</li> <li>• Laxton Village Hall (Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2pm – 8pm)</li> <li>• Carlton on Trent Village Hall (Friday 31 February 2025, 2pm – 7:30pm)</li> <li>• Newark Town Hall (Wednesday 05 February 2025, 11am – 6pm)</li> </ul> <p>Attendees were able to take away copies of the central booklet, feedback form, SoCC, concept plan and site location plan.</p> <p>The Applicant also held two preview events where political stakeholders and site landowners were invited to view exhibition materials, meet with the project team and provide</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		<p>feedback. These were held at the ASI Newark on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 15 January, 11am – 4:30pm</li> <li>• Thursday 16 January, 10am – 4:30pm</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant also arranged to hold a meeting with residents of Moorhouse during the consultation period, on Wednesday 05 February 2025.</p>
	<p>A webinar will be held for any member of the public to join via telephone and internet. Participants will be invited to submit questions. Members of the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park project team will then respond to the questions on the webinar.</p>	<p>The Applicant hosted a Community Webinar on Zoom on Monday 10 February 2025, 5:30pm – 7pm, where 19 people attended. This involved a presentation delivered by the Applicant followed by a questions and answers session.</p>
	<p>We have noted the feedback received during the first phase of consultation regarding requests for more materials for the second phase of consultation. The text below details the increased number of materials that will be available at the second phase of consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant posted a consultation postcard to all properties within the defined Core Consultation Zone ahead of phase two consultation. These postcards were also available online on the Project's website.</p> <p>The Applicant published a central booklet, feedback form and SoCC. These were available online and in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and by request. Feedback forms could be returned free of charge using the Project Freepost address.</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) were made available to read online, in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and available by request for a reasonable charge.</p>
	<p>Our communications lines are open throughout the entire pre-application stage. Outside of consultation periods, through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of our consultation team and ask questions. You can provide written feedback during the consultation period in the following ways:</p>	<p>The Project information lines were open throughout the consultation and after. The contact details can be found in Section 12 of the SoCC, on the project website, and in all consultation materials.</p> <p>These channels include a Freephone information line, Freepost address and email address, and have</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By submitting an online feedback form through the Project website.</li> <li>By completing a paper copy feedback form, which can be submitted at an in-person event or returned via the Project freepost address.</li> <li>By emailing: info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk</li> <li>By writing, free of charge, to: FREEPOST GNR SOLAR</li> </ul>	remained open throughout the pre-application phase.
	<p>A dedicated Project website is live and will be updated at the start of the second phase of consultation for you to find out more information and to provide your feedback through an online form.</p> <p>Consultation material will be presented digitally, providing information consistent with that available at information events and Community Access Points through hard copy materials.</p>	<p>The Applicant has updated the dedicated Project website at every stage of consultation.</p> <p>All consultation materials remain available to view and download from the online document library.</p> <p>The Applicant also published a Virtual Exhibition on the Project website, presenting all of the exhibition materials in a familiar and simple-to-navigate digital room format. The Virtual Exhibition will remain available to view post-consultation.</p>
	Local press adverts and / or statutory notices will be placed in suitable local publications such as the Newark Advertiser and the Nottingham Post to inform local communities of the forthcoming phase two consultation. Adverts will include contact information and consultation event dates, times and locations.	<p>The Applicant has placed adverts and notices in the publications listed in the SoCC.</p> <p>Adverts and notices have clearly included contact details and response deadlines.</p>
	Local information points such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing consultation information Parish Councils will be provided with digital materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, social media and online community forums. Requests for hard copy materials will also be considered.	<p>The Applicant has issued display posters publicising consultation opportunities to identified public venues ahead of each phase of consultation.</p> <p>This information has been communicated by email to community organisations at the start of each phase of consultation, for sharing with members and followers.</p>

## 5 CONSIDERATION OF FEEDBACK

- 5.1 The Applicant recognises their duty to take account of responses to the consultation and publicity, in accordance with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.
- 5.2 The Applicant is continuing to analyse and consider responses received as part of their statutory consultation exercise.
- 5.3 The Applicant is preparing a Consultation Report to be submitted as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the 2008 Act.
- 5.4 In doing so, the Applicant's Consultation Report will demonstrate how consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 5.5 To build confidence in this process, the Applicant published a Phase One Consultation Summary Report in July 2024, following the non-statutory consultation undertaken in January to February 2024.
- 5.6 This report provided an overview of the feedback received and how the Applicant was considering this in the development of the Project.
- 5.7 A copy of the Applicant's Phase One Consultation Summary Report is provided in Appendix 2.
- 5.8 Changes arising in response to the Applicant's consideration of consultation feedback include, but are not limited to:
- Visual amenity changes to the design, including:
    - The Maplebeck Road intermediate substation has been moved southwest to reduce visibility from the local road and make use of screening by existing woodlands;
    - Further set back of solar areas from properties in Norwell Woodhouse in response to comments from householders;
    - Reduction of solar areas and new woodlands proposed along Ossington Road south of Moorhouse to screen panel areas, mitigating visual impact on local road users;
    - Increased set back of solar areas from residential properties near Carlton-on-Trent at Castle Hill and Stud Farm to mitigate effects on residential visual amenity;
    - Increased set back of solar areas from residential property at Newlands, near Cromwell, in response to comments from householders during consultation in relation to visual amenity; and
    - Increased set back of solar areas from residential property at Bracken Farm, near North Muskham and Bathley, in response to comments from householders.
  - Flood mitigation measures, such as:
    - The removal of some solar areas across the site due to higher flood risk;
    - Enhanced drainage across the site, with planned sward, swales and constructed wetlands that will naturally absorb and slow water run-off; and
    - Plans for a piped drainage network to be installed at the main substation compound and BESS.



- Increasing recreational use and access across the site through the creation of approximately 19 new permissive routes through the Project site.
- Incorporating a large new community orchard to support health and well-being.
- Several ecological and biodiversity enhancement measures, including:
  - Increasing the diversity of habitats to support birds, insects, pollinators and small species, helping deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain across the site;
  - Enhancing habitat quality through active management to improve ecological value;
  - Committing to the planting of over 50,000 trees, approximately 46 km of new hedgerows and 850 acres of meadows, grasslands and wetlands; and
  - Establishing wildlife corridors to reduce habitat fragmentation.
- Working with local farmers on plans for over 4,000 sheep to graze under and around the solar PV arrays.
- Exploring how to source materials, technology and services for the Project from UK suppliers where possible.
- The removal of the Norwell Crossing substation and some areas of the cable route as ongoing development of electrical design indicated it would not be required.
- Working with local sheep farmers to support continued agricultural use of the land during operation of the Project.

5.9 The Applicant notes that throughout the pre-application period, feedback has included concerns and questions about solar farms more generally. This includes their efficiency, scale and suitability in the UK, what they look like in reality, and their interrelationship with environmental matters such as flooding and wildlife.

5.10 In response to this feedback, the Applicant has sought to provide clear information on these topics. For example, this has been communicated through:

- Facilitating site visits to a local operational solar farm;
- Working in partnership with organisations such as Trent Rivers Trust, RSPB, Sherwood Forest Trust, and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust;
- Producing several explanatory videos and digital content; and
- Providing information on these topics through consultation materials.

5.11 The Applicant is grateful to all parties that have taken the time to engage in pre-application consultation activities, and is continuing to consider how the Project may evolve in response to the feedback received.



## **6 APPENDIX 1: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – DECEMBER 2025**



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December 2024

# Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Statement of Community Consultation



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# 1. Background

- 1.1.

Elements Green Trent Ltd (“the Applicant”) is bringing forward proposals for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (“the Project”) located to the north west of Newark in Nottinghamshire.
- 1.2.

With a potential generation capacity of around 800 megawatts (MW), the Project has the potential to meet the power needs of circa 400,000 homes.
- 1.3.

The Project will connect into National Grid’s existing Staythorpe substation.
- 1.4.

As the Project’s anticipated generation capacity exceeds 50MW it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means it requires a development consent order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). The PA 2008 requires promoters of NSIPs to carry out a formal phase of consultation referred to as a ‘Statutory Consultation’ to take place over a minimum of 28 days.
- 1.5.

Prior to this statutory phase of consultation, and in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, consultation has been sought on a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with the host Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). These authorities comprise:

1.5.1.

Newark and Sherwood District Council

1.5.2.

Nottinghamshire County Council

1.5.3.

Bassetlaw District Council
- 1.6.

The Applicant has a statutory duty to have regard to the responses received on the draft SoCC in preparing the final SoCC for publication. This is in accordance with Section 47 (5) of the Planning Act (hereafter referred to as the ‘PA 2008’).
- 1.7.

This document is available to view and download via our website ([www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk](http://www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk)), has been directly emailed to identified key stakeholders and those who have registered to be kept informed, with hard copies available on request, and for collection at public venues as described in **Table 4**.
- 1.8.

Statutory consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology and commitments set out in the SoCC as published.
- 1.9.

Prior to this statutory phase of consultation, the Applicant has already undertaken non-statutory consultation and engagement (Phase One Consultation) to inform the emerging proposals for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park. This included a successful six-week phase of consultation held between Tuesday 16 January 2024 to Tuesday 27 February 2024.
- 1.10.

The aim of Phase One Consultation was to introduce The Applicant and the overall Project, share information about the emerging proposals and give individuals and interested parties an early opportunity to have their say and share their views and local knowledge.

- 1.11.

The Applicant’s Phase One Consultation involved welcoming over 550 people to a series of information events and formally receiving over 250 pieces of feedback. The Applicant’s feedback form invited comments and views on our methods of consultation, and through this, the majority of respondents indicated they found the consultation materials to be informative, a postcard was the most effective method to publicise the opportunities to provide feedback, and the importance of providing information both online and in-person was emphasised.
- 1.12.

The feedback received during this initial consultation has informed and shaped the ongoing design development and evolution of the proposal.
- 1.13.

Experience from Phase One Consultation has also informed the approach to statutory consultation, as set out in this SoCC.

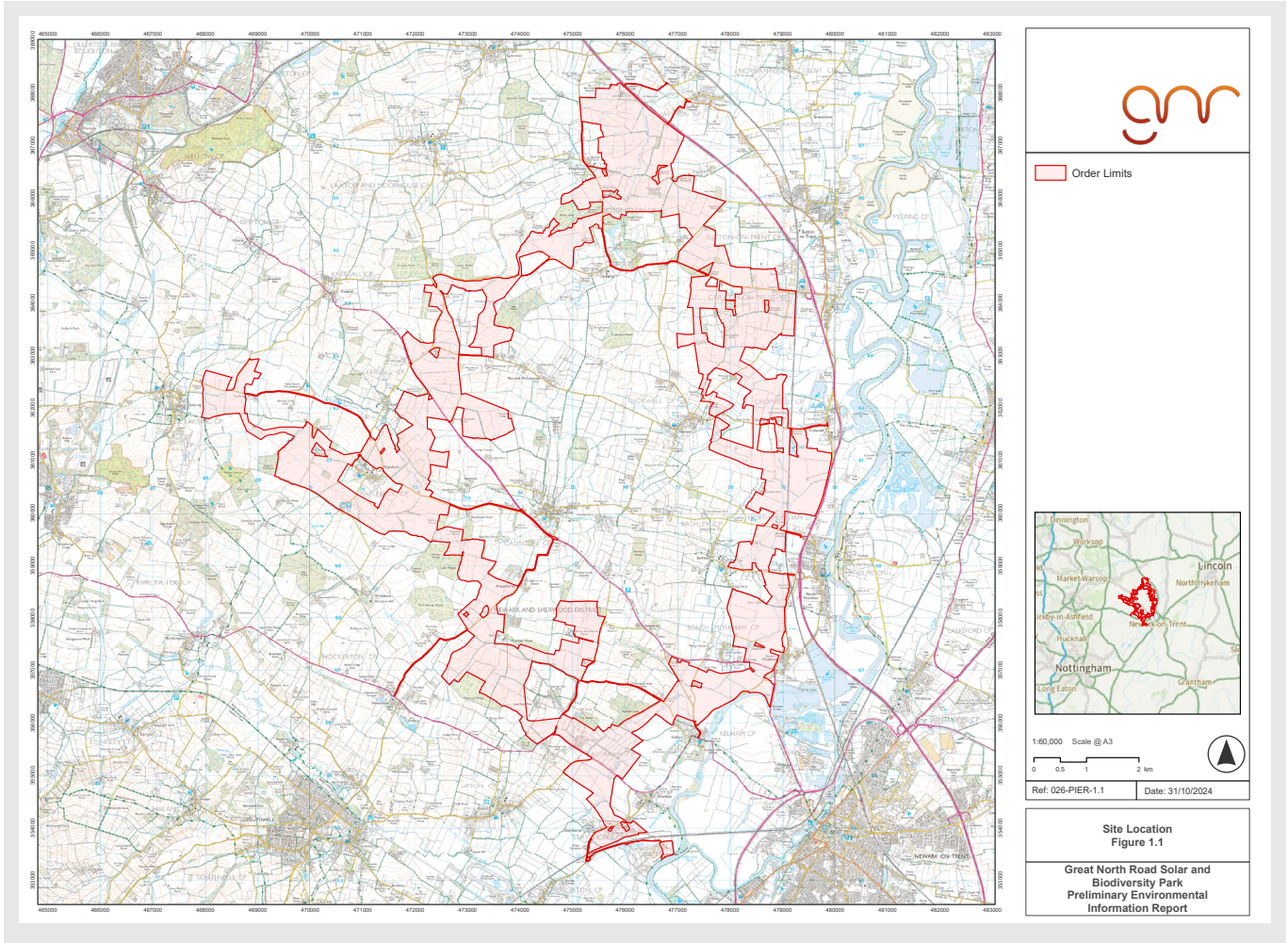


Figure 1: Site location plan



2. Our Consultation Process

- 2.1. The approach is an iterative two-phase consultation process for the Project whereby feedback and information received in response to consultation will inform the refinement of the Project design and options.

2.2. This includes:

2.2.1. **Phase One (non-statutory) Consultation**, which was held between 16 January and 27 February 2024 to:
  - Introduce the proposals and the Applicant.
  - Seek initial feedback on the Project and emerging proposal to inform design refinement.
  - Identify local schemes or initiatives the Project could support or deliver to benefit those communities closest to the Project.
  - Understand any opportunities to improve consultation methods ahead of Phase Two (statutory) Consultation.

2.2.2. **Phase Two (statutory) Consultation**, will be held for six weeks between 09 January and 20 February 2025 to provide further information on:
  - Our proposals for the Project as a whole, including a masterplan indicating the proposed layout.
  - The PEIR, setting out potential impacts and accompanying mitigation.
  - Potential opportunities for community benefits associated with the Project.
  - Anything else consultees and communities would like us to consider. This applies to the short term during construction and the long term operation of the Project.

2.3. Prior to commencing Phase One Consultation, the Applicant shared a draft methodology with the Local Planning Authorities of Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council for their review.

2.4. In carrying out Phase One Consultation on the emerging proposals for the Project, the Applicant sought to help stakeholders and local communities understand the Project sufficiently, what it could mean for them (including potential benefits), and how they can become involved at the pre-application stage of the development process.

2.5. Experience of the Phase One Consultation – such as attendance at public information events and the levels and format of feedback received – has also been considered by the Applicant when preparing their approach to statutory consultation.

2.6. The Project team has considered all feedback received during Phase One Consultation in depth. This process has informed further updates to the proposals for the Project.

2.7. The Applicant published updated early visual amenity changes in March 2024 to demonstrate specific changes to landscape plans in response to feedback received. In most cases this involved panels being removed and in one case a substation has been relocated.

2.8. Further to this, the Applicant published a Consultation Summary Report (CSR) in Summer 2024. The purpose of the CSR is to present the feedback received to the Phase One Consultation, and explain transparently how this is being considered by the Project team. The CSR was published on our website and its availability was publicised through notifying consultees and community members.

2.9. The Applicant is now preparing to undertake a statutory phase of consultation, as described in this SoCC.

2.10. Following this, a Consultation Report will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Project Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Consultation Report will describe and evidence consultation undertaken, the level of engagement with this consultation, and how consideration has been given to feedback received.
- STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
- 7
3. Method of Consultation
- 3.1. Elements Green Trent Ltd is fully committed to good practice in public consultation. Consultation for the Project has been informed by the latest government guidance for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, published in April 2024. The latest guidance on the pre-application stage for NSIPs can be found via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>. We are committed to ensuring that the consultation process and associated communications are well publicised and accessible.

3.2. It is necessary to employ a variety of consultation methods so that our consultation is appropriate and accessible to all those people who wish to participate. The methodology we have developed has had regard to the experience of the team in delivering non-statutory consultation on Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park. The Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) adopted by the relevant local authorities<sup>1</sup> have also been reviewed and considered. The methodology utilises a range of tools and techniques to ensure all identified stakeholders are effectively consulted and involved in the Project development process.

3.3. These tools and techniques will include:

3.3.1. Project specific freephone, email and freepost address.

3.3.2. Project website.

3.3.3. In-person and virtual meetings and presentations.

3.3.4. Direct mail of consultation information to properties within the defined core consultation zone (**see Section 4: Who We Will Consult**).

3.3.5. Information posters, issued for display at public venues within the core consultation zone.

3.3.6. Use of local print and online media – editorial and advertising.

3.3.7. Use of social media to publicise consultation opportunities, including the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park Facebook page and preparing information to be shared via external existing social media channels.

3.3.8. In-person information events at publicly accessible locations.

3.3.9. Virtual webinar format information event.

3.3.10. Provision of information in alternative languages and formats by request and as necessary.

3.3.11. Working with local authorities and parish councils.

3.4. The Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park Facebook page will be used to broadcast details of the community consultation and provide updates on key milestones throughout the development of our proposals. Please note, that whilst this page will be monitored by the Project team, all formal feedback and questions about the Project should be submitted through our communications channels. This is to ensure that comments and questions can be fully recorded and responded to efficiently by our team as part of our development process.

3.5. For further details please **see Section 7** ‘How we will consult and how respondents can participate’.

3.6. The information and materials we will use to inform the consultation will provide details of:

3.6.1. The extent of the Project, referred to as the Order Limits.

3.6.2. Environmental information, including the findings from ongoing assessments and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which includes descriptions of potential effects arising from the Project, and proposals for how these could be managed.

3.6.3. A proposed design, setting out:
  - Areas for solar PV and electrical infrastructure.
  - Areas for mitigation and enhancement measures.
  - Cable routes.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/statementcommunityinvolvement/>

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement>

<https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-services/planning-policy/planning-policy-documents/statement-of-community-involvement-sci/>

4. Who We Will Consult

- 4.1. Anyone interested in the proposals for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park is encouraged to take part in consultation.
- 4.2. In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant will consult people living in the vicinity of the land to ensure that communities within the vicinity of the proposals are aware of consultation opportunities. There is no set rule that defines those people, groups or organisations falling into this category.
- 4.3. To help determine the areas where we will consult, professional judgement has been adopted and considered based on common practice, potential effects, and existing infrastructure.
- 4.4. The Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) adopted by the Local Planning Authorities, within whose boundaries our proposed Project lies, have been considered<sup>2</sup>. This helped determine the zone within which each undertake formal consultation, in respect of major development proposals.

Core consultation zone

- 4.5. The Applicant has defined a core consultation zone in consideration of the above. The zone was defined by initially extending a minimum distance of two kilometres from the boundary of the solar areas and one kilometre from the edge of the cable route corridor and other areas, including substation areas. Where proportionate and reasonable, the zone has then been extended further subject to consideration of:
  - 4.5.1. Existing natural and human geographical boundaries, for example railway lines, A-roads and/or motorways, River Trent.
  - 4.5.2. Avoiding splitting communities.
  - 4.5.3. Coverage of the host district council wards and parishes.
  - 4.5.4. Where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications.

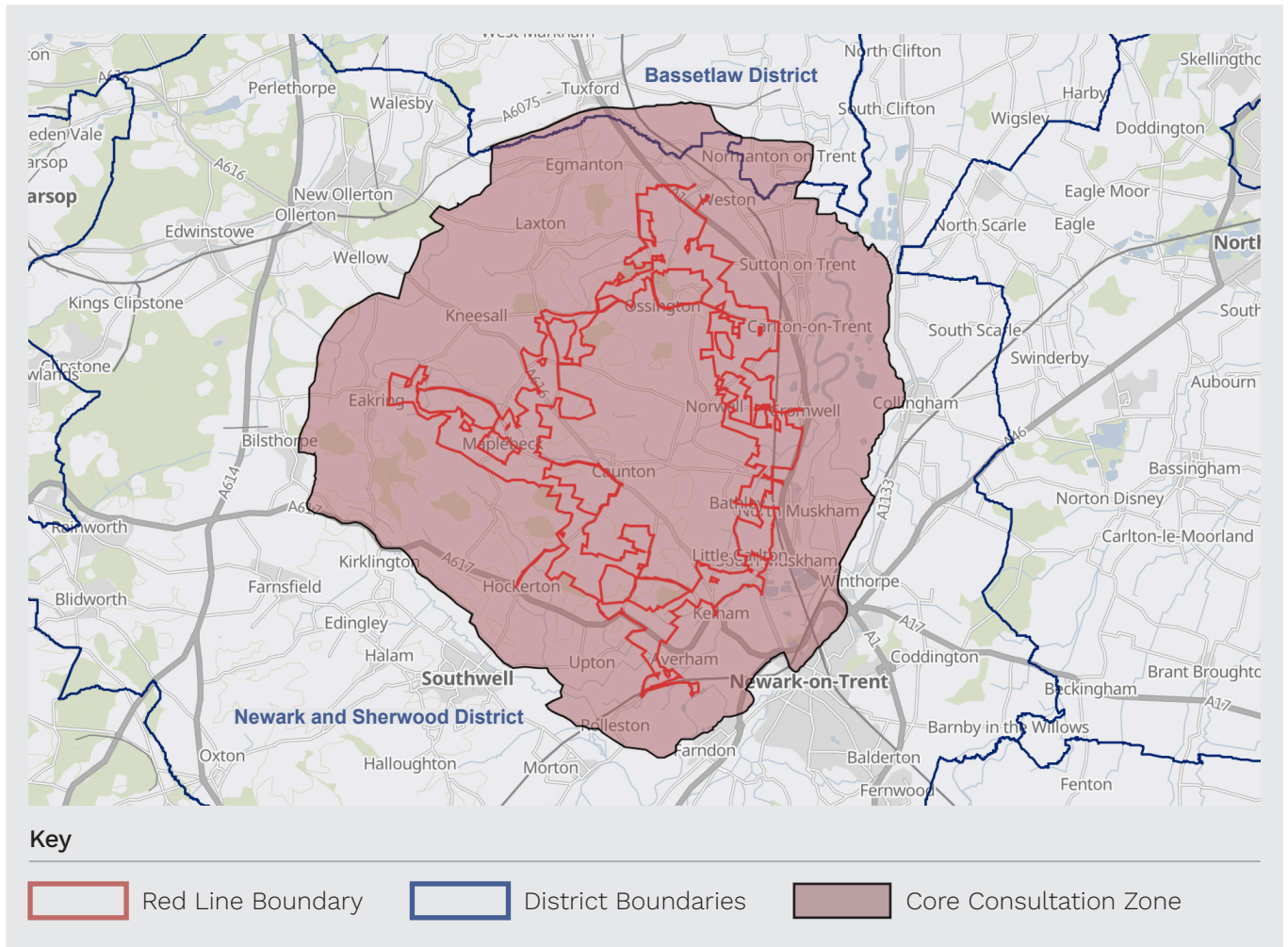


Figure 2: Red-line Project boundary and core consultation zone, shown against local authority boundaries

- 4.6. Information about the Project will be communicated directly to properties within the core consultation zone including residents, local businesses and community organisations (including parish councils), to raise awareness and promote dialogue through the Project communications channels. These include written information materials (community consultation postcard); local and regional media channels; and meetings/briefings (see Section 7). There are approximately 5,900 properties within the core consultation zone.
- 4.7. Consultation information will also be distributed directly to any individuals and organisations who have specifically registered an interest in the Project.
- 4.8. In-person information events will be hosted at venues located in the core consultation zone.

<sup>2</sup> The SCI adopted by those local authorities affected by the Project do not have a predetermined distance from a proposed site within which they consult. Consultation zones are rather determined on a case-by-case basis identifying the nearest affected properties.



Wider consultation zone

- 4.9. It is recognised that people who live and work beyond the core consultation zone, while not being directly affected, may have an interest in our proposals and wish to participate in consultation. To make sure they are given the opportunity to participate awareness will be raised in the following ways:
- 4.9.1. Directly notify all those people who have registered their interest in the Project about consultation.
  - 4.9.2. Publicise the consultation by advertising in local media.
  - 4.9.3. Publish consultation materials online via our website and make them available on request via our contact details.

Seldom heard, hard to reach groups, and wider outreach

- 4.10. The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the consultation process, and associated communications, reach as many parts of the community as possible. We recognise that there are individuals, groups and communities within the core consultation zone for whom there may be certain barriers which could prevent them from fully participating in the consultation - or make them less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques.
- 4.11. The Applicant’s consultation methodology (**see Section 7**) has been developed to accommodate communicating as effectively as possible with these groups so they can have their say. Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for their members will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This will then be agreed and planned with the requesting organisations.

- 4.12. As part of Phase Two (statutory) Consultation, we will contact the following organisations to invite their feedback on our updated proposals for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park:

Organisation
Nottingham Deaf Society
British Deaf Association
Autistic Nottingham
Autism East Midlands
Disability Nottinghamshire
Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)
My Sight Nottinghamshire
Alzheimer’s Society
Newark Link Club for Young People with Disabilities
Hope House School
Wings School Notts
Newark Orchard School
Able Futures
Nottingham Homeless Housing
Nottingham Community Housing Association
Himmah
Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Nottinghamshire Community Foundation
The Farming Community Network
Nottingham Homeless Housing
Housing Aid
Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Nottinghamshire Community Foundation
The Farming Community Network
National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Friends, Families & Travellers

Organisation
National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Nottinghamshire Mind
Carers UK
Carers Federation
Young Carers TuVida
Nottinghamshire Carers Hub
Nottinghamshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
Bilsthorpe Youth & Community Centre
Notts County Council Youth Voice and Youth Parliament
Nottinghamshire Scouts
Girlguiding Nottinghamshire
Nottinghamshire Army Cadets
Parkinson’s Support Group Over The Rainbow

Table 1: Gateway organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups

## 5. When We Will Consult

- 5.1. The Applicant will hold their Phase Two Consultation for a period of six weeks. The timing of consultation has taken into account potential conflicting events, such as recognised school and public holidays.
- 5.2. This is consistent with the approach taken to the non-statutory Phase One Consultation and exceeds the statutory requirement of 28 days.
- 5.3. Our Phase Two Consultation is going to take place between Thursday 09 January 2025 and 20 February 2025.
- 5.4. Please **see Table 2** for a schedule of public information events to be held during Phase Two Consultation.

## 6. What We Will Consult On

- 6.1. The aim of our pre-application consultation is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have meaningful opportunities to understand and influence Project proposals prior to the submission of a DCO application.
- 6.2. Through multiple phases of consultation we are seeking feedback to help develop our proposals. This provides opportunities to provide feedback on proposals at an initial stage and then provide further feedback on more developed proposals.
- 6.3. Our Phase Two (statutory) Consultation will seek feedback on updated Project proposals that have had regard to feedback received to date.
- 6.4. It will include publishing the results of ongoing environmental surveys and preliminary assessments of likely significant effects, and studies that have been carried out to date. These will be presented in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and accompanying Non-Technical Summary (NTS).
- 6.5. This will report on any potential significant environmental effects related to the Project and how we are intending to manage these.
- 6.6. The parameters of the Project, known as the Project Envelope, will be presented through the consultation materials.
- 6.7. Our Phase Two Consultation will provide an opportunity to comment on:
  - 6.7.1. Our proposals for the Project as a whole, including a masterplan indicating the proposed layout;
  - 6.7.2. The PEIR setting out potential impacts and accompanying mitigation;
  - 6.7.3. Potential opportunities for community benefits associated with the Project; and,
  - 6.7.4. Anything else consultees and communities would like us to consider. This applies to the short term during construction and the long term operation of the Project.

## 7. How We Will Consult and How Respondents Can Participate

- 7.1. Throughout the consultation process, we will invite communities and interested parties to view, discuss and comment on our proposals; working to ensure that consultation is effective, so that as many people as possible are given the opportunity to express their views.
- 7.2. During our Phase One Consultation we used a range of methods to provide information about the Project and the opportunities to provide feedback.
- 7.3. While acknowledging that some aspects of the Project may be complicated, we will endeavour to continue to conduct consultation in a way that gives anyone interested the opportunity to access information and provide their views.
- 7.4. We have identified a number of ways in which people can:
  - 7.4.1. Access clear and concise information about our proposals and their potential effects to aid constructive debate (this includes making relevant research, Project and technical documents available).
  - 7.4.2. Provide their views and feedback regarding our proposals.
- 7.5. A dedicated Project website (www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk) was launched in October 2023 to host up-to-date Project information. This included hosting consultation materials during our Phase One Consultation and several subsequent updates as more information has become available.
- 7.6. The dedicated Project website will continue to be updated to provide information about the consultation and proposals being consulted on, as well as being a resource for all the Project materials which will be available to view and download.
- 7.7. It will be possible to submit a response to the consultation via the website using a dedicated online feedback form during the defined consultation period.
- 7.8. It will continue to provide a facility for people to register their contact details with the Project so they can receive future updates directly within and beyond defined periods of consultation.
- 7.9. A consultation postcard will be issued to all properties within the core consultation zone (**see Figure 2 in Section 4**) and to any other parties who registered to be kept informed about the Project by post.
- 7.10. The postcard will notify local residents and businesses of the consultation period commencing, their opportunities to find out more information (including details of public information events), how to provide feedback, and the response deadline for comments to be submitted.
- 7.11. The postcard will be sent to the core consultation zone on or before the launch of Phase Two Consultation.

### Community Consultation Postcard

### Project website



Central Booklet

- 7.12. A Central Booklet will be published at the start of the Phase Two Consultation. This will provide a summary of the proposals we are consulting on, details of how people can take part in the consultation, how feedback will be considered and used to influence the shape of our proposals, and how we will provide information on the outcome of this consultation.
- 7.13. Printed copies of this document will be available to take away at in-person public information events and Community Access Points (CAP), and a digital version will be available to view and download from the Project website. Copies will also be made available on request in digital or hard copy format. This document is being provided as a source of information to support the consultation process.

Feedback Form

- 7.14. A feedback form will be developed to enable people to provide feedback on the proposals. Specific questions will guide people on the particular areas on which we are seeking comment, however no questions will be mandatory.
- 7.15. An online version of the feedback form will be hosted on the dedicated Project website so that feedback can be provided electronically.
- 7.16. Hard copy forms will be available at in-person public information events and at Community Access Points. An online version of the feedback form will also be available to download from the Project website. Copies will also be made available on request in digital or hard copy format.
- 7.17. While the feedback form is intended to encourage and support the provision of feedback, we recognise some respondents may prefer to provide written comments outside of set questions. Any and all written comments will be accepted and can be submitted during the Phase Two Consultation period by post to FREEPOST GNR SOLAR or by email to [info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk](mailto:info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk).

- 7.18. In exceptional circumstances, it will be possible to make a representation over the phone. This will be transcribed and agreed verbally prior to submission. This can be done using the dedicated Project information phone line 0808 175 4054, which is in place for enquiries. This is staffed from 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays), with a voicemail service to receive messages outside of these times.

Technical Documents, Maps, and Plans

- 7.19. The Project Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be published at the start of the Phase Two Consultation period. This document will provide details of the Project and environmental assessments undertaken to date.
- 7.20. The PEIR will include dedicated chapters on all topics considered to give rise to likely significant environmental effects associated with the Project, as determined through the Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion. These chapters will be supported by relevant appendices.
- 7.21. The full PEIR will be available to view on the Project website and at public information events.
- 7.22. We will endeavour to provide relevant information from the PEIR in hard copy, however, please note that there will be a charge of up to £500 for hard copies of the full PEIR.

Public Information Events

- 7.23. Public information events will be held during our Phase Two Consultation.
- 7.24. Information events will be held within the middle of the consultation period. This is to allow time beforehand for the events to be effectively publicised and for interested parties to access and consider consultation information before attending, while also allowing time after events for attendees to prepare and submit feedback ahead of the response deadline. Events are therefore going to take place a minimum of 10 days after the consultation has launched and a minimum of eight days prior to the response deadline.
- 7.25. We will hold nine public information events during our Phase Two Consultation. These will be held across different days of the week and cover a range of times to accommodate different working hours and care schedules to promote accessibility and attendance. This includes holding an event on a Saturday.
- 7.26. At events attendees will be able to find out information about the Project and what we are consulting on. Members of the Project team will be present to discuss the proposals and answer questions.
- 7.27. In-person information events will be held at venues that are publicly accessible and accommodate the needs of individuals with limited mobility. Information available to view at these events will include:

7.27.1. Event display panels and screens.

7.27.2. Central Booklet (for reference and to take away).

7.27.3. Copies of the Feedback Form (for reference and to take away).

7.27.4. The PEIR NTS (for reference only).

- 7.28. An online information event will take the form of a webinar. This online event will be held on Zoom or Teams with attendees invited to register in advance via the Project website or by contacting the Project team if they would like to attend. The format for these events will comprise:

7.28.1. The presentation of information consistent with that being made available at in-person events i.e. event display panels by representatives from the Project team.

7.28.2. Q&A session whereby people will be invited to submit questions using the chat function so they can be collated and verbally responded to by the Project team at the end of the presentation.
- 7.29. A programme of public information events is set out on the following page (**Table 2**) to show the schedule of locations, dates and times.

Information Events

Location	Date & Time
<b>Maplebeck Village Hall</b> Main Street, Maplebeck, Newark, NG22 0BS	<b>Thursday 23rd January</b> 2pm - 7:30pm
<b>Sutton on Trent Sports Club</b> Grassthorne Rd, Sutton on Trent, Newark, NG23 6QX	<b>Friday 24th January</b> 2pm - 7:30pm
<b>North Muskham Rural Community Centre</b> North Muskham, Newark, NG23 6HL	<b>Saturday 25th January</b> 11am - 3pm
<b>Laxton Village Hall</b> High St, Laxton, Newark, NG22 0NX	<b>Wednesday 29th January</b> 2pm - 7:30pm
<b>Kelham House Country Manor</b> Main Street, Kelham, Newark, NG23 5QP	<b>Thursday 30th January</b> 11am - 3pm
<b>Carlton on Trent Village Hall</b> Main Street, Carlton-on-Trent, Newark, NG23 6NW	<b>Friday 31st January</b> 2pm - 7:30pm
<b>Eakring Cator Hall</b> Kirklington Road, Eakring, Newark, NG22 0DA	<b>Tuesday 4th February</b> 2pm - 6:30pm
<b>Newark Town Hall</b> Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1DU	<b>Wednesday 5th February</b> 11am - 3pm
<b>Online Community Webinar</b> Zoom	<b>Monday 10th February</b> 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Table 2: Location, date and time of information events for Phase Two Consultation

Community Access Points

- 7.30. Community Access Points (CAP) are deposit locations where we will make hard copies of this document and relevant Phase Two Consultation materials available.
- 7.31. The table below indicates where the relevant Phase Two Consultation materials will be made available. Due to varying reasons, some public buildings may be accessible by appointment only, or opening times may vary.

Location	Current opening times *
<b>Newark and Sherwood District Council Offices,</b> Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1BY	<b>Monday to Friday:</b> 9am - 5pm
<b>Southwell Library,</b> The Bramley Centre, King St, Southwell, NG25 0EH	<b>Monday:</b> 9am - 6pm <b>Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:</b> 9am - 5pm <b>Thursday:</b> 9am - 1pm <b>Saturday:</b> 9am - 3pm <b>Sunday:</b> 11am - 3pm
<b>Newark Library,</b> Beaumont Gardens, Balderton Gate, Newark, NG24 1UW	<b>Monday, Wednesday:</b> 9am - 6:30pm <b>Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:</b> 9am - 6pm <b>Saturday:</b> 9am - 4pm
<b>Ollerton Library,</b> Forest Rd, New Ollerton, Newark, NG22 9PL	<b>Monday, Friday:</b> 9am - 1pm, 1:30pm - 5:30pm <b>Tuesday:</b> 9am - 1pm <b>Wednesday:</b> 2pm - 5:30pm <b>Saturday:</b> 9am - 12:30pm
*Current opening times, subject to change by the venue.	

Table 3: Community Access Points

Availability of Materials

7.32. The table below summarises the availability of consultation materials during the Phase Two Consultation period.

Document	In-person information events	Project website*	On request	Direct mailed	Community Access Points
GNR PEIR	Y	Y	Charge for full copy	N	N
PEIR NTS	Y	Y	Charge for full copy	N	Y
Consultation postcard	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Central booklet	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Feedback form	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Event display panels	Y	Y	N	N	N
SoCC	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

*\*Documents and materials will be available as PDFs to view and download free of charge from the ‘Documents Library’ section of the Project website.*

**Table 4:** Availability of consultation materials

8. Consultation Reporting

- 8.1.

A Consultation Report will be prepared and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the application for a Development Consent Order.
- 8.2.

This Consultation Report will describe the consultation activities undertaken and evidence compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008 and associated guidance, as well as compliance with all commitments and principles set out in the published SoCC.
- 8.3.

The Consultation Report will also include details of the level of engagement with our consultation activities, such as number of attendees to public information events and the number of feedback submissions received.
- 8.4.

All feedback received during our Phase Two Consultation period will be recorded and analysed. This will be presented in the Consultation Report.
- 8.5.

Comments will be shared with relevant members of the Project team to inform ongoing refinement of the proposals ahead of the submission of a DCO application. This will include sharing feedback on the PEIR to inform the completion of the Environment Statement which will form part of the DCO application.
- 8.6.

The Applicant’s response to feedback received, including whether it has resulted in a change to the Project or the Applicant’s evidence, will be described in the Consultation Report, in compliance with Section 49 of the PA 2008 (Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity).
- 8.7.

We anticipate submitting a DCO application for the Project to the Planning Inspectorate in Q3 2025.
- 8.8.

In accordance with the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 14, this application will include a Consultation Report that:

8.8.1.

Describes our consultation process.

8.8.2.

Explains how we have complied with legal requirements.

8.8.3.

Details how we have worked with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in this SoCC.

8.8.4.

Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received.

8.8.5.

Explains how this feedback has been considered, including where it has influenced our proposals and the information provided in our DCO application.

# Contact Us

We want to keep you informed and hear your views on Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park.

We have established dedicated communication lines for the Project, which will be active for the duration of consultation on GNR Solar and Biodiversity Park. You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communication lines listed below:



**Email:** [info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk](mailto:info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk)



**Call:** Freephone 0808 175 4054



**Write:** FREEPOST GNR SOLAR



**Visit:** [www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk](http://www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk)



## **7 APPENDIX 2: PHASE ONE CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT – JULY 2024**

Great North Road Solar Park  
Community Newsletter and  
Phase One Consultation Summary Report



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July 2024





## Introduction

Elements Green is developing proposals for a solar and energy storage park located to the northwest of Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire.

With a potential generation capacity of around 800 megawatts (MW) AC of solar energy, the scheme has the potential to provide enough clean, affordable energy to meet the power needs of approximately 400,000 homes.

This newsletter provides an overview of the feedback we received during our Phase One Community Consultation and how we will use this feedback to help shape a strong set of proposals that are sensitive to and respect concerns of local communities.

While the information in this newsletter is a summary, we want to assure everyone who responded to our consultation that we have read all of the responses received in detail. As part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, we will be setting out how we have considered all consultation feedback when developing our proposals.

This newsletter also outlines the further opportunities for you and your community to comment on our updated proposals and how they have evolved since this initial phase of consultation. To read more about our upcoming Phase Two Consultation, please turn to page 10.

## Our Phase One Consultation

Our Phase One Consultation ran for six weeks, from Tuesday 16 January to Tuesday 27 February 2024. We are grateful to everyone who took part. This includes attending one of our events, contacting our communications channels, and providing feedback.

During our consultation we:



Distributed our community consultation postcard to over 5,800 residential and businesses properties in the vicinity of the project.



Held two community webinars and six in-person exhibition events, with over 550 attendees.



Advertised our Phase One Consultation, exhibition events, and webinars in regional newspapers.



Engaged with parish, district and county councillors across the project area.



Invited feedback through an online and hard copy feedback form, completed by over 200 people.



Hosted free-to-use communications channels – including phone, post and email – for anyone interested in our proposals to submit questions and comments to our team.



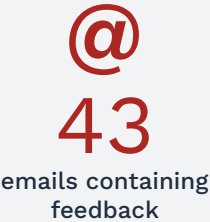
Published all consultation materials online via our dedicated project website, visited by over 4,000 people since the start of consultation.

# Consultation Summary Report

Our Phase One Consultation provided an opportunity for people to view and comment on our early-stage proposals for Great North Road Solar Park.

Community input is key to this process, and we are grateful to have received useful feedback at this early stage. Your comments have helped to improve our understanding of the aspects of Great North Road Solar Park that you consider important for us to prioritise as we develop our proposals.

During our consultation, we received a total of 276 feedback responses, including:

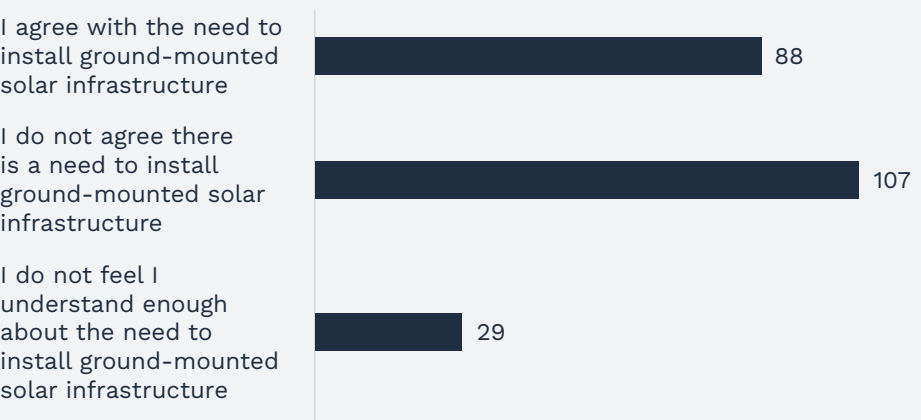


## How would you describe your interest in Great North Road Solar Park?

The majority of feedback we received during Phase One Consultation came from individuals living near the site area. Of those who responded to this question, 97% of respondents identified themselves as local residents.

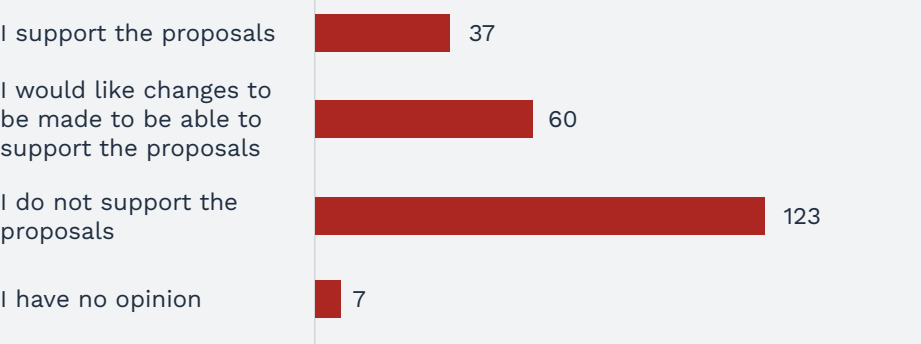
We asked a range of questions to develop our understanding of respondents' views on the installation of ground-mounted solar infrastructure and our early-stage proposals for Great North Road Solar Park.

## As a principle, what is your view of installing ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?



Of the 224 people who responded to this question, 39% of people agreed with the need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK.

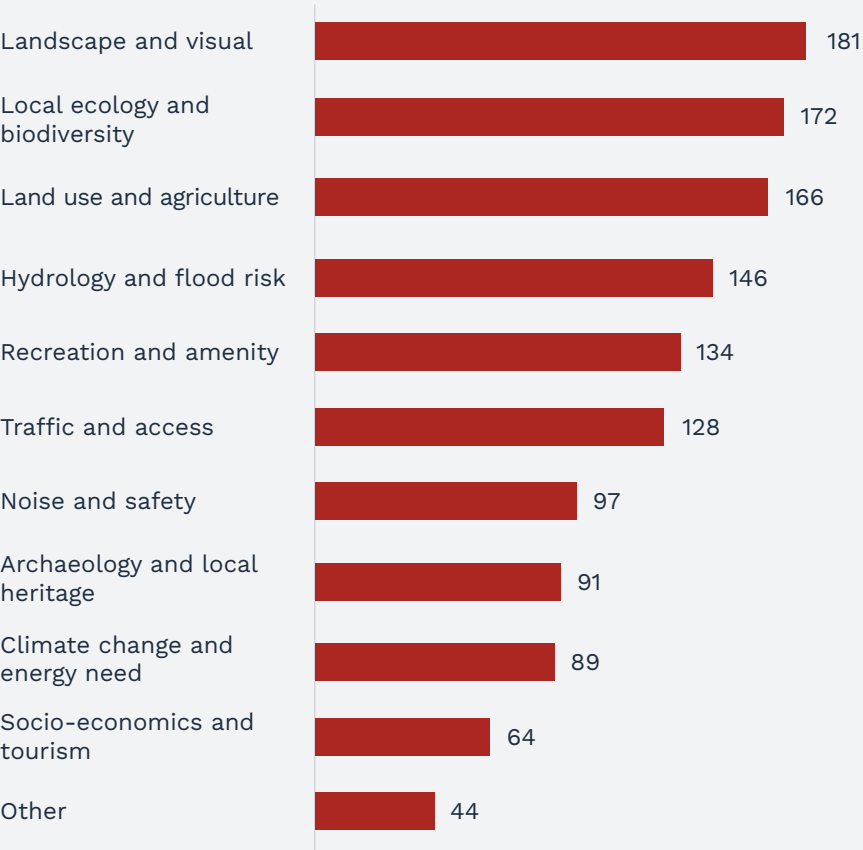
## Based on our early-stage proposals, what are your views on Great North Road Solar Park?



Of the 227 people who responded to this question, 16.3% indicated support for the project, 26.4% wanted changes to be made to the project in order to support it, 54.2% indicated opposition to the project, and 3.1% had no opinion.



Which aspects of the project are most important to you?



Of the 227 people who responded to this question, the four aspects most frequently identified as being most important were:

- **Landscape and visual impacts** and how we can screen the solar farm from particular viewpoints;
- **Local ecology and biodiversity**, such as protecting existing wildlife and exploring opportunities to improve ecology and biodiversity across the site area;
- **Land use and agriculture** and how we can best manage the land during the operation of the solar farm;
- **And hydrology and flood risk**, such as the interaction between the solar farm and existing watercourses, particularly how this could impact existing flooding issues.

How we’re listening

The following pages summarise the key themes from the comments we received and how our team is considering them in the development of the design for Great North Road Solar Park.

Your comments	How we are considering this
Landscape and visual impact	
<p>A common theme within the comments received was the proposed size of Great North Road Solar Park.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that this could result in the loss of visual amenity of countryside views valued by the community.</p>	<p>Projects of this scale are required to meet UK Government solar PV targets.</p> <p>The scheme has been carefully designed to confine panels within a limited number of well screened fields, rather than as one homogenous block.</p> <p>In March we published early visual amenity changes to the design in response to feedback. In most cases this involved panels being removed and in one case a substation has been relocated.</p> <p>We are also proposing to plant around 50,000 trees and 25km of additional hedgerow planting, which will help to screen the solar park.</p> <p>Indicative visualisations will be published as part of our upcoming Phase Two Consultation, and further comments on this topic will be invited.</p>
Local ecology and biodiversity	
<p>Respondents expressed concern about the perceived impact of the project on the local environment and wildlife. Bird life was noted as being of particular importance, with references made to abundant and diverse populations present in the area.</p> <p>Many respondents wished to know more about the measures that will be taken to enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>We are committed to achieving a significant net gain in biodiversity. This means that there will be substantially more wildlife across the site area during the operation of Great North Road compared to today.</p> <p>We are looking to achieve this through a range of measures, including woodland creation, permanent wild bird feed, grassland, hedgerow gapping, wetland creation, skylark plots.</p> <p>We will be publishing more details on this as part of our upcoming second phase of consultation.</p>

Land use and agriculture	
<p>Respondents raised concerns regarding the loss of productive agricultural land, with requests to maintain and/or increase the amount of existing crops and local food production.</p> <p>Respondents also expressed concern about the potential impact of the project on food security.</p>	<p>The biggest risk to food security is climate change according to the UN.</p> <p>The temporary loss of arable land is a balance of trade issue, not a food security issue. The UK consumes 75% of the food it produces with the remainder being exported.</p> <p>Although Great North Road Solar Park will not impact food security, in line with policy, areas of the project have been identified to avoid more productive agricultural land where possible.</p> <p>We are undertaking further assessments to confirm this, and will be sharing these results as part of our upcoming Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>Schemes such as Great North Road Solar Park support farmers in response to these challenges by providing the opportunity to diversify parts of their land to generate a steady income that can be reinvested back into farming</p> <p>Please see link to a fact sheet from Solar Energy UK on solar farms and agricultural land: <a href="https://solarenergyuk.org/resource/factsheet-solar-farms-and-agricultural-land/">https://solarenergyuk.org/resource/factsheet-solar-farms-and-agricultural-land/</a></p>
Hydrology and flood risk	
<p>Respondents expressed concern about the potential impact on flood risk as the area is already prone to flooding.</p> <p>Respondents expressed concerns regarding an increase in perceived flood risk due to water runoff from solar panels.</p>	<p>Great North Road solar park will not increase the risk of flooding.</p> <p>Through feedback we understand there are pre-existing flooding issues in the area, and we have committed resources to explore how we could fund alleviation measures.</p> <p>Our team is currently working with local stakeholders and agencies to further develop our holistic flood alleviation strategy to tackle pre-existing flooding.</p>

Rooftops and alternative energy sources	
<p>Respondents expressed that they would rather see solar panels on rooftops of commercial buildings, barns, houses and industrial estates.</p> <p>Comments were also made in regard to the use of alternative low-carbon and renewable energy sources, such as hydrogen, nuclear, wind power (onshore and offshore), and tidal.</p>	<p>We are committed to developing rooftop solar PV through our energy efficiency programme.</p> <p>However, ground mounted PV is essential to meet the UK's solar targets of 70GW by 2035. It cannot be achieved by rooftop alone.</p> <p>The UK Governments solar PV targets are separate from other forms of renewable energy. Solar PV is recognised as the most efficient and cost effective renewable technology.</p> <p>Following a comprehensive site selection process, we consider the land included within Great North Road Solar Park to be the most appropriate for this technology.</p>
Cumulative impact	
<p>Respondents commented that the cumulative impact of other proposed solar farms in the area must be considered.</p>	<p>Our team is undertaking thorough environmental assessments to understand and manage any potential effects of Great North Road Solar Park.</p> <p>This involves ensuring we don't just consider our proposals in isolation, but also recognise potential cumulative effects when combined with other existing or proposed solar farms and local developments.</p> <p>This approach has been set out in our Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, and the emerging results will be presented as part of our upcoming Phase Two Consultation.</p>

## Next steps

We are continuing to develop our proposals for Great North Road Solar Park based on the feedback we received, alongside environmental studies and technical assessments.

### Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Over the summer, we will consult with Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council to invite their views on the approach we intend to take to further community consultation. This will be set out in our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which will be published ahead of the second phase of consultation.

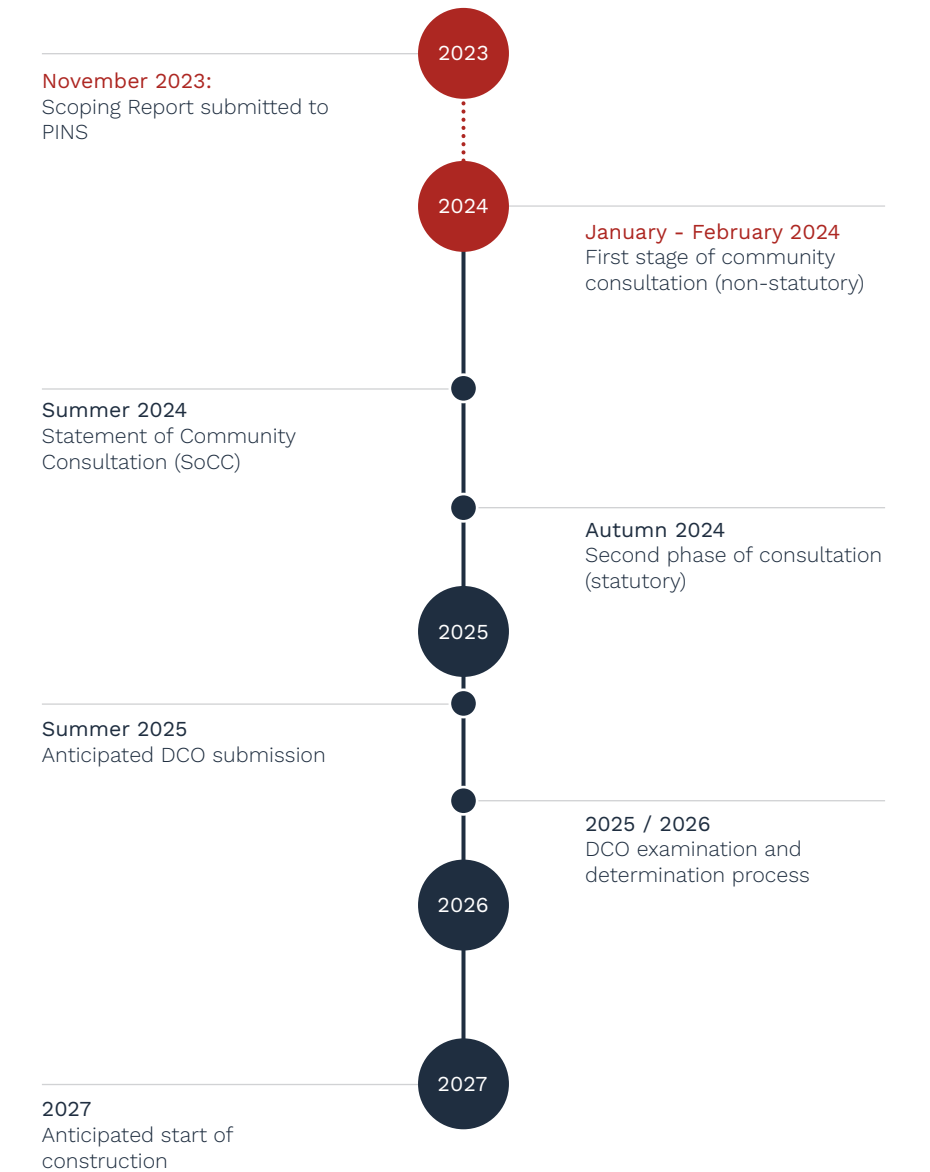
### Second phase of community consultation

Following the publication of the SoCC, and continuous development of the project proposals, we will then carry out a second phase of community consultation. This is a statutory phase of consultation that is required by the application process for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

This statutory stage of consultation is intended to give you the opportunity to comment on our updated proposals and how they have evolved since the initial consultation. As part of this, we will be publishing the results of our ongoing assessments in a document known as a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This explains the potential effects of Great North Road Solar Park and our plans for mitigating them.

We expect to carry out this second stage of consultation in Autumn of this year. Following this consultation, we will review our proposals in light of feedback received along with the findings from our ongoing assessments so we can finalise and submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. As the developer, Elements Green not only have a duty to demonstrate how we have taken your views into account in developing our final application, it is our intention to exceed stakeholder's expectations by way of publishing this Consultation Summary Report and how we continue to consider your feedback.

## Project timeline



*\*Please note this timeline is indicative and may be subject to change*



## Contact Us

We want to keep you informed on our proposals for Great North Road Solar Park.

We have established communications lines which will be active for the duration of the development process. You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communications lines listed below:



**Email:** [info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk](mailto:info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk)



**Call:** Freephone 0808 175 4054



**Write:** Freepost GNR Solar



**Visit:** [www.GNRSolarpark.co.uk](http://www.GNRSolarpark.co.uk)

If you are interested in receiving funding or a grant towards making your home or business energy efficient, please fill out our Energy Efficiency form which can be found on our website at [www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk/documents](http://www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk/documents) or by scanning the QR code.



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nottsc.gov.uk>  
Sent: 26 March 2025 14:40  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@elementsgreen.com>; info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nottsc.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park – Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Document

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email on this and the meeting last week at Castle House.

I've read the Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Document and would comment as follows:

NCC acknowledges that the feedback from the host authorities on the content of the draft SOCC was taken into account in the published version of the SOCC and that the statutory consultation was subsequently carried out in accordance with the published SOCC. The milestone document clearly sets out how the commitments of the SOCC were delivered.

NCC notes that the applicant is continuing to analyse and consider responses received as part of their statutory consultation exercise, including comments made by the host authorities. We would welcome further engagement with the applicant prior to submission to clarify any matters raised in our response, as needed, as well as to refine the content of the draft DCO.

Once submitted, NCC will respond to any formal invitation from the Planning Inspectorate under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act with respect to the adequacy of consultation.

I hope that this assists.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Planning and Infrastructure Manager | Planning Policy  
Place Department | Nottinghamshire County Council  
County Hall | Loughborough Road | West Bridgford | NG2 7QP  
Tel: [REDACTED]

FREEPOST GNR SOLAR  
Sent via email to: [info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk](mailto:info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk)

Telephone: 01636 650000  
Email: [planning@nsdc.info](mailto:planning@nsdc.info)

Your Ref: EN010159  
Our Ref: 24/00888/CONSUL

Date: 7/04/25

Dear Sirs,

**Application by Elements Green Trent Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (the Proposed Development)**

**GNR Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

**Overview**

We write in response to your email received on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025, that also enclosed an adequacy of consultation statement.

We note that the applicant has an obligation to seek the views of the Council, before proceeding to the submission of the written Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) to the Planning Inspectorate. Our written comments are provided below, which have taken into account the governments written guidance on the pre-application stage of NSIP projects.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to providing our response, however, we would make clear that these comments are made on an informal basis only, taking into account the information available at this time and are made without prejudice to the formal view (on the adequacy of consultation) that will be provided under the provisions of Section 55 (4) (b) of the Planning Act 2008, during the 'acceptance' stage and following the submission of the application.

**Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone – Guidance**

We note that taking account of pre-application guidance (as referred to above) the AoCM should be submitted in written form to the Planning Inspectorate and should include '*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.*'

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<sup>1</sup> [Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects)

Further to this, we also note the NSIP guidance on the Pre-application Prospectus sets out that the statement should summarise consultation responses and the way in which they are shaping the application.<sup>2</sup>

### Other Appendices

In respect Appendix 1 (Statement of Community Consultation – December 2025) and Appendix 2 (Phase one Consultation – Summary Report) we have no specific comments to make.

### Applicant's Response to the SOCC – Table 4 – Section 4 (SOCC)

We note that Table 4 of the AoCM statement provides a response to Newark and Sherwood District Council's (NSDC) previous formal comments on the SOCC and how they have been taken into account.

We set out our further comments in the table below, as to how the applicant has addressed these points, following our original submitted comments.

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<sup>2</sup> [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

Reference/ Pages	Description	Original NSDC's Comments (Formal Response to SOCC – letter dated 23.8.24).	Applicant Response as set out in AoCM document.	Further comments from NSDC in response to applicant.
Pg. 2-3.	<b>1. Background</b>	<p>At paragraph 1.16 it is stated that: <i>Comments received from the authorities on the draft SoCC will be considered by Elements Green when preparing a final SoCC for publication.</i> For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure understanding by members of the public, we would recommend that it is made clear at this section that the applicant has a statutory duty to have 'regard' to responses received in accordance with Section 47 (5) of the Planning Act 2008 (hereafter referred to as the 'Act').</p> <p>In respect of Figure 1 – Site Location Plan and given this is a document where the</p>	<p><i>Noted. The Applicant has committed to update this section of the SoCC to state: "The Applicant has a statutory duty to have regard to the responses received on the draft SoCC in preparing a final SoCC for publication. This is in accordance with Section 47 (5) of the Planning Act (hereafter referred to as the 'PA 2008')."</i></p> <p><i>In Figure 2 of the SoCC, the Applicant presents the Red Line Boundary and Core Consultation Zone with local authority boundaries overlaid. Whilst the Applicant</i></p>	<p>It is noted that this recommendation was carried forward into the final published SOCC at paragraph 1.6.</p> <p>Noted and no further comments.</p>



		applicant has a duty to consult 'host' authorities, we recommend that the LPA administrative areas are shown on this figure for increased clarity.	<i>makes note of this comment, Figure 1 will not be updated to present the local authority boundaries as they are already displayed in Figure 2 of the SoCC. With the level of detail presented in Figure 1, the Applicant has utilised Figure 2 as a clear way to present the local authority boundaries. In finalising the SoCC for publication, the Applicant has committed to annotate Figure 2 to assist readers in locating the site against authoritative boundaries (i.e. Newark and Sherwood District, Bassetlaw District).</i>	
Pg. 4-5	<b>2. Our Consultation Process</b>	NSDC note the content of this section and whilst it is useful context, much of it relates to the Phase One (Non-Statutory Consultation) whereas the principal purpose of the SOCC as set out under Section 47(1) is to explain how an applicant will deliver its statutory consultation. The applicant should consider the value of	<i>Noted. Following consideration of this comment, the Applicant still intends to include Section 2: Our Consultation Process, in the final version of the SoCC. The purpose of providing an overview of the Applicant's iterative two-phase consultation process is to clarify the scope and objectives of the consultation, the structure and stages of engagement, and how respondents' feedback received at each phase of consultation will be considered to inform further updates to the proposals.</i>	Noted and no further comments.

		this section in fulfilling the purpose of the SOCC.	<i>The Applicant is keen to reassure those that took part in the phase one (non-statutory) consultation that, although this was held before the SoCC was published, it is an important part of the pre-application consultation process.</i>	
Pg 6-7	<b>3. Method of Consultation</b>	<p>It is noted that paragraph 3.11 refers to the MHCLG Guidance (2015), However, this guidance was withdrawn on 30 April 2024. The applicant should ensure they have taken full account of the latest available government guidance in preparing the SOCC and delivering their statutory consultation as can be found here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects">Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - GOV.UK</a></p>	<p><i>Noted. The Applicant has taken full account of the latest government guidance in preparing the SoCC. The Applicant has updated the wording of this section of the SoCC to state:</i></p> <p><i>Elements Green is fully committed to good practice in public consultation. <del>Consultation for the Project is also informed by the requirements of the 2008 Act and by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance (published by the former Department for Communities and Local Government. Dec 2015).</del> Consultation for the Project has been informed by the latest government guidance for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, published in April 2024. The latest guidance on the preapplication stage for NSIPs can be found via this link: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act2008-pre-application-stage-for-">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act2008-pre-application-stage-for-</a></i></p>	Noted and no further comments.

		<p>In paragraph 3.11 it is also stated that: <i>We are committed to ensuring that the consultation process and all associated communications are made accessible to as many people, communities and interested organisations as possible.</i></p> <p>It would be beneficial to explain at this point in the document or link to other parts of the report which explains how the applicant will deliver against this commitment.</p>	<p><b><i>nationally significant-infrastructure-projects.</i></b> <i>We are committed to ensuring that the consultation process and associated communications are well publicised and accessible."</i></p> <p><i>The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the consultation process and all associated communications are made accessible to as many people and organisations as possible, and the Applicant's commitments to fulfil this are outlined in the following sections: Section 3: Method of Consultation. This section of the SoCC provides an overview of the tools and techniques that will be used to ensure communications are made accessible to as many people, communities, and interested organisations as possible, this includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• A range of communications channels – the Applicant has established a variety of communications lines (email, freephone and freepost address), as well as adopt a variety of methods to publicise information about the consultation, such as direct mail of consultation information within the defined Core Consultation Zone and use of local media. The Applicant has also established digital platforms to further publicise the consultation and act as a</i></li> </ul>	<p>NSDC note that the final wording of the published SOCC removed reference to the specific wording as originally contained at Paragraph 3.11. Our comment was made in the interests of evidencing the stated commitment, but, this comment is now less relevant, given the way further edits were made.</p>
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			<p><i>database for Project information (e.g. dedicated project website and social media accounts).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Accessible events – including in-person and virtual meetings and presentations, inperson information events at publicly accessible locations, and an online webinar.</i></li> <li><i>• Engagement – including proactive communications with MPs, local planning authorities, councillors, parish councils, seldom heard groups, and local interest groups.</i></li> <li><i>• Project documentation - the Applicant is also committed to the provision of information in alternative languages and formats by request and as necessary.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Section 4: Who we will consult. This section of the SoCC provides an overview of the efforts made to ensure that interested parties and communities within the vicinity of the proposals are aware of consultation opportunities. There is no set rule that defines those people, groups and organisations; however, the Applicant has adopted a variety of methods based on common practice, potential effects, and existing infrastructure to ensure communities and organisations are aware of the consultation. This section provides an overview of the Project's Core Consultation Zone, efforts to engage with</i></p>	
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			<p><i>Seldom Heard Groups, and the wider consultation area.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst the Applicant makes note of this comment, the SoCC provides an overview of the methods of consultation (Section 3) and who we will consult (Section 4), and therefore, has not committed to updating the wording of the SoCC in this paragraph.</i></p>	
Pg.8-12	<b>4. Who we will Consult</b>	<p>At paragraph 4.1.2 it is stated as follows: <i>In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that communities within the vicinity of the proposals are aware of consultation opportunities. There is no set rule that defines those people, groups or organisations falling into this category.</i></p> <p>Firstly, NSDC are concerned by the use of the term ‘reasonable</p>	<p><i>The Applicant is committed to undertaking a meaningful and accessible consultation, but we note that the level of effort may be subjective. We have therefore removed the reference to ‘reasonable efforts’ from the sentence and instead remained factual with Section 47 of the Planning Act. The Applicant has committed to update the wording of the SoCC to say:</i></p> <p><i>“In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant will consult people living in the vicinity of the land to ensure that communities within the vicinity of the proposals are aware of consultation opportunities.”</i></p>	<p>NSDC note this change as made, however we note that in Table 4, the Applicant only provides a summary of NSDC’s original comments on this issue.</p> <p>The comments as highlighted in red on the page below (column 3) show the remaining comments on this point. NSDC would suggest the Applicant provide</p>

		<p><i>efforts’ as this does not seem to marry with the applicant’s commitment to make the consultation accessible, nor does it reflect the importance of a statutory consultation that must be conducted in accordance with the Act if it is to be judged to be acceptable. NSDC consider that the applicant should be demonstrating the very best endeavours to deliver a robust and thorough statutory consultation.</i></p> <p><i>As the applicant has already highlighted earlier in the SOCC, NSDC’s own SCI as detailed within that document states: 3.7 Pre-Application Consultation with Local Communities (p16): “Large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms can</i></p>		<p>clear evidence within the Consultation Report on how they have delivered a thorough, robust and meaningful consultation process.</p>
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		<p><i>also be controversial, and the Council will expect developers to show evidence of meaningful community consultation.</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, the associated government guidance expands on the legislative provisions of the Act. We would refer the applicant in particular to Paragraph 021 of that guidance (Reference ID 02-021-20240430) under the heading, <i>how can applicant's consult communities effectively?</i></i></p> <p><a href="#">Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Paragraph 4.16 sets out a 'Core Consultation Zone' which includes definition of a zone of</p>		
			<p><i>The Applicant notes that two kilometres is consistent with the approach taken by other consented solar NSIPs. The Core Consultation Zone includes approximately</i></p>	<p>The response is noted, and the further explanation is helpful, although</p>

		<p>2km from the boundary of the solar areas and 1km from the edge of cable route corridor. NSDC consider additional explanation in this section of the SOCC is needed as to the basis of why and how these areas were defined and are judged to be appropriate.</p>	<p><i>5,900 properties, and the Applicant notes that relative to the level of respondents to the Phase One Consultation (276 feedback responses), we consider this to be a substantial number and sufficient for proactively contacting properties in the vicinity of the site</i></p>	<p>precedent alone and the number of properties consulted, does not necessarily justify and/or explain why the approach was appropriate. The Applicant should consider how this approach can be explained in more detail within the Consultation Report.</p>
		<p>Paragraphs 4.1.13 and 4.1.14 refer to hard to reach groups. We separately enclose with these comments a list of additional parties that the applicant should consider engaging with. Notwithstanding this, it would be beneficial for the applicant to consider what barriers may exist to engaging with these hard-to-</p>	<p><i>The Applicant makes note of this comment, and in response, contacted Newark and Sherwood District Council to obtain a list of additional parties the Applicant should consider engaging with. The Applicant contacted the Council on Thursday 29 August to request a list of additional parties as this was not enclosed in the Council's response. The council confirmed by response that this comment had been included erroneously. The Applicant is aware that there may be certain barriers which could prevent seldom heard groups from fully participating in the consultation or make them less likely to participate in or</i></p>	<p>NSDC note these additional comments on approaches to engaging with hard-to-reach groups. Evidence of the results of this should be presented and evidenced within the Consultation Report.</p>



		<p>reach groups in this section of the SOCC and any specific methods the applicant is seeking to deploy to improve the prospects for positive engagement.</p>	<p><i>respond to traditional consultation techniques. Some reasons for this could include a limited access to traditional communications channels (e.g. newspapers, online platforms), time and resource constraints, and traditional format of consultation materials. The Applicant's methodology has been developed to accommodate communicating as effectively as possible with these groups to ensure they can have their say. The Applicant will adopt the following methods to improve engagement with seldom heard groups:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Targeted outreach: the Applicant will contact with bodies and gateway organisations representing these groups ahead of the launch of consultation to ensure our approach meets the specific needs of their members. The Applicant will utilise existing networks to share information and encourage participation (e.g. via the Project website, social media and email).</i></li> <li><i>• Tailored communication materials: the Applicant is committed to providing information in alternative languages and formats by request and as necessary.</i></li> <li><i>• Flexible engagement options: the Applicant will host in-person information</i></li> </ul>	
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			<p><i>events at different times and locations, including evenings and the weekend. The Applicant will also host an online webinar for those who are not able to attend a public drop-in event. In addition to the above, requests for specific consultation activity to cater for seldom heard groups and their members will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</i></p>	
Pg. 13	<p><b>5. When we will Consult</b></p>	<p>NSDC note that a 6-week consultation period is proposed, which seeks to avoid core public holiday periods. Such a period of time is considered to be reasonable and reflects a best practice approach as deployed on other similar NSIP Projects.</p>	<p><i>Noted. The Applicant is committed to hold a six-week consultation period for its statutory consultation. The Applicant has now defined its consultation period for Phase Two Consultation, and will update the wording of the SoCC to state: "5.1 The Applicant will hold their Phase Two Consultation for a period of six weeks. The timing of consultation has taken into account potential conflicting events, such as recognised school and public holidays. 5.2 This is consistent with the approach taken to the non-statutory Phase One Consultation and exceeds the statutory requirement of 28 days.</i></p> <p><del>5.3 The specific dates of Phase Two Consultation are yet to be defined but will be confirmed and included in the final published version of the SoCC. Our Phase Two Consultation is going to take place between Thursday 09 January 2025 and 20 February 2025. 5.1.4 For the purposes</del></p>	<p>Noted, no further comments.</p>

			<p><del>of this draft, the Applicant is working towards the dates of Wednesday 23 October and Wednesday 4 December 2024 for their six week consultation period. 5.4 Please see Table 2 for a schedule of public information events to be held during Phase Two Consultation."</del></p>	
Pg 14.	<p><b>6. What we will Consult on</b></p>	<p>NSDC note that the consultation material will comprise the proposed layout/masterplan, the PEIR and associated mitigation and community benefits. NSDC would urge the applicant to present information that is easy to understand and interpret. Visual information should be as clear and concise as possible and technical information (particularly the Non-Technical Summary to the PEIR) should include summary information in non-technical language to</p>	<p><i>Noted and agreed. The Applicant will provide clear, easy to interpret consultation materials to ensure readers understand the information provided.</i></p>	<p>Noted, no further comments.</p>

		make it easier to interpret and understand.		
Pg 15-20.	<b>7. How we will consult and how respondents can participate</b>	Paragraphs 7.15 – 7.1.9 refers to the project website and how information regarding the statutory consultation will be made available. NSDC would suggest that the information made available is in a distinct separate part of the website, which is dedicated to the statutory consultation only, including making clear which documents form part of this statutory consultation and how parties are able to respond to the process.	<i>Noted. The Applicant has a dedicated Document Library webpage, which is where all pre-application consultation materials will be hosted. Materials will be hosted with clear headings and in order of the most recent document at the top. This will include a specific heading for statutory consultation materials and the PEIR. We will be mindful of navigation and file size of consultation materials, and clearly titling all documents when they are uploaded to the Project website. This will likely involve publishing clearly titled individual chapters of the PEIR.</i>	Noted, no further comments.

		<p>Paragraph 7.1.10 – It would be useful if NSDC is provided with a copy of this postcard for information purposes and it is included as an Appendix to the SOCC when finalised. This would equally apply to the feedback form, as referenced from paragraph 7.1.17 onwards.</p> <p>Paragraphs 7.2.1 – 7.2.4 – refer to technical documents, maps, and plans. As mentioned earlier in our response, best endeavours should be made to ensure documentation is presented in a form that is easy to understand and interpret. In particular, we would suggest the Non-Technical Summary to the PEIR is as short and succinct as possible.</p>	<p><i>Our intention is for the SoCC to be published on Thursday 12 December, approximately four weeks before the start of consultation to begin publicising the details of Phase Two Consultation in advance. A postcard will be produced to land much closer to the launch of consultation to further inform local communities of the opportunities to find out more information (including details of public information events), how to provide feedback, and the response deadline for comments to be submitted. The Applicant has intentionally staggered these documents to ensure local communities are informed of the launch of consultation on numerous occasions, including at the time of the consultation period commencing.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst the content will be different, the structure and format will likely be similar to the equivalent documents produced as part of Phase One Consultation. These documents can be found on the Documents page of the Project website via the following links: Phase One Postcard Phase One Feedback Form The Applicant will share PDF versions of these documents with the Local Planning Authority once finalised in the run up to Phase Two Consultation.</i></p>	Noted, no further comments.
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		<p>Paragraphs 7.3.1 – 7.3.8 – Refer to the public information events. Whilst NSDC would support the proposals to deliver events approximately at the mid-way point during the consultation, there is lack of clarity around the details of the events. For example, paragraph 7.3.7 states the following:</p> <p><i>‘An indicative programme of public information events is set out in the table below to show our intended schedule of locations, days and times.’</i></p> <p>Whilst venue locations are referred to within the table on this page, there is no further details on schedule or timings. The earlier paragraph in this section (paragraph 7.3.3) refers to events being held on different</p>	<p><i>The Applicant has prepared a schedule of information events for Phase Two Consultation, which has been appended to this document. The Applicant can confirm that as of 04 December 2024, all venues have been confirmed at the dates and times shown in Appendix 1.</i></p>	<p>Noted and no further specific comments. NSDC advised upon event timings post the consultation period of the original SOCC.</p>
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		<p>days of the week and a range of times, but again no detail is provided. The venue locations, timings and format are critical to supporting the delivery of effective public consultation events and whilst we understand that there is a need to check availability and suitability, we would expect the applicant to have been able to define their preferred days of the week and timings of the events at this stage, including a split of the number and type of events, noting that this may be subject to change when venues are confirmed and booked.</p>		
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		<p>Further to this, there also appears to be a lack of explanation in the methodology for how venue locations have been considered and selected and why some have been deemed suitable or unsuitable. In the absence of further detail at this stage NSDC are unable to confirm the suitability of the type and timings of the public information events.</p>	<p><i>As detailed in Appendix 1 on page 14 of this document, the Applicant has provided a proposed schedule of information events for Phase Two Consultation. The Applicant has sought to identify venues across the project area for convenience of residents and stakeholders throughout the core consultation zone. The accessibility, size and location of venues has been considered in determining suitable venues.</i></p> <p><i>The Applicant has considered the experience from in-person events held during the Phase One Consultation when designing the schedule of events for statutory consultation. The Applicant made a conscious decision to propose events at the same locations as the Phase One Consultation information events and has taken feedback received during Phase One Consultation into account in preparing this schedule. The Applicant notes that comments made at the Carlton on Trent information event made reference to the size of the venue and location of information events. The Applicant has sought to host information events in villages near Carlton on Trent to alleviate concerns that the venue was overcrowded. The Applicant has proposed to hold information events in Sutton on Trent Sports Club (to the north of Carlton on Trent) and North Muskham Rural</i></p>	<p>Noted, this should be explained and documented in the Consultation Report.</p>
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			<p><i>Community Centre (to the south of Carlton on Trent) to provide local communities with the opportunity to attend an information event in their village (i.e. Sutton on Trent and North Muskham). It should also be noted that the Applicant has had regard to the comments received from Newark and Sherwood District Council on our approach to Phase One Consultation. NSDC commented that additional events should be held in villages where Parish Councils responded to the EIA Scoping Report, two of which were Sutton on Trent and North Muskham.</i></p>	
		<p>NSDC also note at paragraph 7.2.4 that it is stated that 'reasonable' charges will apply for a copy of the PEIR. NSDC would suggest this charge is confirmed for clarity.</p>	<p><i>Noted. The PEIR is still being drafted at the time of drafting the SoCC. If the total cost to print the PEIR is determined prior to the publication of the SoCC, the Applicant will outline the cost. However, if the cost for a hard copy of the PEIR has not been determined at this time, the Applicant is committed to outlining the cost of this in the Section 48 Notice to be published in local and national media and on the Project website. The Applicant is cognisant of printing costs applied to statutory consultations undertaken for other consented solar NSIPs and will refer to this as guidance when publicising a cost. The Applicant notes that in practice this cost will be subsidised.</i></p>	<p>Noted, no further comments.</p>

		<p>Paragraphs 7.4.1 – 7.4.2 relates to Community Access Points. There is no explanation of the rationale for selecting these locations and/or other locations that may have been considered. NSDC would expect the applicant to be able to demonstrate how this issue has been considered.</p>	<p><i>The Applicant is committed to ensuring the PEIR can be accessed in other means free-ofcharge.</i></p> <p><i>To propose a variety of suitable locations for Community Access Points, the Applicant undertook desk-based research to locate publicly accessible venues with regular opening hours in the vicinity of the site. In the draft SoCC, the Applicant proposed that Newark and Sherwood District Council Offices, Sutton on Trent Community Partnership Library, Southwell Library, and YMCA Newark and Sherwood Activity Village could be appropriate Community Access Points. Geographically, these venues are situated near the northeast, southeast, and southwest of the Project. During discussions with the proposed Community Access Points listed above, Sutton on Trent Community Partnership Library determined they could not accommodate this request. The Applicant is also yet to receive a response from YMCA Newark and Sherwood Activity Village. In light of this, the Applicant contacted additional venues with the aim to have the same number of Community Access Points as proposed in the draft SoCC. The additional venues contacted include</i></p>	<p>Noted, no further comments.</p>
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			<p><i>Newark Library, Ollerton Library and Edwinstowe Library. Both Ollerton and Edwinstowe Library are located towards the northwest of the site and would accommodate villages in the nearby area, such as Eakring, Laxton, and Egmanton. The Applicant has received confirmation that Newark and Sherwood District Council Offices, Newark Library, Southwell Library, and Ollerton Library can accommodate our request to be a Community Access Point during Phase Two Consultation.</i></p>	
		<p>Whilst NSDC consider it likely acceptable in principle to be identified as a Community Access Point, this will require further discussions on the practicalities of holding information and making it available, to ensure it is efficient for front line staff at the authority.</p>	<p><i>The Applicant makes note of this comment and is pleased to confirm that Newark and Sherwood District Council Offices have agreed to accommodate our request of being a Community Access Point during Phase Two Consultation.</i></p>	<p>Noted, no further comments.</p>

		<p>Paragraph 7.5.1 includes a table summarising the availability of consultation materials. Subject to discussion and agreement, NSDC would recommend a 'library' copy of the PEIR be made available at the Council Offices, including electronic copies on USB for members of the public that wish to take a copy away.</p>	<p><i>The Applicant makes note of this comment and will consider whether a library copy of the PEIR will be made available at the Council Offices.</i></p> <p><i>In light of this comment, the Applicant has committed to uploading PDF copies of the statutory consultation materials, including the PEIR, to USBs. The Applicant will ensure USBs are available at information events for attendees to take away with them. The Applicant can also supply Newark and Sherwood District Council with a supply of USBs with the consultation materials preuploaded on request.</i></p>	<p>Noted, NSDC can confirm that this information was made available.</p>
Pg 21.	<b>8. Consultation Reporting</b>	<p>NSDC note that section 8 is useful context and information, but as it does not relate to the delivery of the statutory consultation, we have no further comments to make.</p>	<p><i>Noted. The Applicant will include Section 8: Consultation Reporting in the SoCC to ensure readers are informed of the contents of the Consultation Report and the timescales for the DCO application for the Project to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.</i></p>	<p>Noted, no further comments.</p>

We trust that the informal comments provided in this response are of assistance, but if you wish to clarify matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Planner, (Major Projects) Planning Development Business Unit

**On behalf of Newark & Sherwood District Council**