

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Consultation Report

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0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Table 0.1: Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition
AC	Alternating Current
APFP Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CAP	Community Access Point
CCZ	Core Consultation Zone (2km from the boundary of solar development areas, and 500m from the proposed cable route)
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
DCLG guidance	Department for Communities and Local Government
DCO	Development Consent Order
Development website	www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk
DRP	Decommissioning and Restoration Plan
ECow	Ecological Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
FSMP	Fire Safety Management Plan
FTE	Full Time Equivalent

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition
GW	Gigawatt
LEMP	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MP	Member of Parliament
MW	Megawatts
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
NSDC	Newark and Sherwood District Council
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
oCEMP	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
oLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
PA 2008	Planning Act 2008
PEIR NTS	PEIR Non-Technical Summary
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PV	Photovoltaic
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SRS	Solar Recycling Solution
The Applicant	Elements Green Trent Limited
The Development	Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

0.1 BACKGROUND

- 1 Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (the Development) is a proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating and electrical storage facility with an export connection to the National Grid.
- 2 The Development would be located to the northwest of Newark, in Newark and Sherwood district, Nottinghamshire. The Order Limits are to the west of the A1, north of the A617, east of Eakring, and south of Egmanton, occupying two main areas to the north and north-west of Staythorpe. This is presented in application document Figure 1.1: Development Location [EN010162/APP/6.3.1.1].
- 3 The Development is described in full in Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 5, Development Description [EN010162/APP/6.2.5].
- 4 With a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), the Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. The Development therefore requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State.
- 5 The Applicant has endeavoured to undertake an open and meaningful pre-application consultation process with a wide range of consultees. This Consultation Report describes and evidences the comprehensive consultation and engagement that has taken place throughout the pre-application period and how this has complied with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008 to influence the final design of the Development.

0.2 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

- 6 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 37(7)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. This report demonstrates how the Applicant has complied with Sections 42, 44, 47, 48 and 49 of the 2008 Act and associated legislation and guidance. This report also sets out the extensive non-statutory community involvement and consultation undertaken for the Development.
- 7 The Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on the Development with the following consultees:
 - Prescribed bodies (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a)), including with 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 Development who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Development (in accordance with Section 47); and
 - Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Development proposals (in accordance with Section 48).
- 8 The Applicant introduced the Development to stakeholders and the community from July 2023, including by publishing a Development website

in October 2023, and commenced ongoing non-statutory engagement from this point onwards.

- 9 The Applicant undertook a multi-phased community consultation to enable the iterative development of proposals in response to the ongoing consideration of feedback received. The pre-application community consultation comprised of:
 - A non-statutory phase one consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 16 January and 27 February 2024;
 - Post-phase one communications including communicating early design changes made in response to feedback, publishing a Consultation Summary Report, and arranging a visit for consultees to a local operational solar farm;
 - Publication of the Applicant's Statement of Community Consultation on 19 December 2024;
 - Notification to 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;
 - A statutory phase two consultation on more detailed proposals – including a Preliminary Environmental Information Report – in accordance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, held for six weeks between 09 January and 20 February 2025;
 - Submitting a written statement on the adequacy of pre-application consultation undertaken to the Planning Inspectorate on 13 March 2025. As host local authorities, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council were provided opportunities to comment on this statement and did not request for further consultation to be undertaken by the Applicant; and
 - A targeted consultation on specific changes to the Development site boundary (Order Limits) following the Phase Two Consultation, held for four weeks between 08 May and 06 June 2025.

0.3 LEVEL OF RESPONSE

- 10 The Applicant received 276 submissions of feedback in response to the phase one community consultation. This included 233 feedback form submissions (paper forms and online submissions) and 43 submissions of feedback via the Development's communication channels (email and Freepost). During this period, the Applicant also welcomed 554 attendees across a series of six in-person and two online public information events.
- 11 The Applicant received 311 feedback responses from members of the community to the phase two consultation (statutory under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008). During this period, the Applicant also welcomed 459 attendees across a series of one online and eight in-person public information events. The comments received are summarised in **Section 12** of this report and presented in detail in **Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN010162/APP/5.1.10]**, together with how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback when finalising the DCO application.
- 12 The Applicant received 36 responses from Section 42 consultees during this consultation period. An overview of the Section 42 feedback and

Applicant's response is provided in **Section 13** of this report, with a more detailed record of Section 42 feedback provided in Appendix 5.1.11: Section 42 Applicant Response **[EN010162/APP/5.1.11]**.

- 13 The Applicant recorded 37 submissions of feedback from community organisations, residents and interested parties considered as Section 47 feedback to the phase of targeted consultation. The Applicant has considered these representations alongside all other Section 47 feedback received.
- 14 The Applicant received 19 submissions of feedback from Section 42 consultees to the targeted consultation. The Applicant has considered these representations alongside all other Section 42 feedback received.
- 15 No consultation responses received by the Applicant indicated that they were submitted specifically in relation to the Section 48 notice. Any feedback to the Section 48 notice will have therefore been considered as feedback to consultation under Section 42 or Section 47.

0.4 CONSIDERATION OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED

- 16 Throughout the pre-application period, the Applicant has carefully considered comments received during all phases of consultation.
- 17 This has informed a series of positive refinements to the proposals, as described in Table 0.2.

Table 0.2: Overview of Development changes in response to feedback received

Key Topic	Summary of change to Development
Early removal of panels	In response to phase one consultation feedback, in March 2024, the Applicant made early design changes, including the removal of panels in certain areas and the relocation of a substation. These early design changes are presented in Appendix 5.1.4: Post-Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.4] .
Flood risk and hydrology	The Applicant responded to community and technical stakeholder feedback by introducing Natural Flood Management solutions. As part of this, the Applicant is working with the Trent Rivers Trust to identify the most effective flood mitigation strategies for key locations surrounding the Development. In addition, the Applicant has ensured that the majority of the solar panels sit outside Flood Zone

	2, and none are situated in Flood Zone 3 following the most recent flood modelling for climate change.
Ecology and biodiversity	<p>The Applicant has committed to a range of measures that enhance and protect key habitats within the Development. These include the creation of over 25.83 hectares of new native woodland (comprising approximately 64,500 trees), 50 kilometres of new species-rich hedgerows, 22 hectares of woodland ecotone, and more than 1,400 hectares of species-rich grassland.</p> <p>Further detail is provided in Chapter 8 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] and Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p>
Community benefit	<p>The Applicant has introduced NG+, a community-support initiative linked to the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, developed in direct response to feedback received during the pre-application period. NG+ includes a £1 million-per-year fund to support local priorities such as environment, education, food security, wellbeing, and energy efficiency.</p> <p>In addition to NG+, the EG learning Academy (https://www.egacademy.co.uk/) was created to provide free CPD courses for local people to learn the skills to be able to work in the renewable sector. With many engagement events already having taken place, over 80 local people now have solar or BESS qualifications as a result.</p>
Public amenity	The Development would deliver benefits to the local community via an enhanced green infrastructure network including a better-

	<p>connected footpath and bridleway network.</p> <p>New permissive routes have been proposed to increase the connectivity of the network during the operational phase, including 21 new permissive footpaths, and 6 new permissive bridleways, creating 32.6 km of new permissive route, as described in Table 18.7 in Chapter 18: Recreation, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.18].</p> <p>A circular recreational route would be created around the Order Limits, covering 50.6 km, including 12.5 km of new permissive path.</p>
Use of agricultural land	<p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns raised regarding the use of agricultural land and has carefully considered these in the ES.</p> <p>Chapter 17 of the ES: Agricultural Land [EN010162/APP/6.2.17] evaluates the likely effects of the Development on agricultural land, soils and rural businesses. The assessment concludes that the impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is minimal – representing 0.028% of the total BMV land in England – and is therefore not considered significant. In addition, impacts on soils have also been minimised through the implementation of an Outline Soil Management Plan [EN010162/APP/6.4.17.2]. Further details are provided in Chapter 17 of the ES: Agricultural Land [EN010162/APP/6.2.17].</p>

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

- 18 This Consultation Report has been prepared on behalf of Elements Green Trent Ltd ('the Applicant') in relation to an application ('the Application') to be made to the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ), under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 19 The Application is for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (GNR), a proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility and electrical storage facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) and an export connection to the National Grid (hereafter referred to as "the Development"). Therefore, the Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required to be undertaken for the Development and as such The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) apply.
- 20 The Development would be located to the northwest of Newark, in Newark and Sherwood district, Nottinghamshire, East Midlands. The Development would be within an area bound by the Order Limits. The Order Limits are to the west of the A1, north of the A617, east of Eakring, and south of Egmanton, occupying two main areas to the north and north-west of Staythorpe. The Order Limits are shown on Figure 1.1: Development Location [EN010162/APP/6.3.1.1].
- 21 In summary, the Development will comprise an array of solar PV modules, energy storage and associated development infrastructure. A description of the physical characteristics of the whole Development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases is given in ES Chapter 5, Development Description [EN010162/APP/6.2.5].
- 22 The Applicant has endeavoured to undertake an open and meaningful pre-application consultation process with a wide range of consultees. This Consultation Report describes and evidences the comprehensive consultation and engagement that has taken place throughout the pre-application period and how this has complied with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008 to influence the final design of the Development.

1.2 THE APPLICANT'S APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

- 23 The Applicant recognised that consultation was a vital stage in the development of their proposals. They were committed to providing opportunities for interested parties to learn about their proposals and share their views. The Applicant intends to continue working collaboratively with local people and organisations to deliver the Development sensitively and in cohesion with the local environment.
- 24 Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback on the Development proposals from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, and relevant authorities and organisations. The undertaking and outcome of this consultation and

engagement is presented in this Consultation Report. The consideration of all feedback received is explained in **Sections 12 and 13** of this report.

1.3 THE PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS CONSULTATION REPORT

- 25 This Consultation Report accompanies the Development Consent Order (DCO) application by the Applicant to the Secretary of State under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate and maintain, and decommission the Development.
- 26 This report has been prepared in accordance with Sections 37(3)(c) and 37(7) of the 2008 Act and details the consultation undertaken under Sections 42, 47, 48, and 49 of the 2008 Act, and associated legislation and guidance, including the Government's guidance on the Pre-application stage under Section 50. This includes how consultation responses have informed the Development and been responded to by the Applicant.
- 27 **Table 1.1** presents the structure of this Consultation Report. The document has been structured through consideration of the chronological order of consultation activities and the relevant Sections of the 2008 Act.

Table 1.1: Structure and explanation of Consultation Report sections

Report section	Overview
1. Introduction	Introduces the Applicant and the Development, provides an overview of the pre-application consultation undertaken, and sets out the structure and information presented in the Consultation Report.
2. Legislation, Guidance and Advice	Sets out the requirements of the 2008 Act and accompanying guidance, which the Applicant's consultation has complied with.
3. The Introduction of the Project to consultees (July 2023 - October 2023)	A summary of how the Applicant introduced the Development to consultees ahead of commencing community consultation.
4. Phase one non-statutory community consultation (January – February 2024)	A summary of how the Applicant undertook a non-statutory phase of consultation on early-stage proposals, including the responses received.
5. Consultation under EIA regulations	Describes how the Applicant has consulted according to the EIA Regulations.
6. Preparation for Statutory Section 47 Consultation	Sets out how the Applicant prepared for statutory Section 47 consultation including the development and publication of the SoCC.
7. Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted with the

Report section	Overview
(Consultation held between 9 January and 20 February 2025)	community in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act and the SoCC.
8. Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the 2008 Act (Consultation held between 9 January and 20 February 2025)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted on the PEIR with prescribed consultees and those with an interest in the land in accordance with Section 42 and Section 44 of the 2008 Act.
9. Statutory Consultation under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (Consultation held between 9 January and 20 February 2025)	Describes the development and publication of the Section 48 notice and Section 48 consultation.
10. Targeted Consultation (Consultation held between 8 May and 6 June 2025)	Describes the subsequent round of targeted consultation on three additions to the Order Limits presented in the PEIR during the Phase Two Consultation.
11. Section 47 Statutory Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made	A summary of the responses received to the Section 47 community consultation, presented by theme or EIA topic. The Applicant details how it has had regard to those responses in accordance with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.
12. Section 42 Statutory Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made	A summary of responses received to the Section 42 consultation, presented by theme or EIA topic. The Applicant details how it has had regard to those responses in accordance with the Section 49 of the 2008 Act.
13. Conclusion	The Applicant's concluding remarks on the pre-application consultation undertaken.

1.4 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

²⁸ In accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on the Development ahead of the submission of the DCO application to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:

- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a));
- 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 Development who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Development (in accordance with Section 47); and
 - Wider communities and organisations (local, national, and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Development proposals (in accordance with Section 48).
- 29 The Applicant also consulted with local authorities in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and as set out in Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act. In addition to formally consulting with relevant local authorities under Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant commenced ongoing regular meetings with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council in October 2023, which have continued throughout the pre-application phase.
- 30 The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined phases of consultation during the pre-application period. This has comprised:
- A non-statutory Phase One Consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 16 January and 27 February 2024; and
 - A statutory Phase Two Consultation on more detailed proposals, including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), held for six weeks between 09 January and 20 February 2025. This phase of community consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act was held in parallel with consultation under Sections 42 and 48 of the 2008 Act.
- 31 Responses to non-statutory Phase One Consultation, and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments, are described in **Section 5** of this report.
- 32 Responses to the statutory Phase Two Consultation, including how the Applicant has had regard to these comments, are described in **Sections 12 and 13** and provided in greater detail in **Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010162/APP/5.1.10]** and **Appendix 5.1.11: Section 42 Applicant Response [EN010162/APP/5.1.11]**. It is worth noting that, where pertinent and relevant to specific topics, key comments and responses to these – including how they informed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – have also been addressed in specific chapters of the ES **[EN010162/APP/6]**.
- 33 Prior to submitting an application for a DCO, the Applicant prepared a written statement in response to the government guidance ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ (2024) regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. A copy of this written statement is provided in **Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1]**.
- 34 The Applicant provided a copy of this statement to the host local authorities of the Development on 26 February 2025 for review. These authorities are Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council.
- 35 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 acceptance stage of a DCO

application. The statement was uploaded to the PINS website on 25 March 2025.

- 36 Nottinghamshire County Council provided comments on the written statement on 26 March 2025 and Newark and Sherwood District Council responded on 07 April 2025. Comments from the local authorities can be found in **Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1]**.
- 37 **Table 1.2** summarises, in chronological order, the pre-application stages and consultation activities that have taken place up to the point of the Application submission.

Table 1.2 Pre-application stages and consultation activities undertaken

Date	Consultation undertaken
October 2023 – onwards	<p>Development introduction and ongoing engagement and consultation with local authorities and political stakeholders</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 Development, and engagement with these bodies has been ongoing throughout the pre-application period.</p> <p>The host local authorities were provided the opportunity to comment on the Applicant's Approach to Consultation document, which was shared with both authorities on 7 December 2023. Newark and Sherwood District Council provided comments on the document on 3 January 2024, which were considered and actioned, including an additional community webinar, for the Phase One (Non-Statutory) Consultation. Nottinghamshire County Council did not comment on the document.</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 to council members. The team met with Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council members on 18 and 25 October 2023.</p>

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<p>The invite for a briefing on early-stage proposals of the Development was also extended to parish councils and local community groups. During this time, the team met with the following parish councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maplebeck Parish Meeting – 8 November 2023 and 7 December 2023 • Hockerton Parish Meeting – 22 November 2023 • Cromwell Parish Meeting – 8 January 2024 <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 Development through a press release and launching a dedicated website (https://www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk/) 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. Interested parties were provided with the opportunity to sign up to a 'keep informed list' via the Development website. Recipients of this list would receive updates about the Development via email.</p>
8 November 2023	<p>Scoping Report submitted</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 ES in respect of the Development pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
19 December 2023	<p>Scoping Opinion and receipt of Schedule 1</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>

Date	Consultation undertaken
16 January – 27 February 2024	<p>Phase One (Non-Statutory) Consultation</p> <p>The Applicant held a six-week non-statutory community consultation on early-stage proposals for the Development.</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"> • Distributing a postcard to over 5,800 residential and business properties; • Advertising consultation opportunities in the Newark Advertiser and the Nottingham Post on 18 January 2024; • Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display; • Providing details of the events on the Development's website; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed. <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>
March 2024 – July 2024	<p>Post-phase one communications (Consultation Summary Report, early design changes, and operational solar farm site visit)</p> <p>Following the close of Phase One (Non-Statutory) Consultation, the Applicant made early design changes to the Development in response to feedback. These early design changes were shared with key political and representative stakeholders, as well as interested parties who had registered to be kept informed by the Applicant. The early design changes were also published on the Development website.</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</p>

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<p>what an operational solar farm looks like, giving them the opportunity to observe the infrastructure and mitigation associated with solar farms in action, and have their questions answered on a guided tour. 69 members of the public, along with councillors and the candidate MP Michelle Welsh (now sitting MP), for Sherwood Forest, attended across the two days.</p> <p>The Applicant published a Phase One Consultation Summary Report in August 2024 to summarise the feedback received during the Phase One Consultation and how this feedback was being used to inform the Development.</p> <p>The Phase One Consultation Summary Report was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicised in a community postcard that was sent to over 5,800 residential and business properties; • Shared via email with stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed; and • Uploaded to the Development website. <p>As part of the Applicant's ongoing engagement following the close of consultation, the Applicant organised meetings and conducted visits with several host parish councils, businesses – including Newark Business Club – and public sector and educational institutions. These took place from the early summer months through to late November 2024.</p>
18 July 2024 – 27 August 2024	<p>Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with local authorities under Section 47 of the 2008 Act</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with the Section 43(1) local authorities on 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 draft SoCC consultation, to discuss its contents and the Applicant's approach to consultation.</p>

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<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 (CCZ) 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 Applicant considered, and within reason, acted upon, all comments received from host authorities - Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council - when finalising the SoCC for publication.</p>
19 December 2024	<p>Publication of SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act</p> <p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act on 19 December 2024.</p>
07 January 2025	<p>Notification to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 46 of the 2008 Act</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 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"> • A covering letter; • Example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being for prescribed consultees and the other one to land interests); • A site plan of the location of the Development; and • A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the

Date	Consultation undertaken
	locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).
09 January 2025	<p>Publication of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (and Non-Technical Summary)</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"> • A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials; • A site plan showing the location of the Development; and • 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). <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"> • The Development website; • In hard copy form at the community information events; and • The PEIR NTS was available in hard copy form at the Community Access Point (CAP) sites. <p>Details of how to access the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Development website; • The community consultation leaflet; and • The Section 48 notice.
09 January – 20 February 2025	Phase Two Consultation (statutory under Section 47 of the 2008 Act)

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<p>The Applicant held a six-week community consultation on more detailed proposals for the Development, 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 village.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the consultation information and opportunities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing a community consultation postcard to over 5,900 residential and business properties; • 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); • 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; • Erecting Section 48 notices around the Development site; • Distributing a press release on 09 January 2025 containing details of the consultation to regional media publications; • Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display; • Distributing hard copies of consultation documents to four CAP sites; • Providing details of the events on the Development website; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed. <p>The Applicant invited feedback from the community via a paper feedback form, an online feedback form, and feedback to the Development communication channels over a stated 42-day response period.</p>
February – March 2025	Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<p>The Applicant submitted a written statement on the pre-application consultation undertaken to the Planning Inspectorate, consistent with guidance published by the Government in April 2024. This was to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant, prior to the acceptance stage of a DCO application.</p> <p>The written statement was shared with host local authorities Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council for review in February 2025 ahead of submitting to the Planning Inspectorate on 13 March 2025.</p> <p>Both host local authorities responded to the written statement – Nottinghamshire County Council on 26 March 2025 and Newark and Sherwood District on 07 April 2025. No requests for further consultation were received in the responses to the written statement.</p>
May – June 2025	<p>Targeted consultation on a series of proposed boundary changes</p> <p>The Applicant undertook further targeted consultation on specific changes to the Development site boundary (Order Limits) following the Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the consultation information and response deadline, between 08 May 2025 and 06 June 2025, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing a Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet to over 1,500 properties within the parish boundaries of Weston, Egmont, Laxton and Moorhouse, Norwell, Ossington, Sutton-on-Trent and Carlton-on-Trent where the changes resided; • Distributing a press release containing details of the consultation to regional media publications; • Providing the relevant consultation information documents on the Development website; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.

2 LEGISLATION, GUIDANCE, AND ADVICE

2.1 CONSULTATION REPORT

- 38 This Consultation Report is submitted with the Application in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the 2008 Act.
- 39 Relevant responses are defined in Section 49(3) of the 2008 Act as responses received to the consultation under Section 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act by the deadline published. The Applicant has also taken account of late responses received after stated deadlines.
- 40 Pre-application consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act has taken place with:
- Prescribed bodies (statutory consultees), being those listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (“APFP Regulations”) and those specified by the Planning Inspectorate in the list of consultation bodies notified under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations;
 - Non-statutory bodies treated as prescribed by the Applicant, including local representative groups, initiatives, and member organisations;
 - Local authorities, in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and Section 43(1); and
 - Persons with an interest in land or persons who would or might be eligible to make a relevant claim, in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44.
- 41 Pre-application consultation under Section 47 has taken place with:
- The local community i.e. those living within the vicinity of the Development. Any interested members of the community were welcome to take part in consultation activities. To proactively promote consultation opportunities, the Applicant defined a core consultation zone (as described in **Section 8.2** of this report and shown in **Figure 8.1**);
 - Local elected representatives including parish councils and members of Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council; and
 - MPs for Newark and Sherwood Forest.
- 42 Pre-application consultation has also taken place in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act through publicity of the Development, as described in **Section 10** of this report.

2.2 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

- 43 The Applicant has considered and complied with the following legislation and guidance when undertaking the pre-application consultation and when compiling the Consultation Report:
- Planning Act 2008;
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) Regulations 2017;
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009;

- Department for Communities and Local Government Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (2015) (“DCLG guidance”)
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (updated October 2024);
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (published August 2024);
 - Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 1 (“the Guidance”) (published 30 April 2024); and
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus (“the Prospectus”) (published May 2024).
- 44 A table setting out how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance is presented in **Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1]** of this Consultation Report.

2.3 PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 50: GUIDANCE ABOUT PRE-APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 45 The Applicant notes that it conducted some of its pre-application consultation activities (Phase One (non-statutory) Consultation) when the former Section 50 guidance “Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process” was in force. The Applicant is aware that updated statutory guidance, the “Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects,” was published in April 2024 under Section 50 of the 2008.
- 46 **Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1]** sets out how the Applicant carried out its consultation under the updated Section 50 guidance and complied with its requirements.
- 47 This includes by preparing and issuing a written statement regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone, for example.
- 48 The Applicant considers its approach to having regard to the Section 50 guidance is demonstrated to be satisfactory and thorough.

3 THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT TO CONSULTEES (JULY 2023 – JANUARY 2024)

3.1 BACKGROUND

- 49 Between July 2023 and January 2024, the Applicant communicated their intention to develop proposals for the Development to key stakeholders, and subsequently the local community.
- 50 This introduction to the Development marked the start of ongoing engagement with Section 42 consultees and the local community leading up to the statutory Section 42, Section 47, and Section 48 consultation on more developed proposals, including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which commenced in January 2025.
- 51 Ongoing non-statutory engagement with consultees has enabled two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees on the Development and allowed the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the Development.

3.2 EARLY ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES

- 52 Between July 2023 and January 2024, the Applicant contacted officers and political leaders from local authorities based on the administrative boundaries for the Development. These local authorities are Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 53 The Applicant contacted the Planning and Growth Lead Officer at Newark and Sherwood District Council on 23 July 2023. The purpose of this initial contact was to introduce the Development and arrange and hold an introductory meeting between them and the Applicant.
- 54 The Applicant contacted officers from Nottinghamshire County Council on 12 October 2023 to introduce the Development and arrange and hold introductory meetings between themselves and the Applicant. The purpose of this was to provide Nottinghamshire County Council with the opportunity to meet with the Applicant prior to the commencement of wider engagement with the local community on 27 October 2023.
- 55 Communications with the Newark and Sherwood District Council's Planning and Growth Lead Officer and Nottinghamshire County Council resulted in the following meetings being arranged by the Applicant:
- Meeting with relevant officers from Newark and Sherwood District Council on 18 October 2023.
 - Meeting with relevant officers from Nottinghamshire County Council on 25 October 2023.
- 56 The host local authorities were also provided the opportunity to comment on the Applicant's Approach to Consultation document, which was shared with both authorities on 7 December 2023. Newark and Sherwood District Council provided comments on the document on 3 January 2024, which were considered and actioned, including an additional community webinar, for the Phase One (Non-Statutory) Consultation. Nottinghamshire County Council did not comment on the document.

3.3 EARLY ENGAGEMENT WITH WESTMINSTER MP

- 57 The Applicant contacted the MP for Newark on 23 July 2023. The purpose of this initial contact was to introduce the Development and arrange and hold an introductory meeting between them and the Applicant.
- 58 Communications with the MP for Newark resulted in an in-person meeting being held on 01 December 2023.

3.4 EARLY ENGAGEMENT WITH LANDOWNERS

- 59 The Applicant contacted the landowners and land agents, involved in the Development, on 23 August 2023. The purpose of this communication was to provide landowners and their respective land agents with an update on the Development prior to information being made publicly available on 27 October 2023.
- 60 Communication with landowners and land agents resulted in an in-person meeting being held on 21 September 2023.
- 61 Following the Applicant's initial contact with landowners, land agents, and officers and political leaders from local authorities, the Applicant conducted wider stakeholder communications activities on 27 October 2023, detailed in Section 3.7 of this Consultation Report.

3.5 DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE

- 62 In order to provide the public, key stakeholders, and members of the local community with information on the Development, the Applicant published a website on 27 October 2023. The Development website presented information on:
- An overview of the Development;
 - Background to the Applicant;
 - The need for solar;
 - The benefits of the Development;
 - The Applicant's commitment to consultation and upcoming opportunities for interested parties to take part;
 - Responses to relevant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs); and
 - Contact details for the Applicant and an opportunity to register to be kept informed through future updates via email.
- 63 The website has been maintained and updated throughout the development of the proposals. This has included publishing updates in relation to the launch of Phase One (Non-Statutory) Consultation and Phase Two (Statutory Consultation).
- 64 The Development website can be accessed using this URL:
<https://www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk/>

3.6 LOCAL PRESS AND MEDIA

- 65 Information regarding the Development, the availability of the Development website and communications channels was publicised through the issue of a media release to identified regional and trade publications. The release

was issued to the publications listed in **Table 3.1**, alongside plans showing the Development site location and indicative early-stage design on 27 October 2023.

Table 3.1: Media publications identified and contacted by the Applicant

Category	Publication
Regional	Newark Advertiser
	Newark and Sherwood News Journal
	Nottingham Post
	Notts TV
	BBC East Midlands
	BBC Radio Nottingham
	Business Live
	Business Desk
	East Midlands Business Link
	East Midlands Today
	Lincolnite
	Lincolnshire Echo
	Lincolnshire Live
	Lincolnshire World
	BBC Radio Lincolnshire
	Mansfield Chad
	Midland Farmer
	Nottingham Local News
	NFU British Farmer and Grower (East Midlands)
	The Bramley – Southwell and surrounding area
	West Bridgford Wire
	NG Magazines
Trade	1 st Energy News

Category	Publication
	Bloomberg New Energy Finance
	Business Green
	Carbon Brief
	Carbon Capture Journal
	Carbon Pulse
	Clean Energy Pipeline
	Climate Home News
	Current+
	Global Data
	Energy Engineering
	Energy Live News
	Energy Storage News
	Energy Voice
	Environment Journal
	Infrastructure Investor
	Inspiratia
	PES – Power and Energy Solutions
	Planning Magazine
	PV Magazine
	PV Tech
	Recharge
	Refinitiv
	Renewables Investor
	Renewables Now
	reNews
	The Energyst

Category	Publication
	Word of Renewables
	Solar+Power Management
	Solar Power Portal UK
	Solar Magazine
	Solar Power World
	WorldofPhotovoltaics.com

- 66 A copy of the press release is available in **Appendix 5.1.2: Introduction of Development to Consultees Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.2]**. The press release provided an overview of the Development, the need for solar PV, information on the DCO process, timescales for the Development and contact details for the Applicant.
- 67 The press release was published in regional and industry news, a full list with evidence is available in **Appendix 5.1.2: Introduction of Development to Consultees Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.2]**.

3.7 WIDER STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 68 On 27 October 2023, the Applicant publicly announced plans for the Development via email to the wider community and outlined the Applicant's commitment to consult with the community and interested parties and invited them to contact the Applicant should they have any questions.
- 69 As part of this, the Applicant contacted Westminster MPs for Newark and Sherwood, Newark and Sherwood District Council ward members, Nottinghamshire County Council electoral division members, and parish clerks acting on behalf of host parish councils.
- 70 In addition to this, the Applicant recognised that there are individuals and groups within the wider community for whom there may be certain barriers which could prevent them from fully participating – or make them less likely to participate in or respond to traditional communication techniques. On 31 October 2023, the Applicant contacted identified local interest groups and seldom heard groups with the aim to accommodate communicating as effectively as possible with these groups at an early stage of the Development.
- 71 The Applicant also distributed a letter to properties located within 50 metres of the Draft Order Limits. This outreach was undertaken to ensure that those living within close proximity to the Development were made aware of the proposals and given the opportunity to get in touch should they have any questions about the Development. A copy of this letter can be found in **Appendix 5.1.2: Introduction of Development to Consultees Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.2]**.

- 72 Following these communications, a series of early engagement meetings were arranged and held by the Applicant. **Table 3.2** provides a summary of the early engagement meetings held between October and January 2024.

Table 3.2: Engagement meetings held by the Applicant as a result of pre-consultation outreach

Date	Stakeholder / Organisation	Overview
18 October 2023	Newark and Sherwood District Council Case Officer for Development, Head of Planning and Senior Planner	Online presentation from the Applicant to introduce the Development and upcoming public communication, followed by a question and answer discussion with attendees.
25 October 2023	Nottinghamshire County Council Senior Planning Officer and Principal Planner	
06 November 2023	Inspiratia	Question and answer discussion held online with two editors at Inspiratia.
16 November 2023	Newark and Sherwood District Council In-person meeting held with members of Newark and Sherwood District Council	Presentation from the Applicant to introduce the Development and upcoming public communication, followed by a question and answer discussion with attendees.
22 November 2023	Solar Media	Question and answer discussion with one editor at Solar Media.
20 November 2023	D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership	Meeting held to discuss the Development, ways in which D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership can get involved as part of the community benefit fund, and question and answer discussion.
22 November 2023	Hockerton Parish Meeting In-person meeting (10 attendees, Parish Clerk, and temporary Chair)	Presentation from the Applicant to introduce the Development and upcoming public communication, followed by a question and

Date	Stakeholder / Organisation	Overview
		answer discussion with attendees.
29 November 2023	Rural Community Action Nottingham	Meeting held to discuss the Development, ways in which Rural Community Action can get involved, and question and answer discussion.
01 December 2023	Robert Jenrick, MP for Newark	During in-person meetings with Robert Jenrick MP, Maplebeck Parish Meeting and Cromwell Parish Meeting, the Applicant presented the early-stage Development proposals and upcoming Phase One Consultation activities, followed by a Q&A session, providing the opportunity for key concerns to be discussed and responded to.
07 December 2023	Maplebeck Parish Meeting	
08 January 2024	Cromwell Parish Meeting	

4 CONSULTATION UNDER EIA REGULATIONS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 73 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process under which a development proposal is assessed for its likely significant environmental impacts before an application for consent is considered. The submission of the findings of the EIA in an ES allows the body deciding the application to fully understand the environmental impact of a proposal when it makes its decision.

4.2 EIA SCOPING PHASE

- 74 The Applicant submitted a Scoping Request for the Development to the Secretary of State on 08 November 2023 and in this request notified the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that the Applicant would provide an ES in respect of the Development.
- 75 The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, consulted with the relevant competent authorities and key statutory stakeholders to seek comments on the scope of the proposed EIA. A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 19 December 2023.
- 76 Appended in the Scoping Opinion, the Planning Inspectorate provided a list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.
- 77 The responses received to the Scoping Opinion and how the Applicant has responded are detailed in each chapter of the ES.

4.3 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION UNDER THE EIA REGULATIONS

- 78 In accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the notice under Section 48(1) of the 2008 Act was sent to consultation bodies and other persons notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations on 9 January 2025. The consultation documents provided to all consultation bodies and other persons notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations are comprised of:
- A covering letter (provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**), which publicised the consultation opportunities, including an offer of a USB device containing the full PEIR and associated consultation documents, as well as a link to where these documents were available on the website:
 - A site plan showing the location of the Development (provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**); and
 - A hard copy of the notice publicised in accordance with 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) (provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**).

- 79 In addition, both the PEIR and non-technical summary (NTS), which included a summary of EIA matters, were available to all attendees at the Phase Two (statutory) consultation information events, on the website, and at the designated CAP sites as detailed in the SoCC.
- 80 Ongoing non-statutory consultation undertaken by the Applicant with technical consultees in addition to the statutory Section 42 consultation is described in **Section 9** of this Consultation Report.

4.4 NON-STATUTORY ENGAGEMENT FOR EIA

- 81 Prior to and following the pre-application consultation under Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations (as described in **Section 9** of this report), a series of discussions and meetings were held with technical consultees regarding the Development as part of the Applicant's ongoing engagement.
- 82 Ongoing non-statutory engagement with technical consultees enabled a continuous two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees on Development updates and enabled the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the Development proposals.
- 83 Following the adoption of the Scoping Opinion on 19 December 2023, the Applicant continued to engage with various technical consultees to discuss the Scoping Opinion itself, as well as the surveys and assessments carried out as part of the EIA and the Development design in advance of publishing the PEIR.
- 84 Relevant chapters of the **ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.5]** include a section on consultation, which details the engagement and meetings held with stakeholders and consultees throughout the pre-application and EIA phase of the Development.

5 PHASE ONE NON-STATUTORY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024)

5.1 BACKGROUND

- 85 Following the introduction to the Development to key local consultees and representatives (as described in **Section 3** of this report), the Applicant proactively publicised the proposals to the wider community and invited feedback by undertaking a phase of non-statutory consultation at an early stage of the Development process.
- 86 This non-statutory phase was held for six weeks between 16 January and 27 February 2024, preceding the publication of a SoCC and subsequent statutory consultation.
- 87 The feedback received through early engagement and non-statutory consultation helped refine the Development proposals and approach to consultation, ahead of publicising the SoCC, and undertaking statutory consultation.

5.2 PUBLICITY, INFORMATION, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE DURING NON-STATUTORY PHASE ONE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- 88 The Applicant established a range of free-to-use communication channels for community enquiries and comments regarding the Development. The Development communication channels included a Freephone number (0808 175 4054), a Freepost address (FREEPOST GNR SOLAR) and an email address (info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk). They have been operational Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays), 9am-5pm, throughout the pre-application period.
- 89 To publicise the consultation and encourage responses, the Applicant distributed a community consultation postcard to over 5,800 residential and business properties in the vicinity of the Development. This zone was initially defined by including properties within a minimum of 2km from the proposed solar panel site areas of the Development, and a minimum 500m from the cable route search corridors (as presented at the time of consultation). This zone was further extended to include additional properties, where proportionate and reasonable, based on existing boundaries to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities. The community consultation postcard was printed and distributed to arrive at properties on or before 16 January 2024.
- 90 The Phase One community consultation postcard presented information on the Development at an early stage in the design process and publicised how to find out more information and respond to the consultation.
- 91 A copy of the Phase One community consultation postcard is included in **Appendix 5.1.3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.3]**.
- 92 Information regarding the Development was published on the Development website on 16 January 2024. This included details of the Development and Phase One Consultation through text, images, and documents to view and download from an online document library.

- 93 An interactive map of the Draft Order Limits was available to view on the Development website from the start of Phase One (Non-Statutory) Consultation.
- 94 Information regarding the Development, Phase One Consultation opportunities, and the availability of the website and communication channels were publicised through the issue of a media release to identified regional and industry publications. The release was issued to the publications listed in **Table 5.1**, alongside plans showing the Draft Order Limits.

Table 5.1: Phase One Consultation media distribution list

Category	Publication
Regional	Newark Advertiser
	Newark and Sherwood News Journal
	Nottingham Post
	Notts TV
	BBC East Midlands
	BBC Radio Nottingham
	Business Live
	Business Desk
	East Midlands Business Link
	East Midlands Today
	Lincolnite
	Lincolnshire Echo
	Lincolnshire Live
	Lincolnshire World
	BBC Radio Lincolnshire
	Mansfield Chad
	Midland Farmer
	Nottingham Local News
	NFU British Farmer and Grower (East Midlands)
	The Bramley – Southwell and surrounding area

Category	Publication
	West Bridgford Wire
	NG Magazines
Trade	1 st Energy News
	Bloomberg New Energy Finance
	Business Green
	Carbon Brief
	Carbon Capture Journal
	Carbon Pulse
	Clean Energy Pipeline
	Climate Home News
	Current+
	Global Data
	Energy Engineering
	Energy Live News
	Energy Storage News
	Energy Voice
	Environment Journal
	Infrastructure Investor
	Inspiratia
	PES – Power and Energy Solutions
	Planning Magazine
	PV Magazine
	PV Tech
	Recharge
	Refinitiv
	Renewables Investor

Category	Publication
	Renewables Now
	reNews
	The Energyst
	Word of Renewables
	Solar+Power Management
	Solar Power Portal UK
	Solar Magazine
	Solar Power World
	WorldofPhotovoltaics.com

- 95 Subsequent coverage included articles in reNews.Biz and Solar Power Portal (17 January 2024), the Newark Advertiser (on 18, 20 and 26 January 2024), West Bridgford Wire and Notts TV (18 January 2024), the BBC (19 January 2024), Renewables Now (22 January 2024), and PV Magazine (30 January 2024).
- 96 In addition to the media releases, the Applicant placed advertisements in two local newspapers – the Newark Advertiser on 18 January 2024 and 25 January 2024, and the Nottingham Post on 18 January 2024 – to publicise the Development and Phase One Consultation opportunities. A copy of this newspaper advert is provided in **Appendix 5.1.3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.3]**.
- 97 A Phase One Consultation feedback form was published to encourage responses. The form was available online, by request to the communication channels, and to complete or takeaway from the Applicant's series of information events. The feedback form could be submitted to the Applicant by a Freepost address (FREEPOST GNR SOLAR), by email, or by attending an in-person information event. The same questions could also be responded to online via a feedback form linked to the Development website. A copy of this feedback form is provided in **Appendix 5.1.3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.3]**.
- 98 Consultation materials were uploaded to the document library section of the website. The following documents were uploaded on the first day of the consultation period (16 January 2024):
- Phase One Consultation Leaflet
 - Phase One Feedback Form
 - Phase One Exhibition Materials
 - Phase One Postcard
 - Phase One Poster
 - Phase One Masterplan

- Phase One Masterplan (sheets 1 to 3)
 - Phase One Masterplan (sheets 4 to 9)
 - Visualisations
 - Environmental Designations
 - Constraints map
- 99 The following documents were uploaded to the website on 29 January 2024:
- Community webinar slides
- 100 Copies of these materials are provided in **Appendix 5.1.3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.3]**.
- 101 As part of the Phase One Consultation, the Applicant introduced the “NG+ scheme,” a community benefit initiative linked to the Development. Subject to consent being granted, NG+ is expected to provide around £1 million annually to support local projects, with a focus on the environment, education, food security, wellbeing, and energy efficiency. More details can be found at: <https://ngplus.uk/>
- 102 During the Phase One Consultation period, the Applicant held six in-person events and two online public information events for members of the local community to attend. These events provided an opportunity to discuss the Development with the Applicant and members of their team. Large scale maps and a series of information boards were displayed at the events. Copies of the consultation leaflet and feedback form were available in hard copy to view and take away. Details of these events are provided in **Table 5.2** below.

Table 5.2 Public information events held during non-statutory consultation

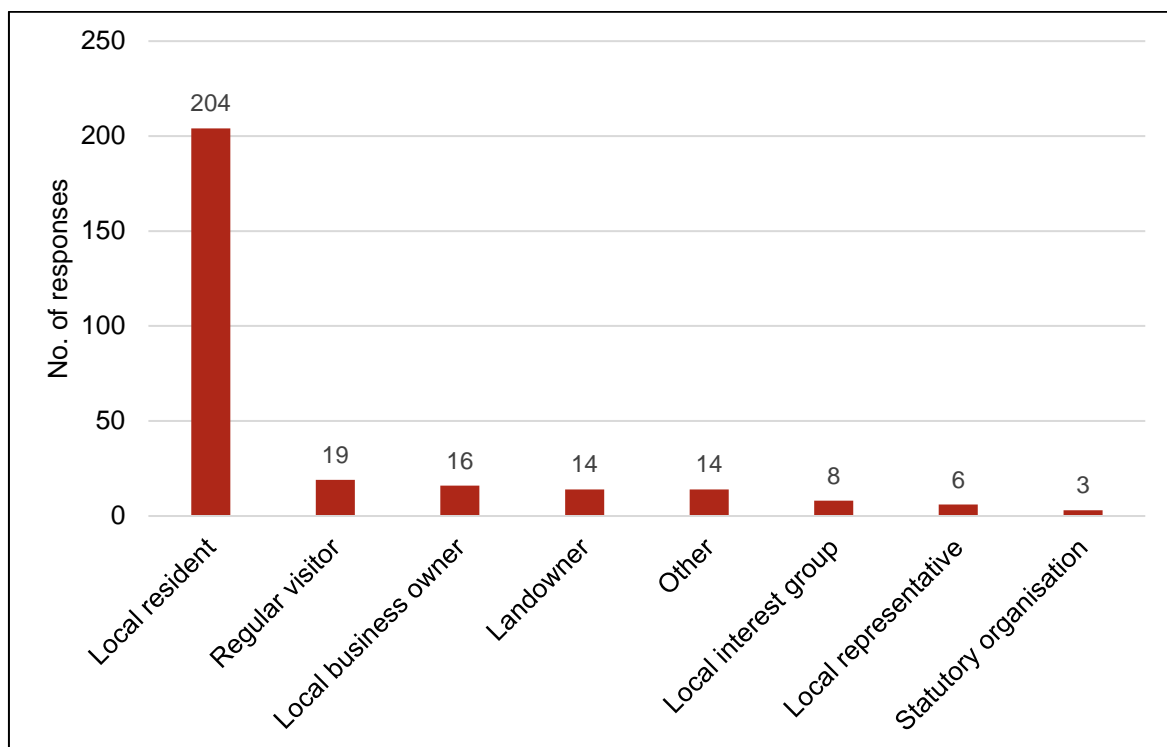
Venue	Date and time	No. attendees
Community webinar (hosted on Zoom)	Monday 29 January 2024, 17:30 – 19:00	33
Eakring Cator Hall, Kirklington Road, Eakring, NG22 0DA	Tuesday 30 January 2024, 12:00 – 18:00	80
Laxton Village Hall, High Street, Laxton, Newark, NG22 0NX	Wednesday 31 January 2024, 14:00 – 18:00	89
Newark Town Hall, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1DU	Thursday 01 February 2024, 14:00 – 18:00	75
Community Webinar (hosted on Zoom)	Monday 05 February 2024, 17:30 – 19:00	28
Carlton on Trent Village Hall, Main Street, Carlton on Trent, Newark, NG23 6NW	Thursday 08 February 2024, 14:00 – 18:00	92

Venue	Date and time	No. attendees
Maplebeck Village Hall, Main Street, Maplebeck, Newark, NG22 0BS	Friday 09 February 2024, 14:00 – 20:00	85
Kelham House, Main Street, Kelham, Newark, NG23 5QP	Saturday 10 February 2024, 12:00 – 17:00	72
Total attendees		554

5.3 PHASE ONE CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

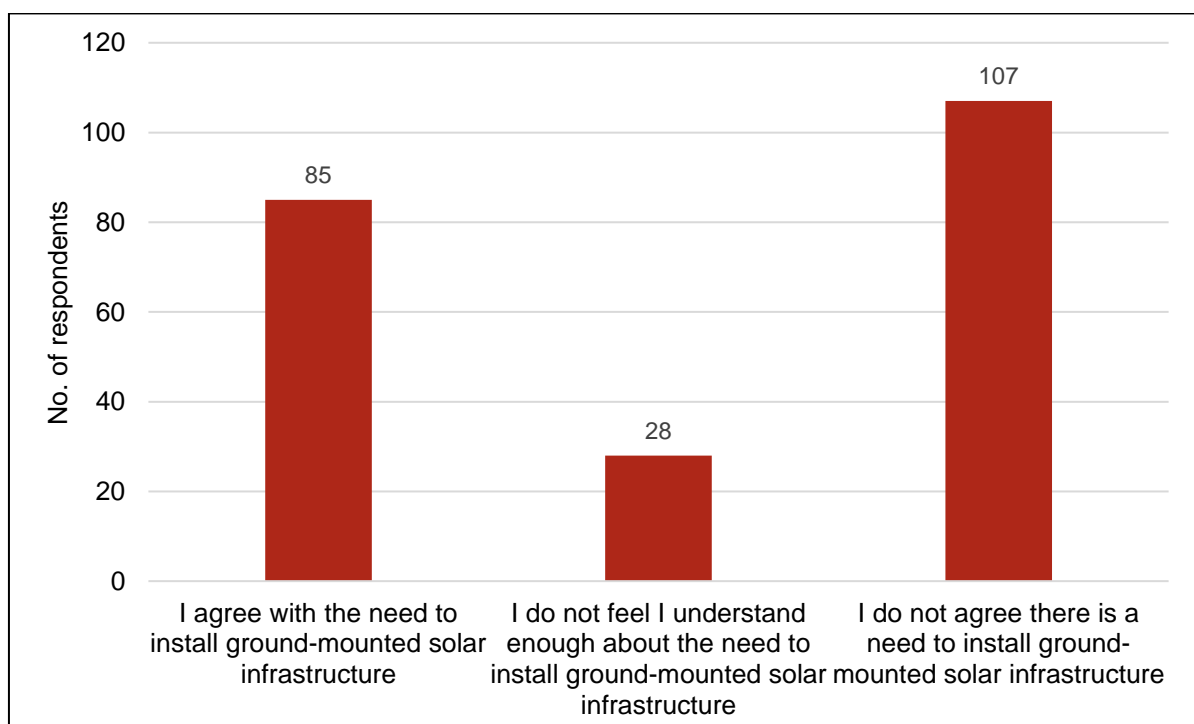
- 103 The Applicant invited feedback to be submitted in writing or online via the free-to-use communication channels.
- 104 In total, the Applicant received 276 submissions of feedback in response to the phase one community consultation. This included 233 feedback form submissions (paper forms and online submissions) and 43 submissions of feedback via the Development's communication channels (email and Freepost).
- 105 The phase one feedback form (both the online version and paper copy) included a combination of closed and open-ended questions to encourage responses regarding the respondent's interest in the Development, the early-stage proposals, potential opportunities to explore, and the consultation process. The following figures (5.1 – 5.8) present the results of the closed questions from the 233 submitted phase one feedback forms.
- 106 The Applicant was keen to understand who had taken part in the consultation activities. The results showed the significant majority of respondents identified as being a local resident (87.5%), as shown in **Figure 5.1**.

Figure 5.1 How would you describe your interest in Great North Road Solar Park?



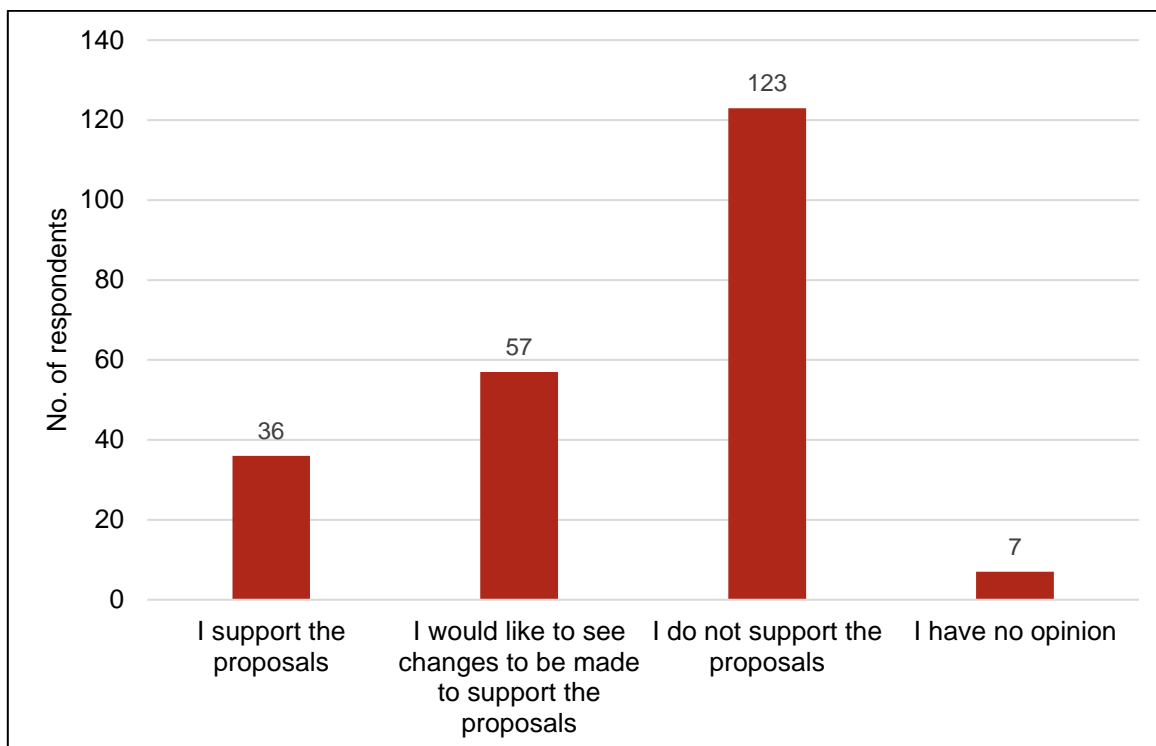
107 The Applicant was keen to understand opinions towards ground-mounted solar more generally, in addition to specific views on the Development. When asked about the principle of ground-mounted solar, 38.6% agreed with the need to install ground-mounted solar, 48.6% did not agree, and 12.7% felt that they did not understand enough about the need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure, as shown in **Figure 5.2**.

Figure 5.2 In principle, what is your view of installing ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?



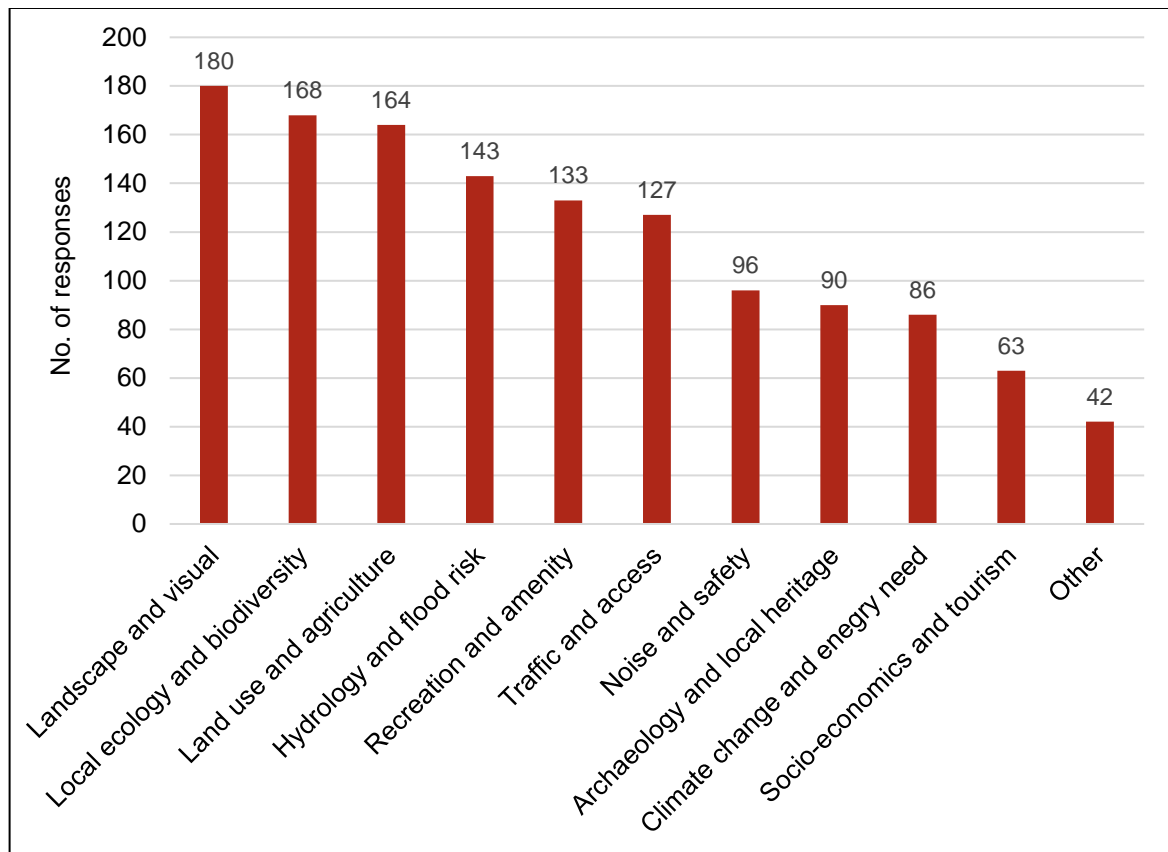
- 108 In addition to providing specific comments, respondents could indicate general support for or opposition to the proposals. Overall, 16.2% of respondents indicated support for the proposals, while 55.1% indicated opposition, 25.5% would have liked to see changes to be made in order to support the proposals, and 3.1% had no opinion, as shown in **Figure 5.3**.

Figure 5.3 Based on our early-stage proposals, what are your views on Great North Road Solar Park?



- 109 Respondents were presented with a list of environmental topics and invited to select those they considered most important for the Applicant to consider. Respondents also had the opportunity to suggest other topics they consider to be important.
- 110 There was a reasonably even spread across most suggested topics, all of which have been considered in the EIA and design of the Development. 'Landscape and visual,' 'Local ecology and biodiversity' and 'Land use and agriculture' were cited by respondents as being the most important issues to consider, as seen in **Figure 5.4**.
- 111 Respondents could select more than one field on this question and were guided to expand upon their answers in Question 5 'Please provide comments on our early-stage proposals for Great North Road Solar Park'. A summary of the comments received and how the Applicant considered these is provided in **Table 5.3**.

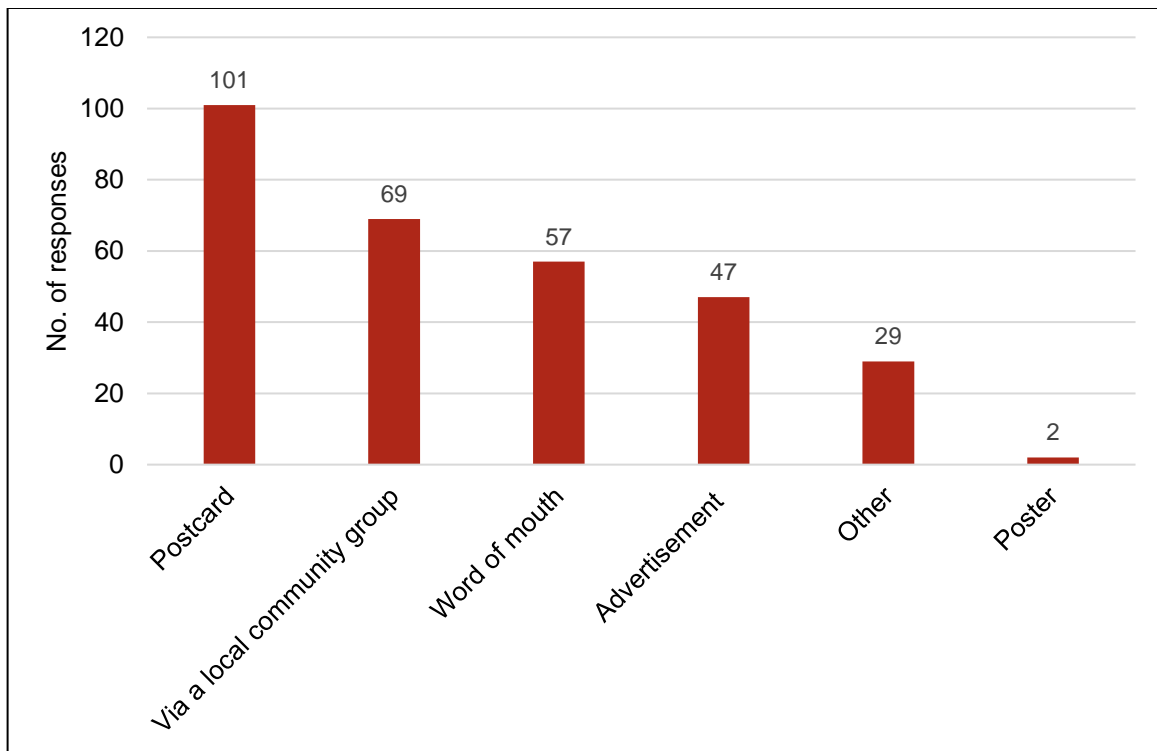
Figure 5.4 Which aspects of the Development are most important to you?



112 The Applicant was keen to receive feedback on how the consultation was undertaken, to help ensure that it was accessible and to consider any suggestions for future phases.

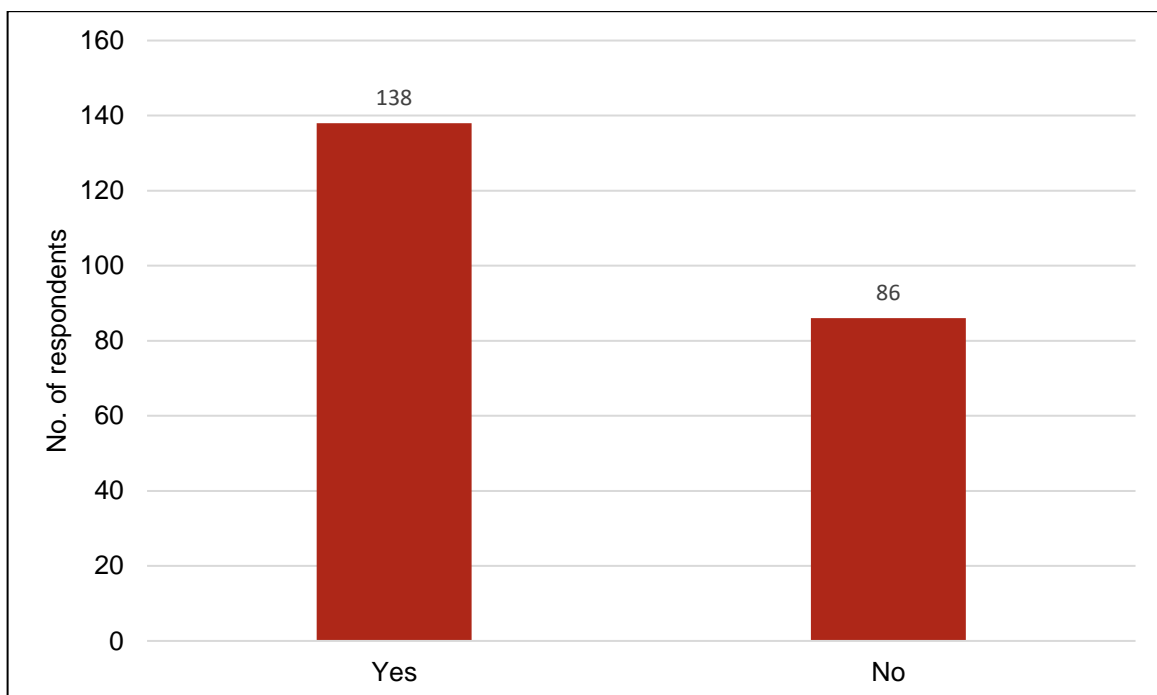
113 To understand how best to publicise consultation activities, the Applicant asked respondents how they found out about the consultation, with most respondents stating they received a postcard (43%) or heard about the consultation through a local community group (29.6%), as shown in **Figure 5.5**.

Figure 5.5 How did you find out about this consultation?



¹¹⁴ The Applicant also asked respondents whether they had attended an information event – either in person or online. The majority of respondents (61.6%) indicated that they had attended an event, with 38.9% stating that they had not. This is shown in **Figure 5.6**.

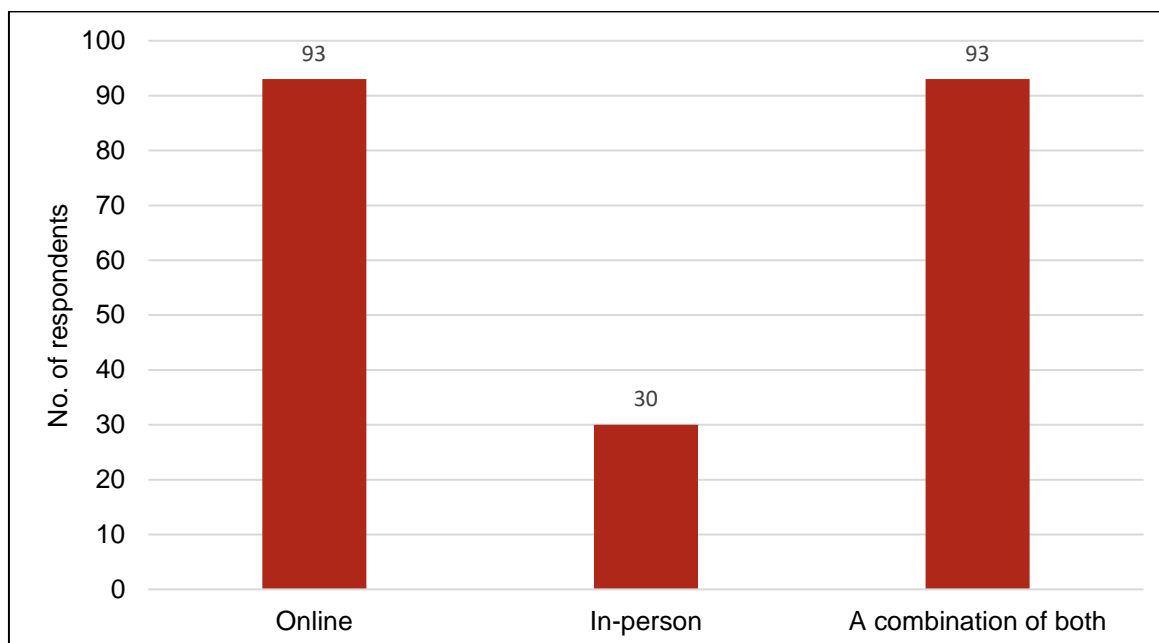
Figure 5.6 Have you attended one of our exhibition events?



¹¹⁵ To ensure that the information presented about the Development was accessible, respondents were asked to indicate a preference for viewing information online or in-person. Most respondents indicated a preference for viewing information online (44.7%) or a combination of both online and

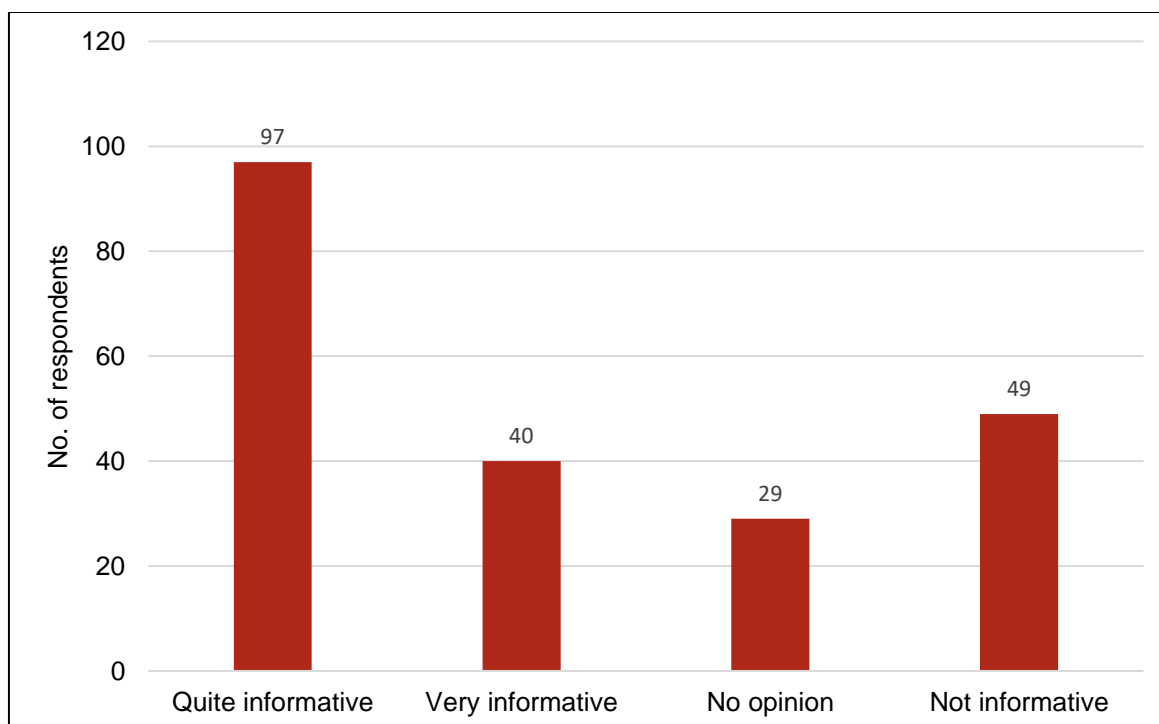
in-person (40.8%), with 14.4% indicating that they preferred information to be available in-person, as shown in **Figure 5.7**. As a result, the Applicant continued to provide information in both formats.

Figure 5.7 Do you prefer to receive information online or in-person?



¹¹⁶ The Applicant also sought feedback on the quality of the information presented during this phase of consultation, as shown in **Figure 5.8**. 45.1% of respondents stated that the consultation materials were quite informative, and 18.6% stated that the materials were very informative. 22.79% of respondents noted that the materials were not informative, and 13.4% stated they had no opinion.

Figure 5.8 How informative have you found the materials we have shared as part of this first phase of consultation?



- 117 The Applicant recognises the importance of understanding the context and explanation that accompany these statistics. The applicant considered qualitative analysis of the written feedback received.
- 118 A summary of these comments is presented in **Table 5.3**. The Applicant response provided is contemporary for this stage in the pre-application process (i.e. before commencing statutory consultation in January 2025), to show how this feedback was considered at the time.

Table 5.3: Phase one non-statutory consultation key comments and Applicant responses

Phase One Consultation feedback	Applicant response
<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>The Applicant notes that developments of this scale are required to meet UK Government solar PV targets.</p> <p>The Development 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 2024, the Applicant published early design changes to the design in response to feedback. The Applicant notes that in most cases this involved panels being removed and in one case a substation has been relocated.</p> <p>The Applicant also proposes to plant around 50,000 trees and 25km of additional hedgerow planting which will help to screen the solar park.</p>
<p>Respondents expressed concern about the perceived impact of the Development 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>The Applicant is 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 the Development compared to today.</p> <p>The Applicant is looking to achieve this through a range of measures, including woodland creation, permanent wild bird feed, grassland, hedgerow gapping, wetland creation and skylark plots.</p> <p>The Applicant noted that more information on ecological assessments and how a net gain in biodiversity could be achieved would be presented in the PEIR as part of the upcoming Phase Two Consultation.</p>

Phase One Consultation feedback	Applicant response
<p>Respondents raised concerns regarding the perceived 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 Development on food security.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises the importance of food security. The Applicant also notes that climate change is considered to be one of – if not the biggest – risk to food security, as reported by organisations including the United Nations and National Farmers Union. The Development is seeking temporary consent and is designed to generate clean power in response to the climate crisis, while supporting sustainable land management and retaining elements of continued agricultural use during its operational life.</p> <p>Although the Development will not impact food security, in line with policy, areas of the Development have been identified to avoid more productive agricultural land where possible. The Applicant will be undertaking further assessments on this, which will be presented in the Soils and Agricultural Chapter of the PEIR at Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that developments 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>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>The Applicant appreciates the sensitivity of flooding in the local area. This includes existing experiences of flooding as well as concern regarding whether the Development could increase future flood risk.</p> <p>In response to this, the Applicant is keen to provide more information and reassurance on how the Development is being designed to ensure it does not increase the risk of flooding. The PEIR, which will be published for Phase Two Consultation, will include a chapter on Water Resources to provide more information on the assessments and modelling undertaken, and any mitigation measures proposed.</p> <p>Through feedback the Applicant understands there are pre-existing flooding issues in the area and has committed</p>

Phase One Consultation feedback	Applicant response
	<p>resources to explore how flood alleviation measures could be funded.</p> <p>The Applicant is working with local stakeholders and agencies to further develop our holistic flood alleviation strategy to tackle pre-existing flooding.</p>
<p>Respondents expressed that they would rather see solar panels on roofs of commercial buildings, barns, houses and industrial estates.</p> <p>Comments were also made regarding the use of alternative low-carbon and renewable energy resources, such as hydrogen, nuclear, wind power (onshore and offshore) and tidal.</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to supporting rooftop solar PV through its 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 Government's 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, the Applicant considers the land included within the Development to be the most appropriate for this technology.</p>
<p>Respondents commented that the cumulative impact of other proposed solar farms in the area must be considered.</p>	<p>The Applicant is undertaking thorough environmental assessments to understand and manage any potential effects of the Development.</p> <p>This involves ensuring that the Development proposals are not considered in isolation but also recognising the potential cumulative effects when combined with other existing or proposed solar farms and local developments.</p> <p>This approach has been set out in the Applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, and the emerging results will be presented as part of our Phase Two Consultation.</p>

5.4 ONGOING ENGAGEMENT

- ¹¹⁹ The Applicant's communication 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.

- ¹²⁰ The website continued to be available for any interested parties to access the Development's information, including responses to Frequently Asked Questions, responding to topics and themes throughout the Phase One Consultation.

6 POST-PHASE ONE NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES AND ONGOING COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

121 The Applicant continued to engage with local authorities, parish councils, community members and interested parties between the defined phases of consultation on the Development (March – December 2024).

122 This ongoing activity included:

- Communicating early design changes in response to consultation feedback in March 2024;
- Hosting two solar farm open days where invited stakeholders – including parish council members, political and community representatives, as well as individuals who had signed up to receive updates on the Development – had the opportunity to visit a local operational solar farm within the Newark and Sherwood District across two days in June 2024;
- Publishing the Phase One Consultation Summary Report in August 2024 to show how the Applicant had considered feedback from Phase One Consultation and the next steps in the development process;
- Progressing with the energy efficiency grant scheme, which provides the opportunity to fund energy-saving interventions in domestic, small and community buildings in the vicinity of the Development; and
- Attending meetings with local authorities, parish councils and community groups between March and December 2024.

6.2 EARLY DESIGN CHANGES (MARCH 2024)

123 The Applicant made early design changes to the Development in response to phase one non-statutory feedback. In most cases this involved panels being removed from specific areas, and, in one case, a substation was relocated.

124 These early 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 on 28 March 2024.

6.3 SOLAR FARM OPEN DAYS (JUNE 2024)

125 Following the announcement of the Applicant's early design changes, the Applicant arranged visits to a local operational solar farm within the Newark and Sherwood district. The email inviting stakeholders to the solar farm open days is included in **Appendix 5.1.4: Post-Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.4]**.

126 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 observe the infrastructure and mitigation associated with solar farms in action, and have their questions answered on a guided tour.

127 The open days took place on Friday 14 June and Saturday 15 June 2024, with 69 members of the public attending across the two days. **Figure 6.1** shows attendees at the solar farm open day on Friday 14 June.

Figure 6.1 Attendees at GNR Solar Farm Open Day



6.4 PHASE ONE CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT (AUGUST 2024)

- 128 The Applicant published a Phase One Consultation Summary Report on 06 August 2024. The Phase One Consultation Summary Report provided an overview of how the Applicant undertook its Phase One Consultation, the level and themes of the response it received to this consultation, and how this feedback was considered. The document also included a summary of next steps for the Development, including the upcoming publication of the SoCC and the subsequent Phase Two (statutory) consultation, and a reminder of the Applicant's communication channels for any enquiries or comments.
- 129 The Applicant distributed a postcard publicising the 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.
- 130 A copy of the Phase One Consultation Summary Report is provided in **Appendix 5.1.4: Post-Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.4]**.

6.5 ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME (SEPTEMBER 2024)

- 131 The Applicant contacted host parish councils regarding their participation in the Applicant's Energy Efficiency grant scheme in September 2024.
- 132 The Applicant's Energy Efficiency scheme offers grants to fund energy saving interventions in domestic, small and community buildings. By partnering with local renewable energy companies, the scheme would offer grants for energy-related home improvements to households within the parishes hosting the Development.

- 133 The first phase of the scheme involved home energy surveys conducted via a survey provider (ThermaFY) for 33 participants who had signed up to the scheme during the Phase One non-statutory consultation.
- 134 The home surveys aimed to improve homeowners' energy efficiency, reducing household energy bills, as well as contributing to the UK's net zero targets.
- 135 For the second phase of the scheme, the Applicant publicised the scheme to host parish councils on 09 September 2024, introducing the scheme, how parish members can participate and the next steps.
- 136 Since September 2024, a further 127 participants have signed up to the second phase of the scheme, with surveys conducted by a local renewable energy company, Trusted Energy set to take place during Summer and Autumn 2025.
- 137 Emails sent to stakeholders, as well as the Energy Efficiency application form, can be found in **Appendix 5.1.4: Post-Phase One Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.4]**.

6.6 ONGOING ENGAGEMENT (MARCH – DECEMBER 2024)

6.6.1 Engagement with Newark and Sherwood District Council

- 138 The Applicant continued to engage with host local authorities, Newark and Sherwood District Council after the close of Phase One Consultation.
- 139 The Applicant met with Newark and Sherwood District Council on several occasions between the close of Phase One Consultation and the start of phase two statutory consultation. These meetings are detailed in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1: Ongoing engagement with Newark and Sherwood District Council

Meeting date	Stakeholders present	Key meeting notes
18 March 2024	Cllr Rowan Cozens, Deputy Leader of the Council (Independent, Beacon ward)	Presentation from the Applicant on the results of Phase One Consultation, the NG+ Community Benefit Scheme, and flood alleviation measures.
17 April 2024	Cllr Paul Taylor (Labour, Devon ward) Matthew Finch (Director of Communications and Environment) Matthew Adey (Development Manager) Gregory Dawson (Director of Planning and Environment)	Presentation from the Applicant on the results of Phase One Consultation, as well as proposed flood alleviation measures.
10 May 2024	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Meeting with NSDC Steering Group on Biodiversity.

Meeting date	Stakeholders present	Key meeting notes
18 June 2024	Keith Melton Lib Dem member for Climate Change Emma Oldham Independent member and Portfolio Holder for Biodiversity & Environmental Services ES, Mike Gray, Biodiverse MN, LA. Emily Richardson - Trent Trust River Lynn Fres - The Sherwood Forest Trust Matt Adey - Dev Manager for Development Services, NSDC Mark Speck - Notts Wildlife Trust	Biodiversity Workshop on Biodiversity Opportunities through the Development, presented by the Applicant. Ideas on how to maximise benefits from woodland, hedgerows, retained agricultural land, green corridors, wildlife sites, wetlands, and permanent grassland.
17 July 2024	Cllr Paul Taylor (Labour, Devon ward) Matthew Finch (Director of Communications and Environment) with Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Newark and Sherwood District Council Officers.	Flood partnership meeting, on various aspects of flood prevention, mitigation and the Applicant plans for creating schemes to alleviate pre-existing flooding could gain buy in from the associated authorities
22 July 2024	Simon Betts (Planner – Major Projects)	Presentation from the Applicant on the draft SoCC and preparations for statutory consultation
24 July 2024, 3 October 2024	Simon Betts (Planner – Major Projects)	Regular Development team meetings with Simon Betts (Planning Officer)
18 December 2024	Simon Betts (Planner – Major Projects) NSDC Members	Meeting with NSDC members regarding the launch of statutory consultation.

6.6.2 Parish councils

¹⁴⁰ As part of the Applicant's ongoing engagement following the close of Phase One Consultation, the Applicant organised meetings and conducted

visits with several host parish councils. These took place from the early summer months through to late November 2024.

¹⁴¹ **Table 6.2** shows the meetings that were held with parish councils between the period of March and November 2024.

Table 6.2: Meetings with Parish Councils from March to November 2024

Date	Stakeholder	Key meeting notes
05 March 2024	Carlton on Trent Parish Council	Presentation by the Applicant on Phase One Consultation results, early design changes, proposed flood alleviation measures, NG+ community benefit fund and energy efficiency scheme.
20 March 2024	Egmanton Parish Council	
08 April 2024	North Muskham Parish Council	
21 May 2024	Egmanton Parish Council	
05 June 2024	Weston Parish Council	
09 July 2024	Sutton on Trent Parish Council	
18 July 2024	Maplebeck Parish Meeting	
31 July 2024	South Muskham Parish Council	
12 August 2024	North Muskham Parish Council	Presentation by the Applicant on ongoing design changes to the Development, proposed outline traffic management plans, flood alleviation measures, NG+ community benefit fund and energy efficiency scheme.
22 August 2024	Ossington Parish Meeting	
04 September 2024	Eakring Parish Council	
10 October 2024	South Muskham Parish Council	
13 November 2024	Caunton Parish Council	

6.6.3 The Applicant's approach to 'near neighbours'

¹⁴² While the Applicant's communication channels were open to all and any interested parties, and efforts were made to publicise the Development and consultation opportunities within the vicinity of the Development, the Applicant made additional efforts to contact owner and occupiers of residential properties within the closest proximity to the Development.

¹⁴³ The Applicant carried on with this approach to near neighbours, those residents of properties residing within 50 metres of Draft Order Limits.

¹⁴⁴ The Applicant proactively engaged with near neighbours to the Draft Order Limits and arranged meetings with them at their properties following the

early design changes in April 2024. **Table 6.3** shows the seven meetings held between the Applicant and near neighbours during this time period.

Table 6.3: Meetings held between the Applicant and near neighbours after Phase One Consultation

Stakeholder / Organisation	Meeting date	Key meeting notes
Local resident in Egmanton	09 April 2024	Discussion between local residents and the Applicant's team regarding visual impacts and assessment process, individual circumstances to consider, and possible mitigation measures to develop.
Business owners in Sapphire Lakes, Newark	11 April 2024	
Local resident in Cauntton Lodge Farm	24 April 2024	
Local residents in Carlton on Trent	25 April 2024	
Local resident in Moorhouse	25 April 2024	
Local resident in Norwell and Norwell Woodhouse	25 April 2024	
Local resident in Bathley	25 April 2024	

7 PREPARATION FOR STATUTORY CONSULTATION

7.1 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE

- 145 Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in the ‘vicinity’ of the land to which the Development relates.
- 146 Section 47(2) requires that the Applicant must consult relevant local authorities on the content of this statement, known as the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
- 147 In accordance with Section 47(3) of the 2008 Act, the deadline given for receipt of local authority responses to consultation on the content of the SoCC should be no less than the end of a 28-day period (commencing on the day after the day on which the local authority received the request for comments).
- 148 In developing the SoCC, regard must be had to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal is EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on its PEIR.
- 149 The PEIR was published as part of the formal Section 42 consultation, which took place in parallel to the Phase Two community consultation (statutory consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act) between 09 January and 20 February 2025.
- 150 Details of the requirements regarding the SoCC from the legislation and guidance and how the Development complied with these requirements are set out in the Statement of Compliance, provided as **Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1]**.

7.2 DEVELOPMENT OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- 151 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. At the time of preparing the SoCC the relevant authorities within Section 43(1) were:
- Newark and Sherwood District Council
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
- 152 The Applicant also sought feedback from Bassetlaw District Council on the draft SoCC. Although the local authority is not host to any of the Development’s infrastructure, the Applicant’s CCZ extended into the boundary of Bassetlaw District Council.

7.3 CONSULTATION ON AN EARLY WORKING DRAFT OF THE SOCC

- 153 In July 2024, the Applicant sought feedback from the host authorities on an early working draft of the SoCC prior to commencing formal consultation on the draft SoCC. This was to provide an additional opportunity to inform the content of the SoCC and an opportunity for a briefing.

154 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 [EN010162/APP/5.1.5]**.

155 In a covering email, the Applicant requested comments on the early working draft SoCC to be provided by 09 July 2024.

7.4 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SOCC AND RESPONSES

156 The Applicant formally provided a draft SoCC to host authorities for consultation on 19 July 2024 with a deadline for responses 27 August 2024. The response period was 40 days (19 July 2024 – 27 August 2024), and therefore exceeded the requirement set in Section 47(3) to provide a period of 28 days.

157 The draft SoCC was issued alongside a covering email to explain the purpose of the draft SoCC, the response process and deadline for comments.

158 The Applicant received comments in response to the SoCC consultation from Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. Bassetlaw District council confirmed they had no comments to submit.

159 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.

160 The feedback submitted to the consultation on the draft SoCC, and how this was considered by the Applicant, is described in **Table 7.1** and **Table 6.2**.

Table 7.1: Applicant consideration of feedback received to the draft SoCC from Newark and Sherwood District Council (comments provided 23 August 2024).

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>

Comment	Applicant response
<p>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>	<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>
<p>Section 2: Our Consultation Process</p>	
<p>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>	<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> <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>
<p>Section 3: Method of Consultation</p>	

Comment	Applicant response
<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. 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.”</i></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"> • 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

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>platforms to further publicise the consultation and act as a database for information (e.g. dedicated website and social media accounts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible events – including in-person and virtual meetings and presentations, in-person information events at publicly accessible locations, and an online webinar. • Engagement – including proactive communications with MPs, local planning authorities, councillors, parish councils, seldom heard groups, and local interest groups. • Project documentation - the Applicant is also committed to the provision of information in alternative languages and formats by request and as necessary. <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 Development'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	

Comment	Applicant response
<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 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>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 2008. The Applicant has committed to update the wording of the SoCC to say:</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>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 kilometres 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>

Comment	Applicant response
	<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"> • Targeted outreach: the Applicant will contact 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 website, social media, and email). • Tailored communication materials: the Applicant is committed to providing information in alternative languages and formats by request and as necessary. • 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

Comment	Applicant response
	members will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
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 Our Phase Two Consultation is going to take place between Thursday 09 January 2025 and 20 February 2025.</i></p> <p><i>5.4 Please see Table 2 for a schedule of public information events to be held during Phase Two Consultation.”</i></p>
Section 6: What we will consult on	
<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 make it easier to interpret and understand.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. The Applicant will provide clear, easy to interpret consultation materials to ensure readers understand the information provided.</p>

Comment	Applicant response
Section 7: How we will consult and how respondents can participate	
<p>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>	<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 website. This will likely involve publishing clearly titled individual chapters of the PEIR.</p>
<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>	<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, 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 website.</p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<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 Development 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.</p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<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</p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>the cost of this in the Section 48 Notice to be published in local and national media and on the 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> <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 Development.</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</p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>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 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>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> <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>
<p>Section 8: Consultation Reporting</p>	
<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>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 Development to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.</p>

Table 7.2: Applicant consideration of feedback received to the draft SoCC from Nottinghamshire County Council (comments provided 15 August 2024).

Comment	Applicant response
Section 3: Method of Consultation	
<p>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>	<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 https://www.facebook.com/GNRsolarpark</p> <p>NG+ Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/NGpluscommunity</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 website (www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk).</p>
<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>	<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</p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>Development 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> <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 website. This will likely involve publishing clearly titled individual chapters of the PEIR to ensure they are easy to navigate.</p>

Comment	Applicant response
A telephone helpline should be considered - to be staffed during the consultation phase for advice or information on the project consultation.	<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 phoneline is manned between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays), and has been established since October 2023.</p> <p>The freephone information line, along with the Freepost and email address remain open throughout and in between phases of consultation.</p>

7.5 PUBLICATION OF THE SOCC

- ¹⁶¹ The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act on 19 December 2024.
- ¹⁶² 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. Evidence of the SoCC being hosted on the website is provided in **Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.5]**.
- ¹⁶³ 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 [EN010162/APP/5.1.5]**.
- ¹⁶⁴ 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.

7.6 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH SOCC

- ¹⁶⁵ The Applicant undertook consultation consistent with the commitments established in the published SoCC, in accordance with Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act.
- ¹⁶⁶ **Table 7.3** describes how the Applicant has complied with commitments set out within the published SoCC.

Table 7.3: 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 and methods set out in this SoCC to the extent they are relevant to the subsequent consultation.	The Applicant has undertaken the phase two Statutory Consultation as described in the SoCC. The Applicant undertook a subsequent round of targeted consultation between Thursday 8 May and Friday 6 June 2025. This was required due to three additions to the Order Limits presented at Phase Two Consultation. The Applicant shared an Approach to Targeted Consultation document with Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council on 2 May, a week before the targeted phase of consultation took place. The Applicant's approach was consistent with the commitments set out in the SoCC. Further information about the targeted phase of consultation can be found in Section 11: Targeted Consultation of this report.
	[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).

Section	Commitment	Compliance
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"> • Potential impacts and accompanying mitigation. • Opportunities for community benefits associated with the Development. • Temporary impacts during construction. • Operational impacts. <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"> • A PEIR; • An accompanying Non-Technical Summary; • A central booklet; • Site location plan; • Illustrative masterplan; • Event displays; and • A Feedback form to encourage responses.
6. Who Will We Consult?	<p>We will consult anybody who is interested in taking part in the consultation.</p>	<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.</p>
	<p>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</p>	<p>The Applicant issued a community consultation postcard to all properties (over 5,900) within the defined Core Consultation Zone to publicise and encourage</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	us in the post (as set out in Section 7).	responses to the Phase Two Consultation.
	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 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> <p>1. Work with the host local authorities to identify a range</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.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>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.</p> <p>2. Display the Development contact information prominently on all materials to enable individuals to contact them with any questions or requests.</p> <p>3. Ensure that the central booklet can be made available in alternative forms on request.</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 measures to increase accessibility.</p> <p>Public consultation materials, such as the central booklet and 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>
	<p>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>	<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 the Applicant's phase one (non-statutory) consultation. The proposed list of venues</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		<p>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>
	<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>	<p>The Applicant publicised their range of free-to-use communications channels since the Development 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?	<p>Our Statutory Consultation (phase two) is planned to take place from 09 January 2025 until 20 February 2025.</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook a six-week community consultation on more detailed proposals for the Development between 09 January 2025 and 20 February 2025.</p>
	<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>The Applicant held the following events during their Phase Two Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maplebeck Village Hall (Thursday 23 January 2025, 2pm – 7:30pm) • Sutton on Trent Sports Club (Friday 24 January 2025, 2pm – 7:30pm)

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<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 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"> • North Muskham Rural Community Centre (Saturday 25 January 2025, 11am – 3pm) • Laxton Village Hall (Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2pm – 8pm) • Kelham House Country Manor (Thursday 30 January 2025, 11am – 3pm) • Carlton on Trent Village Hall (Friday 31 January 2025, 2pm – 7:30pm) • Eakring Cator Hall (Tuesday 04 February 2025, 2pm – 6:30pm) • Newark Town Hall (Wednesday 05 February 2025, 11am – 3pm) • Online Community Webinar (Monday 10 February 2025, 5:30pm – 7pm) <p>These event details were published on the Applicant's dedicated 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, four in-person events were extended and subsequently published on the website. The Applicant extended the following events during</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		<p>their Phase Two Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maplebeck Village Hall (Thursday 23 January 2025, 2pm – 8pm) • Laxton Village Hall (Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2pm – 8pm) • Carlton on Trent Village Hall (Friday 31 February 2025, 2pm – 7:30pm) • Newark Town Hall (Wednesday 05 February 2025, 11am – 6pm) <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 invited stakeholders, including political stakeholders and site landowners were invited to view exhibition materials, meet with the project team and provide feedback. These were held at the Air and Space Institute (ASI) Newark, a central location close to NSDC's offices, on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 15 January, 11am – 4:30pm • Thursday 16 January, 10am – 4:30pm <p>The Applicant also arranged to hold a</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		meeting with residents of Moorhouse in Moorhouse Chapel during the consultation period, on the evening of Wednesday 05 February 2025.
	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.	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.
	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>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 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 Development Freepost address.</p> <p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) were made available to read online,</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and available by request for a reasonable charge.
	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By submitting an online feedback form through the website. • By completing a paper copy feedback form, which can be submitted at an in-person event or returned via the freepost address. • By emailing: info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk • By writing, free of charge, to: FREEPOST GNR SOLAR 	<p>The information lines were open throughout the consultation and after. The contact details can be found in Section 12 of the SoCC, on the website, and in all consultation materials.</p> <p>These channels include a Freephone information line, Freepost address and email address, and have remained open throughout the pre-application phase.</p>
	<p>A dedicated 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 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 website, presenting all of the exhibition materials in a familiar and simple-</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		to-navigate digital room format. The Virtual Exhibition will remain available to view post-consultation.
	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>

8 STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

8.1 INTRODUCTION

- 167 In continuation of **Section 6** of this report, this section sets out the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant with the people living in the vicinity of the land (“the community”) to which the Development relates under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.
- 168 As required under Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act, the Applicant carried out statutory consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC. A summary of how the Applicant complied with the Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act through commitments placed in the SoCC is detailed in **Table 7.3**. This section sets out the Section 47 statutory consultation undertaken in line with the commitments set out in the SoCC.
- 169 Phase two (statutory Section 47) community consultation commenced on 09 January 2025 in parallel to the start of Section 42 consultation and Section 48 consultation. The Applicant held eight public in-person information events and one online community event between 23 January 2025 and 10 February 2025.
- 170 The Applicant purposefully carried out the Section 42 consultation and phase two Section 47 consultation in parallel to enable consultation on the PEIR with Section 42 consultees and the community. A consultation period of 42 days was provided for responses to the PEIR and the Phase Two Consultation information.
- 171 Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations states that under Section 47 of the 2008 Act, the SoCC needs to state whether the proposal is EIA development and how preliminary environmental information will be consulted on. The PEIR and a PEIR NTS were made available for community consultees to comment on as part of the phase two Section 47 consultation.

8.2 SECTION 47 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AREA

- 172 Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in the ‘vicinity’ of the land to which the Development relates.
- 173 The CCZ was identified for the Development and described in the draft SoCC for the local authorities to comment on. The core consultation zone, as presented in the SoCC, is included in **Figure 8.1**.

The map displays the Newark-on-Trent Urban Area, which is shaded in brown. Within this area, the Newark Urban Extension is highlighted with a red outline. The extension covers a large, irregularly shaped area in the center of the urban area, including the towns of Easington, Sutton on Trent, and parts of Newark-on-Trent. The map also shows surrounding towns and villages, such as Southwell, Easington, Sutton on Trent, and Newark-on-Trent. Major roads, including the A630 and A63, are visible. The map is a detailed representation of the urban area and its extension, showing the layout of the roads and the locations of the towns and villages.

- An initial distance of 2km from the boundary of solar development areas, and 500m from the proposed cable route, was considered and refined dependent on how the core consultation zone interacts and bisects property interests.
- 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 enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications.

- Direct mailings of phase one and phase two community consultation postcards;
- Hosting of a series of in-person community information events across a range of dates, times, and venues;
- Displaying hard copy Development information, including the PEIR NTS, across four Community Access Points (“CAPs”);

- Issuing posters to 143 identified local information points to publicise the consultation opportunities; and
 - Placing site notices across the Development area to publicise the Development and consultation opportunities.
- 176 The Applicant recognises that individuals or parties outside the core consultation zone may still have an interest in the Development. The Applicant therefore accepted feedback from any interested parties outside the core consultation zone.
- 177 In addition to the targeted activities within the core consultation zone, to further publicise consultation opportunities the Applicant also:
- Displayed consultation notices in regional and national newspapers;
 - Displayed consultation adverts in regional newspapers;
 - Issued a press release publishing the consultation opportunities to regional and trade press;
 - Hosted Development information and all consultation materials on the website; and
 - Issued Development updates to a register of email addresses for individuals who had registered to be kept informed.

8.3 UNDERTAKING CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE 2008 ACT

- 178 Statutory consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act was undertaken as a specific phase of consultation between 9 January and 20 February 2025 inclusive (allowing 42 days). While this was the first phase of statutory consultation, it was the second phase of community consultation, following on from the phase one (non-statutory) consultation undertaken in January-February 2024.
- 179 The Applicant undertook the following consultation activities as set out in the SoCC:
- Holding eight in-person information events during the phase two statutory consultation period;
 - Holding one online webinar for any members of the public to join via internet connection or telephone;
 - Offering briefing sessions to local authorities, MPs, and parish councils;
 - Posting community consultation postcards to all properties within the core consultation zone to publicise the Phase Two Consultation and share relevant information.
 - Central Booklets detailing the Development proposals were available at the four CAPs identified in the SoCC, information events, the website, and by request through the Development's communication channels.
 - Hosting feedback forms at CAPs, information events, the website, and by request. Completed feedback forms could be returned by Freepost, at in-person information events, online and by email;
 - Placing Section 48 notices in local and national newspaper publications;
 - Hosting free-to-use Development communication channels (email, Freephone, and Freepost) to receive feedback and enquiries throughout the pre-application period;

- Issuing posters publicising consultation opportunities to 143 identified local information points to be displayed across the core consultation zone;
- Hosting hard-copy Development information, including the PEIR NTS, at CAPs across the core consultation zone. These were publicised through the SoCC, the Central Booklet, the website, and Section 48 notices;
- Consulting with identified organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups, who were notified of the proposals, consultation activities, and feedback opportunities.

8.4 COMMUNITY ACCESS POINTS (CAPS)

180 The Applicant identified and liaised with four publicly accessible venues across the core consultation zone to act as Community Access Points (CAPs). The details of these CAPs were presented in the draft SoCC for consultation with local planning authorities.

181 The four CAPs are presented in **Table 8.1**.

Table 8.1 Community Access Points (CAPs)

Venue	Opening Hours
Newark and Sherwood District Council Offices Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1BY	Monday to Friday: 9:00 – 17:00
Southwell Library The Bramley Centre, King Street, Southwell, NG25 EH	Monday: 9:00 – 18:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:00 – 17:00 Thursday: 9:00 – 13:00 Saturday: 9:00 – 15:00 Sunday: 11:00 – 15:00
Newark Library Beaumont Gardens, Balderton Gate, Newark, NG24 1UW	Monday, Wednesday: 9:00 – 18:30 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 – 18:00 Saturday: 9:00 – 16:00
Ollerton Library Forest Road, New Ollerton, Newark, NG22 9PL	Monday, Friday: 9:00 – 13:00, 13:30 – 17:30 Tuesday: 9:00 – 13:00 Wednesday: 14:00 – 17:30 Saturday: 9:00 – 12:30

182 The following hard copy Development information was available to access at CAPs during the Phase Two Consultation:

- Development PEIR NTS
- SoCC (included in **Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.5]**)
- Phase Two Consultation Central Booklet (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**); and

- Phase Two Consultation Feedback Form (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**)

8.5 STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENT

- 183 In addition to formal Section 42 notifications, as described in **Section 8** of this report, local authorities, councillors, MPs, and parish councils and identified community organisations were notified by email at the start of the statutory consultation period on 9 November 2025.
- 184 Prior to this, these stakeholders were invited to be briefed by the Development team on the updated proposals for phase two ahead of the statutory second phase of community consultation. These emails were sent to stakeholders on 19 December 2024 in the SoCC publication communications.

Table 8.2 Key stakeholder meetings associated with phase two (statutory) consultation period

Stakeholder organisation	Date	Notes
Nottinghamshire County Council	Monday 20 January 2025, 14:00 – 15:00	Briefing to provide an update on the proposals with key stakeholders and discussion on consultation methods for Phase Two Consultation.
Moorhouse residents	Wednesday 5 February 2025, 18:30 – 19:30	In-person meeting to provide an update on the proposals, followed by a Q&A session, providing the opportunity for key concerns to be discussed and responded to.

- 185 The Applicant also held two preview information events where political stakeholders and community representatives were invited to view the consultation materials and speak with the Development team. These events took place during the second week of the consultation period and are detailed in **Table 8.3**.
- 186 The Applicant invited identified political stakeholders and community representatives to the pre-event briefings on 7 January 2025, two days before the launch of the statutory consultation on 9 January 2025. The full list of invitees can be found in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**.

Table 8.3 Phase Two pre-briefing information events

Venue	Date & Time	No. attendees
Air and Space Institute Newark Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BL	Wednesday 15 January 2025 11:00 – 16:30	36
	Thursday 16 January 2025, 10:00 – 16:30	25
Total attendees		61

8.6 SECTION 47 INFORMATION EVENTS

¹⁸⁷ During the statutory consultation period, the Applicant held a series of public information events, both in-person and online. These events took place during the consultation period across a range of times, days, and venues between the period of between 23 January 2025 and 10 February 2025.

¹⁸⁸ These events were scheduled to be held within the middle of the consultation period to allow time beforehand for the events to be effectively publicised and for interested parties to access and consider consultation information before attending. This timing also allowed time after the events for attendees to prepare and submit feedback ahead of the response deadline.

¹⁸⁹ The details of these events, including the attendance numbers recorded by the Applicant, are presented in **Table 8.4**.

Table 8.4 Public information events held during statutory Section 47 consultation

Venue	Date & Time	No. attendees
Maplebeck Village Hall Main Street, Maplebeck, Newark, NG22 0BS	Thursday 23 January 2025, 14:00 – 20:00	38
Sutton on Trent Sports Club Grassthorpe Road, Sutton on Trent, Newark, NG23 6QX	Friday 24 January 2025, 14:00 – 19:30	60
North Muskham Rural Community Centre North Muskham, Newark, NG23 6HL	Saturday 25 January 2025, 11:00 – 15:00	96
Laxton Village Hall High Street, Laxton, Newark, NG22 0NX	Wednesday 29 January 2025, 14:00 – 20:00	60

Venue	Date & Time	No. attendees
Kelham House Country Manor, Main Street, Kelham, Newark, NG23 5QP	Thursday 30 January 2025, 11:00 – 15:00	36
Carlton-on-Trent Village Hall Main Street, Carlton-on-Trent, Newark, NG23 6NW	Friday 31 January 2025, 14:00 – 19:30	61
Eakring Cator Hall Kirklington Road, Eakring, NG22 0DA	Tuesday 4 February 2025, 14:00 – 18:30	36
Newark Town Hall Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 1DU	Wednesday 05 February 2025, 11:00 – 18:00	53
Community Webinar via Zoom	Monday 10 February 2025, 17:30 – 19:00	19
Total attendees		459

¹⁹⁰ The following Development information was available at the public information events:

- Phase Two Consultation Central Booklet (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- Phase Two community Consultation Feedback Form (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- Phase Two information display boards (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- A solar panel, for demonstration purposes;
- A tablet displaying an interactive map of the Draft Order Limits;
- Informative videos on topics such as the Applicant's plans for EG Academy, an educational programme, NG+ community benefit scheme, and on the wider Development;
- Development PEIR and associated appendices; and
- Development PEIR NTS.

¹⁹¹ Representatives from the Applicant team across the relevant disciplines were present to discuss the Development with members of the local community attending the events.

¹⁹² The Applicant introduced a new format for the events held during the second phase of consultation. Each venue was set up to have various stations, each reflecting key themes identified during the first phase of consultation. At each station, exhibition materials were provided for attendees to view, and members of the project team were present to answer questions.

193 The key themes covered included:

- Landscape and Visual Impact;
- Local Ecology and Biodiversity;
- Land Use and Agriculture;
- Roof-top Solar and Energy Efficiency;
- Hydrology and Flood Risk;
- Tourism, Recreation, and Well-being;
- UK Manufacturing and Supply Chain;
- Education and Job Creation; and
- Noise, BESS Safety, Archaeology, Local Heritage, Climate Change, and Energy Needs.

194 This format proved effective in encouraging collaborative discussions, allowing the Applicant to engage in detailed conversations about the design changes that participants wanted to see.

Figure 8.2 Kelham House Country Manor information event



Figure 8.3 Flip stand presenting a variety of PEIR figures



Figure 8.4 North Muskham Rural Community Centre information event



Figure 8.5 Sutton on Trent Sports Club information event



8.7 DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE

¹⁹⁵ The Applicant updated the website at the start of the statutory Section 47 consultation period to host relevant information and materials.

¹⁹⁶ The following materials were free to view and download from the website:

- SoCC (included in **Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.5]**);
- Phase Two Consultation Central Booklet (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- Phase Two Consultation Exhibition Materials (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials**);
- Phase Two Consultation Community Consultation Postcard (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- Phase Two Consultation Poster (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- Site Location Plan (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- Masterplan Overview (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- Detailed Masterplan (Sheets 1 – 9) (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- An interactive map of the Development;
- Phase Two Consultation Access Proposals (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**); and
- Phase Two Consultation Community webinar slides (included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**).

197 The Applicant also created a Virtual Exhibition, which was available on the website from Thursday 23 January 2025, coinciding with the first in-person information event. The Virtual Exhibition presented all materials available at in-person events and was visited by over 500 people.

8.8 CONSULTATION PUBLICITY

198 The consultation opportunities, including public information events, website, communication channels, CAPs, and response deadline were publicised in the following ways:

- A Phase Two Community Consultation Postcard, which was issued to all properties within the core consultation zone, and available on the website (a copy of the Phase Two Community Consultation Postcard is provided in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- Poster publicising the consultation opportunities were issued to 143 local information points to display across the consultation area (a copy of the poster is provided in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**);
- Section 48 notices were placed in regional newspapers on successive weeks and in national newspapers, as listed in **Table 10.1**. A copy of the Section 48 notice is provided in **Appendix 5.1.8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.8]**);
- Section 48 notices were also erected around the Development area (see **Appendix 5.1.8: Section 48 Consultation Materials for display locations [EN010162/APP/5.1.8]**);
- The website, which was updated to publicise the consultation opportunities and make available consultation materials, including the Section 48 notice and Phase Two Consultation Central Booklet; and
- A press release was issued to the regional and trade media. (A copy of the press release and publications issued to is included in **Appendix 5.1.6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.6]**).

8.9 CONSULTATION RESPONSE

199 The Applicant received 311 feedback responses to the Section 47 statutory consultation. All comments were taken into consideration by the Applicant. The comments received are summarised in **Section 12** of this report and presented in detail in **Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN010162/APP/5.1.10]**, together with how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback when finalising the DCO application.

8.10 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE 2008 ACT

200 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Section 47 of the 2008 Act through the following activities:

- The Applicant consulted on the SoCC with all relevant local authorities as defined in Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act, giving them each at least 28 days to respond (as described in **Section 7** of this report);
- The Applicant advertised the SoCC in the publications described in **Section 7.5** of this Report;

- The Applicant commenced statutory consultation with the community through the publication of its SoCC on 19 December 2024 and in accordance with the SoCC (see **Table 7.3 SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance**);
- The Applicant consulted with the community i.e. those persons defined under Section 47 of the 2008 Act as living in the vicinity of the land where the Development is, by reference to a core consultation zone;
- The Applicant notified and offered briefing meetings to elected representatives and key stakeholders;
- The Applicant welcomed 459 members of the public across a series of eight public information events, held in-person and one event online;
- The Applicant purposefully ran the phase two Section 47 consultation in parallel to Section 42 consultation to invite responses from the community to the PEIR and PEIR NTS; and
- A total response period of 42 days was provided for the statutory Section 47 consultation, in excess of the minimum period of 28 days.

9 STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

9.1 INTRODUCTION

201 This chapter of the Consultation Report details the statutory consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act ('Section 42 consultation') and provides an overview of the consultation activities that took place during the statutory consultation period commencing 09 January 2025 and closing 20 February 2025.

9.2 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE

202 Section 42 of the 2008 Act requires that the Applicant must consult the following groups of stakeholders about the proposed Application:

- Such persons as may be prescribed;
- Each local authority that is within Section 43;
- Each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.

203 In relation to Section 42(1)(a) the Applicant consulted all persons listed as a prescribed consultee notified by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (c) of the EIA Regulations referred to in this Consultation Report as the 'Section 42 consultees' and listed in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**.

204 In addition to the prescribed consultees identified by the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant included a further 28 non-prescribed organisations to be consulted as Section 42 consultees (see **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]** which details those prescribed and non-prescribed consultees). All of these Section 42 consultees were issued the same Development information and were included in the same way in the Section 42 consultation as the Section 42 consultees identified by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. Development information was issued to Section 42 consultees in writing by post and/or email, depending on contact details available to the Applicant.

205 In relation to Section 42(1)(b), the local authorities under the definitions set out in Section 43 of the 2008 Act were consulted. **Table 9.1** includes a list of relevant local authorities and their classification, as defined by the 2008 Act.

206 For the purposes of Section 42(1)(d), a person is within Section 44 of the 2008 Act if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land; is interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land; or is entitled to make a relevant claim if the order sought by the proposed Application were to be made and fully implemented.

207 The relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the 2008 Act were consulted as part of the Section 42 consultation between 09 January 2025 and 20 February 2025. The list of land interests consulted is provided in

Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7].

- 208 Section 45(1) of the 2008 Act states that the Applicant, when consulting a stakeholder under Section 42, must provide notification of the deadline for responses to the consultation. Section 45(2) states that such a deadline must not be less than 28 days. The Applicant gave Section 42 consultees a period of 42 days (from 09 January to 20 February 2025) for consultation responses. This deadline for responses was communicated in a Section 42 covering letter, which is provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**.

9.3 PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT

- 209 The PEIR was produced as part of the statutory consultation documents for the Section 42 consultation with the Section 42 consultees (and also made available for the parallel phase two Section 47 statutory consultation).
- 210 The PEIR comprised of the information specified in Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations which has been compiled by the Applicant and is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Development
- 211 A PEIR NTS was also produced, recognising that some Section 42 consultees may wish to view a more concise and less-detailed document.

9.4 IDENTIFYING SECTION 42 CONSULTTEES

- 212 The Applicant consulted all statutory bodies listed by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (c) of the EIA Regulations in the Scoping Opinion dated 19 December 2024 to be prescribed Section 42 consultees.
- 213 In addition, the Applicant also treated 28 non-prescribed bodies as Section 42 consultees. These bodies included representatives of local environmental and conservation organisations.
- 214 **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]** includes a list of the Section 42 consultees for the Development.
- 215 The Applicant notified Section 42 consultees of the statutory consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence by post on
- A Section 42 covering letter, including link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request;
 - A site plan showing the location of the Development; and
 - 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).
- 216 The Applicant also contacted Section 42 stakeholders by email on 09 January 2025, where contact details were available.

9.5 IDENTIFYING SECTION 43 CONSULTEES

- ²¹⁷ Section 42(1)(b) of the 2008 Act places a duty for the Applicant to consult each local authority that is within Section 43.
- ²¹⁸ Section 43 defines what a local authority is for the purposes of Section 42 i.e. any local authority in whose area the proposed development would be sited and neighbouring authorities sharing a boundary.
- ²¹⁹ Local Authorities are classified by the 2008 Act as “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D” depending on whether the development is sited in their area (“B” and “C”) or not “A” and “D”) and depending on the tier of the local authority.
- ²²⁰ The Applicant identified and consulted with local authorities identified in accordance with Section 43 of the 2008 Act. These local authorities are listed in **Table 9.1** and referred to in this Consultation Report as ‘Section 43 consultees’.

Table 9.1: Relevant local authorities under Section 43 of the 2008 Act

Local Authority	Classification under Section 43
Melton Borough Council	A
West Lindsey District Council	A
North Kesteven District Council	A
Bassetlaw District Council	A
Rushcliffe Borough Council	A
Gedling Borough Council	A
South Kesteven Borough Council	A
Ashfield District Council	A
Mansfield District Council	A
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	A
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	A
Newark and Sherwood District Council	B
Nottinghamshire County Council	C
North Lincolnshire Council	D
Nottingham City Council	D
Derbyshire County Council	D
Leicestershire County Council	D
Lincolnshire County Council	D

- ²²¹ The Applicant notified Section 43 consultees of the statutory consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence on 09 January 2025 in writing by email and by post.

- A Section 42 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**);
- A site plan showing the location of the Development (provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**) and
- 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) (provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**).

9.6 IDENTIFYING SECTION 44 CONSULTEES

- 222 Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act places a duty for the Applicant to consult each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.
- 223 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.
- 224 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.
- 225 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.
- 226 Where owners, lessees, tenants, or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Development site area.
- 227 The list of all land interests consulted is presented in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]** (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.
- 228 All persons listed in the **Book of Reference [EN010162/APP/4.3]**, 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.
- 229 The Applicant informed the Section 44 consultees of the consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence by post (or email):
- A Section 44 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials on the website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB

by request (as provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**);

- A site plan showing the location of the Development (as provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]** and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**).

230 The Applicant received no responses from Section 44 consultees to the Section 42 consultation.

231 The Applicant also notes that many Section 44 consultees would also have been notified of the Section 47 consultation, as described in **Section 8**, and may have therefore chosen to provide their responses to the Section 47 consultation without indicating they were also a Section 44 consultee. In these cases, their feedback will have been captured as Section 47 and presented in **Section 12** and **Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010162/APP/5.1.10]**.

9.7 DUTY TO NOTIFY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE OF THE PROPOSED APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

232 Prior to commencing Section 42 consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent for the Development under Section 46 of the 2008 Act. The notification was sent to the Planning Inspectorate electronically on 07 January 2025, including the following attachments:

- A Section 46 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials on the website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (included in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**);
- Example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being Section 42 consultees and the other for Section 44 consultees) (included in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**);
- A site location plan showing the Development (included in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**) and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public information events and the locations of where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (included in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**).

233 The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State acknowledge receipt of the notification on 13 January 2025. A copy of this acknowledgement is included in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**.

9.8 UNDERTAKING SECTION 42 CONSULTATION

234 In summary, Section 42 consultees (including those defined under Section 43 and Section 44) were notified on the commencing of the Section 42 consultation in writing on or before 09 January 2025. The following documents were provided to Section 42 consultees:

- A relevant covering letter, explaining why the consultee has been contacted and including a link to the consultation materials on the website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (included in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**);
- A site plan showing the location of the Development (included in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]**); and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public information events and the locations of where the consultation documents could be inspected free-of-charge) (included in **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials**).

235 The PEIR formed part of the Section 42 consultation document under Section 45(3) of the 2008 Act. Section 42 consultees were also directed towards the Section 47 community consultation materials, as described in **Section 8** of this report.

236 With the Section 42 consultation period commencing on 09 January 2025 and ending on 20 February 2025, this provided a response of 42 days (therefore exceeding the minimum 28-day statutory period set out in Section 54(2) of the 2008 Act).

237 In total 36 responses were received from Section 42 consultees to the Section 42 consultation. An overview of the Section 42 feedback and Applicant's response is provided in **Section 13**, with a more detailed record of Section 42 feedback provided in **Appendix 5.1.11: Section 42 Applicant Response [EN010162/APP/5.1.11]**.

9.9 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FORMAL CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42

238 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Sections 42, 44, 45 and 46 of the 2008 Act by undertaking the following activity:

- The Applicant consulted with such persons as may be prescribed (Sections 42(1)(a) – (d)) and relevant to the Development, including landowners under Section 44;
- A number of additional non-prescribed consultees were scoped in as Section 42 consultees;
- Notification of the Development under Section 46 was provided to the Secretary of State on 07 January 2025, before the start of the consultation period; and
- The total response periods provided for each part of the Section 42 consultation each exceeded the statutory period of 28 days.

10 STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 48 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

10.1 INTRODUCTION

239 This section details how the Applicant has complied with Section 48 of the 2008 Act (duty to publicise).

10.2 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE

240 Section 48 of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to publicise the proposed Application in the prescribed manner. A deadline for receipt of comments to the publicity must also be provided.

241 Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations sets out what the publicity under Section 48 of the 2008 Act should entail, which essentially is the publication of a notice in given publications, with requirements on the contents of such notice. Specifically, Regulation 4 requires an applicant to publish the notice for two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers, once in a national newspaper, and once in the London Gazette.

242 Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 notes that where a 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 regulations 11(1)(c). The Applicant complied with this guidance.

243 For the Development, Section 48 publicity took place in parallel with Phase Two (statutory under Section 47) community consultation, Section 42 consultation, and publication of the PEIR. The parallel consultation process provided the same response times for the Section 42, 47 and 48 consultations.

244 Evidence of compliance with the relevant legislation is provided in **Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1]**.

10.3 PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

245 The Section 48 notice (included in **Appendix 5.1.8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.8]**) publicising the Development and advertising the intention to apply for a DCO was placed in the publications listed in **Table 10.1**.

246 All consultees identified under Section 42 of the 2008 Act were provided with a copy of the Section 48 notice as required by Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations and described in **Section 9**.

247 Copies of the notices as placed in the newspapers are provided in **Appendix 5.1.8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.8]**.

Table 10.1: Publication schedule of Section 48 notice

Publication	First Insertion	Second Insertion
Newark Advertiser	02 January 2025	09 January 2025
Nottingham Post	02 January 2025	09 January 2025
The Guardian	06 January 2025	N/A
The London Gazette	06 January 2025	N/A

²⁴⁸ The Section 48 notice contained the required information under Regulation 4(4) of the APFP Regulations.

²⁴⁹ The Applicant erected Section 48 notices around the Development area. The notice and map of locations for the notices are shown in **Appendix 5.1.8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.8]**. The Applicant checked the locations of the Section 48 notices weekly during the consultation period, replacing any that had been removed or damaged.

10.4 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FORMAL CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 48

²⁵⁰ In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Section 48 of the 2008 Act by undertaking the following activities:

- The Applicant publicised the Development in appropriate newspapers in the prescribed manner, as listed in **Table 10.1**;
- The Applicant held the Section 48 consultation in parallel with the Section 42 consultation and Section 47 consultation, notifying consultees of the PEIR and where the consultation documents could be reviewed; and
- The Applicant placed Section 48 notices around the Development site area.

11 TARGETED CONSULTATION ON A SERIES OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

11.1 INTRODUCTION

- 251 Following the close of the Phase Two Consultation, the Applicant continued to refine the proposals for the Development in preparation for submitting a DCO application. This refinement was informed by further design work and due diligence, consideration of consultation feedback, and responding to the results and data from environmental assessments.
- 252 This resulted in a series of specific amendments to the Draft Order Limits – increases – compared to the Draft Order Limits presented in the PEIR and for Phase Two Consultation.
- 253 The Applicant undertook further statutory consultation targeted on these specific additions to ensure communities and consultees had an opportunity to comment on the full Draft Order Limits prior to a DCO application being submitted.

11.2 PREPARING FOR FURTHER TARGETED CONSULTATION

- 254 The Applicant prepared a strategy for undertaking this phase of targeted consultation. This strategy was informed by the relevant legislation and guidance, as described in **Section 2** of this report and further detailed in **Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1]**.
- 255 The Applicant shared a document describing the Applicant's approach to targeted consultation for further review and comment on Friday 02 May 2025. A copy of this document is included in **Appendix 5.1.9: Targeted Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.9]**.
- 256 The Applicant received comments in response to this targeted consultation from Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council on 06 June 2025. Responses to feedback received during Targeted Consultation can be found in Appendix 5.1.11: S42 Applicant Response Table **[EN010162/APP/5.1.9]**.

11.3 TARGETED CONSULTATION PERIOD (MAY – JUNE 2025)

- 257 The Applicant carried out a defined phase of additional targeted consultation between Thursday 08 May 2026 – Friday 06 June 2025. This consultation focused on three proposed specific additions to the Draft Order Limits that was presented at Phase Two Consultation.
- 258 The Applicant published a Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet to provide details of the consultation and to present each specific addition to the Draft Order Limits. This included a description of every proposed addition and confirmation of any potential changes to the environmental effects presented within the PEIR. A copy of the Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet is included in **Appendix 5.1.9: Targeted Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.9]**.
- 259 The Applicant publicised the consultation information and response deadline by:

- Distributing the Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet to 1,589 properties within the parishes of Weston, Egmonton, Norwell, Laxton and Moorhouse, Ossington, Sutton-on-Trent and Carlton-on-Trent.
- Distributing a press release containing details of the consultation to regional media publications;
- Providing the relevant consultation information documents – including the Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet and an accompanying Site Location and Order Limits Plan – on the Development website; and
- Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.

260 Copies of the consultation materials listed above in paragraph 247 are provided in **Appendix 5.1.9: Targeted Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.9]**.

261 The Applicant consulted with Section 42 consultees as part of this Targeted Consultation. **Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7]** includes a list of the Section 42 consultees for the Development.

262 The relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the 2008 Act were also consulted as part of this Targeted Consultation. The list of land interests consulted is provided in **Appendix 5.1.9: Targeted Consultation [EN010162/APP/5.1.9]**.

263 Section 44 notices were erected on site on Wednesday 07 May and were checked on a weekly basis thereafter. A final check was conducted on Friday 06 June, and the notices were subsequently removed from the site on Monday 09 June. A copy of the notice is included in **Appendix 5.1.9: Targeted Consultation [EN010162/APP/5.1.9]**.

264 The Applicant recorded 37 submissions of feedback from community organisations, residents and interested parties considered as Section 47 feedback to the targeted consultation. The Applicant has considered these representations alongside all other Section 47 feedback received. A summary of Section 47 feedback is provided in **Section 12** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's consideration of feedback received in **Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010162/APP/5.1.10]**.

265 The Applicant received 19 submissions of feedback from Section 42 consultees, including one from a Section 44 consultee, as part of the targeted consultation. The Applicant has considered these representations alongside all other Section 42 feedback received. A summary of Section 42 and Section 44 feedback is provided in **Section 13** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's consideration of feedback in **Appendix 5.1.11: Section 42 Applicant Response [EN010162/APP/5.1.11]**.

12 SECTION 47 STATUTORY CONSULTATION: RESPONSES RECEIVED, ISSUES RAISED AND CHANGES MADE

12.1 OVERVIEW

- 266 The Phase Two Consultation was statutory under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.
- 267 This consultation was held over a six-week period, between Thursday 09 January 2025 to Thursday 20 February 2025.
- 268 The application invited feedback to be submitted in writing or online via the free-to-use project communications channels. This included an online form, a monitored email inbox, a freepost mailbox, phone lines and written feedback collected at in-person events.
- 269 During the Phase Two Consultation, The Applicant received 311 pieces of feedback. This included 48 hard copy feedback forms, 172 responses to the digital feedback form, and 91 written responses received by email or Freepost.
- 270 The Phase Two feedback form (both the paper copy and digital version) included a mix of closed and open-ended questions to encourage responses regarding the respondent's interest in the Development, the proposals and community benefits.
- 271 Responses provided through the feedback form (both hardcopy and digital) therefore included responses to closed (single and multiple choice) questions and open-ended responses.
- 272 The quantitative data from the closed questions is presented in **Table 12.1** of this report. The qualitative data from the open-ended responses has been considered alongside written feedback received through email and Freepost and is summarised in **Table 12.2** and presented in full in **Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010162/APP/5.1.10]**, alongside the Applicant's response to this feedback.

12.2 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES RECEIVED

- 273 **Table 12.1** presents a summary of the quantitative data gathered by the Applicant through their feedback form and other engagement channels. The results are presented visually in **Figures 12.1 to 12.4**.

Table 12.1: Summary of quantitative data from Phase Two Consultation

Question number	Feedback question	Analysis of response data
2	How would you describe your interest in Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park?	214 people answered this question. The vast majority (81.5%) described their interest as being a local resident. Other respondents identified as being regular visitors (10.3%), landowners (9.1%), 'other' (8.6%), local business owners (6.0%), local

Question number	Feedback question	Analysis of response data
		<p>interest groups (3.9%), local representatives (3.0%) and statutory organisations (2.6%).</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 11.1.</p>
3	<p>As a principle, what is your view of the need for installing ground-mounted solar panels?</p>	<p>222 respondents answered this question.</p> <p>130 respondents (58.6%) did not agree with the need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure. 66 respondents (29.7%) indicated they agree with the need for ground-mounted solar infrastructure and 26 (11.7%) feel they do not understand enough about the need for ground-mounted solar infrastructure.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 11.2.</p>
4	<p>Based on our updated proposals, what are your views on Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park?</p>	<p>224 respondents answered this question.</p> <p>131 respondents (58.7%) indicated they do not support the proposals, 62 respondents (27.8%) signalled they would like changes to be made to be able to support the Development, 27 respondents (12.1%) supported the proposals, and 3 respondents (1.3%) indicated they have no opinion.</p> <p>The results of this question are presented in Figure 11.3.</p>
5	<p>Which aspects of the project are the most important to you?</p>	<p>221 respondents answered this question.</p> <p>The most frequently selected aspect was 'Landscape and visual' (74.5%), followed by 'Local ecology and biodiversity' (73.3%), 'Land use and agriculture' (72.4%) and 'Hydrology and flood risk' (61.2%).</p> <p>Further, respondents expressed other aspects as being most important including 'Recreation and amenity' (58.6%), 'Traffic and access' (56.9%), 'Noise and safety' (41.4%), 'Archaeology and local</p>

Question number	Feedback question	Analysis of response data
		<p>heritage' (39.7%) and 'Climate change and energy need' (28.4%). Other aspects selected included 'Socio-economic and tourism' (20.7%) and 'Other' (12.5%).</p> <p>The Applicant notes that respondents could select more than one aspect they find important, and therefore percentages will exceed 100%.</p> <p>The results of this question are presented in Figure 11.4.</p>

Figure 12.1: How would you describe your interest in Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park?

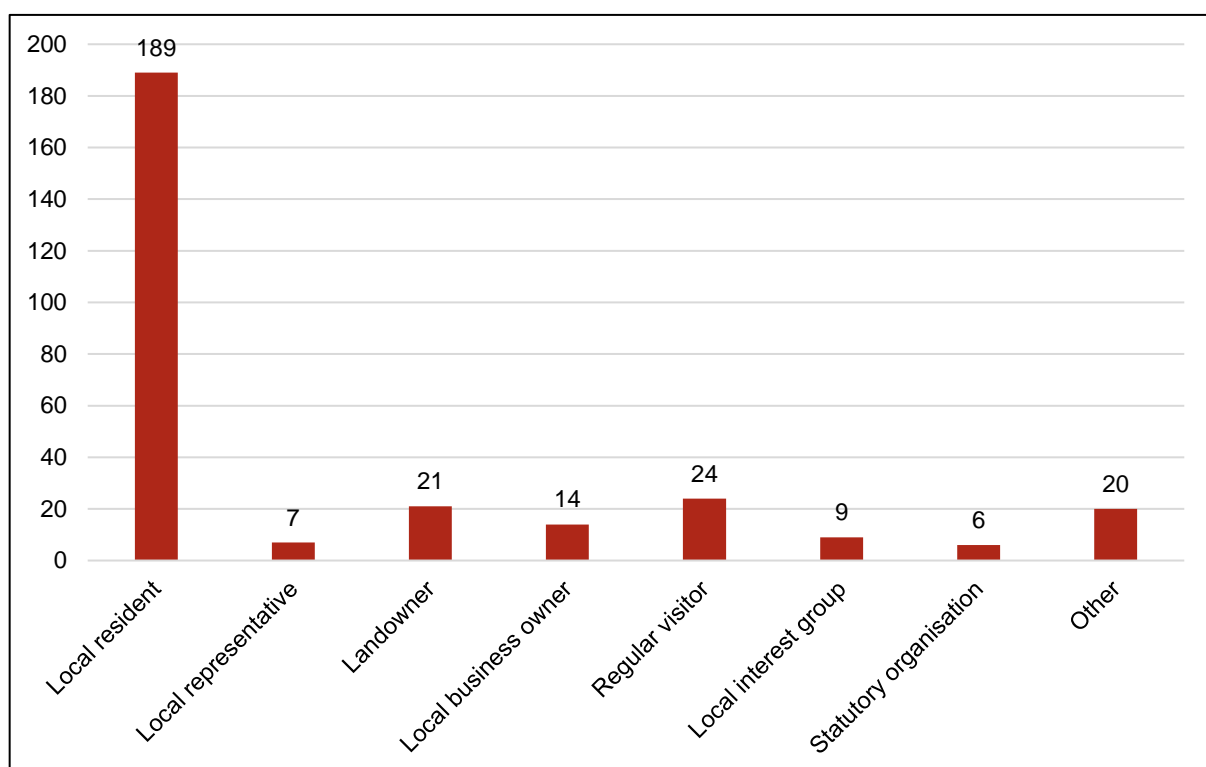


Figure 12.2: As a principle, what is your view of the need for installing ground-mounted solar panels?

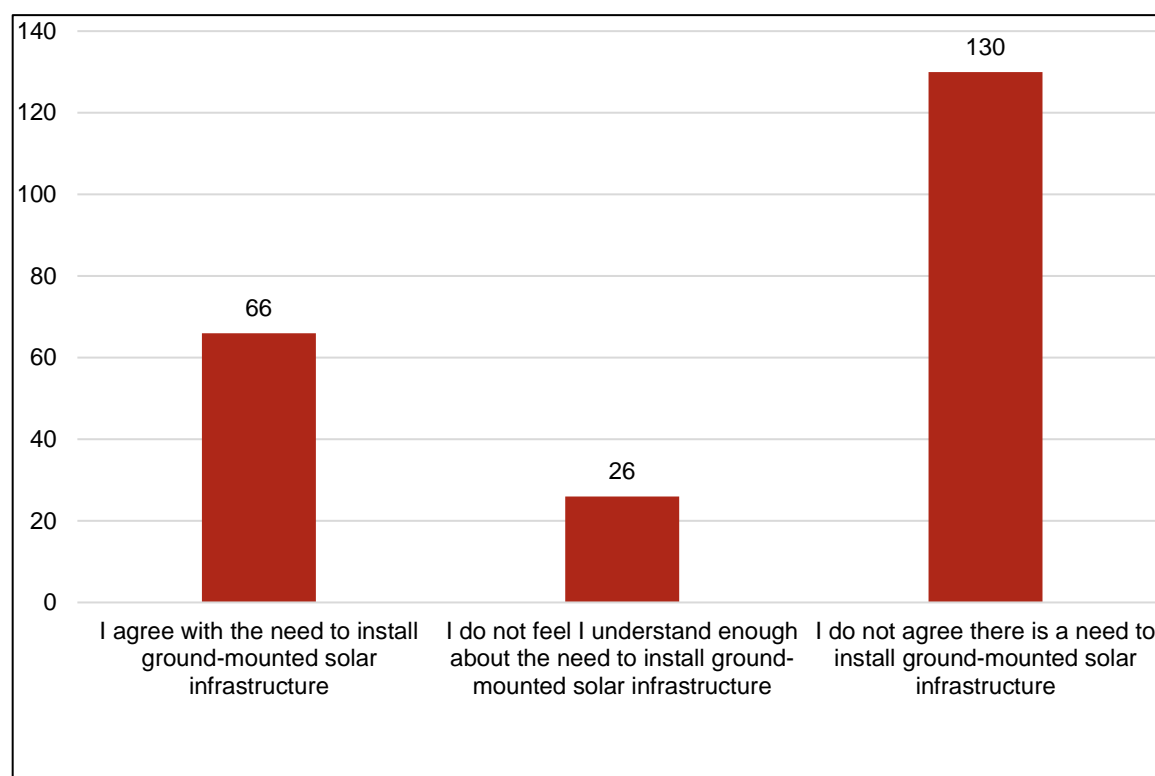


Figure 12.3: Based on our updated proposals, what are your views on Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park?

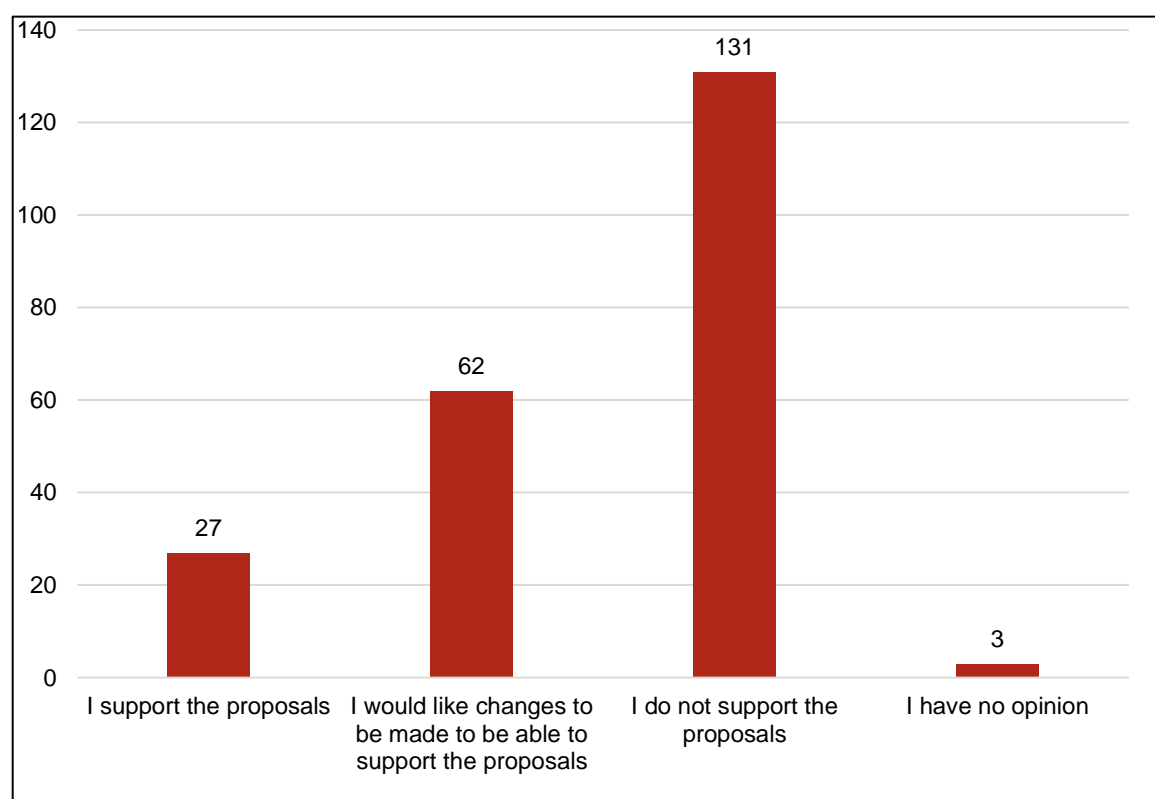
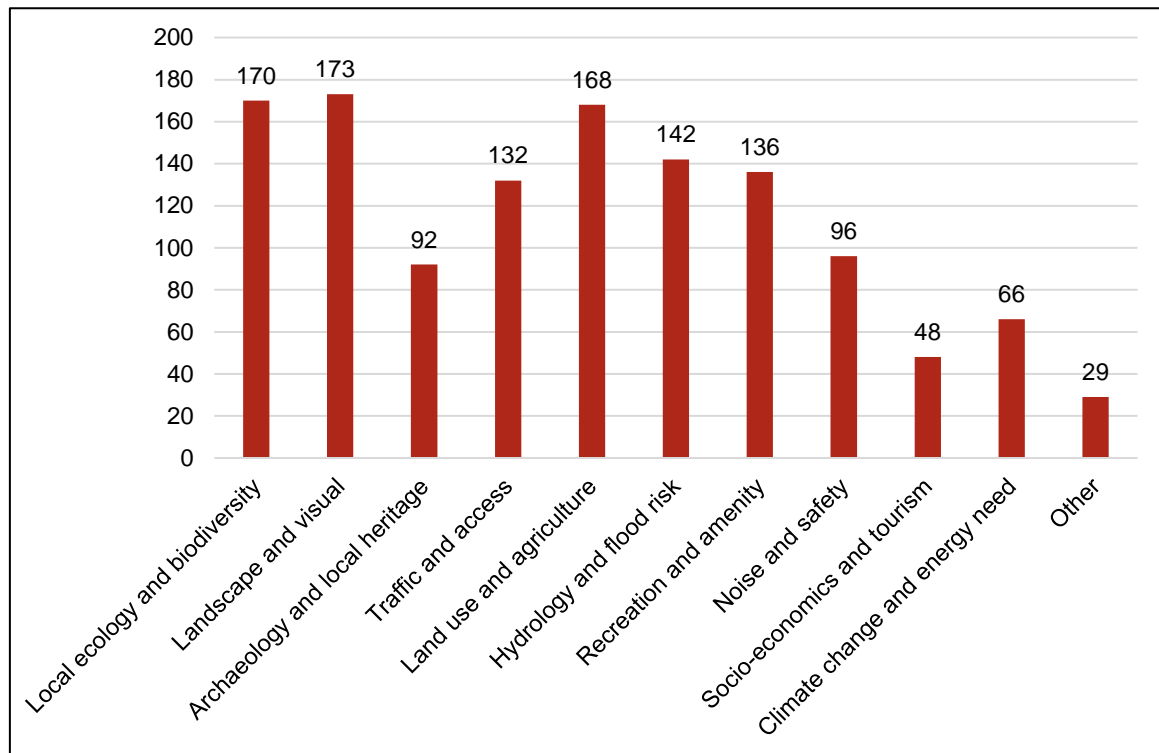


Figure 12.4: Which aspects of the project are the most important to you?



12.3 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES RECEIVED

274 **Table 12.2** includes a summary of how the Applicant has considered this feedback in developing the scheme, consistent with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.

275 A detailed record of all comments received and the Applicant's response to these comments is provided as **Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010162/APP/5.1.10]**.

Table 12.2: Summary of qualitative data from Phase Two Consultation, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback.

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
Ecology and Biodiversity		
Respondents express concern that the Development will damage local ecology and biodiversity. Further a large proportion of respondents expressed concern for	Yes	In recognition of concerns raised regarding ecology and biodiversity, the Applicant has committed to a range of measures that enhance and protect key habitats within the Development. The Development will deliver significant ecological and biodiversity enhancements through habitat creation and mitigation strategies, informed by both species-

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
impacts on wildlife, including movement of animals across site.		<p>specific and landscape-scale considerations. This strategy includes: extensive grassland under the solar PV arrays (999 hectares), new and retained diverse grassland habitats (407 hectares), and retained arable land (144 hectares) with a high degree of conservation management for birds. Despite inter-specific variation in habitat requirements and ecologies, these measures are likely to compensate for the loss of open farmland habitats and benefit the breeding assemblage.</p> <p>Further to this, the Development incorporates targeted interventions to benefit key landscape features such as woodlands, watercourses, and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Ecotones around woodlands will buffer them from surrounding land use and reduce edge effects, and where these woodlands are also LWS, ecotones will reduce threats and pressures on them. The creation of 31 hectares of new woodland, 22 hectares of woodland ecotone, and 50 km of new hedgerows are beneficial effects in their own right, but they will also benefit retained woodland and hedgerows by reducing habitat fragmentation. Additional enhancements include the creation of two new ponds, wildlife scrapes, and improvements in watercourse quality and habitat connectivity. Overall, the Development is expected to deliver a substantial biodiversity net gain, including increases of +60.7% in habitat units, +26.5% in hedgerow units, and +11.05% in watercourse units.</p> <p>Further detail is provided in Chapter 8 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] and Design</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that potential ecological effects could arise during construction, and this is assessed in Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.8]. The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) (Technical Appendix A5.3 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3]) provides details of mitigation to safeguard ecological features during construction.</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant has partnered with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, the Sherwood Forest Trust, the Trent Rivers Trust and RSPB who continue to assist the Applicant in increasing benefits of the scheme for wildlife through their participation in formulating the ongoing iterations of the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1].</p> <p>In relation to wildlife movement, as detailed in Chapter 8 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8], all perimeter fencing will include a means to allow terrestrial animal species up to the size of adult badgers to move freely within their home ranges and to disperse without impediment. This will reduce potential barrier effects on badger, otter, and brown hare. All other terrestrial species of conservation concern are sufficiently small that they will be able to pass through the fencing without impediment. New fences may change the movements of larger mammals (e.g. roe deer), none of which are species of conservation concern, but the fences will be mostly inset from existing boundary</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		features (fences and hedgerows) and therefore will leave frequent, wide corridors unimpeded, and so their overall patterns of movements will be largely unchanged.
Some respondents expressed that wildlife surveys and studies were inadequate.	Yes	The Applicant notes that a range of baseline studies and consultations have been undertaken by suitably qualified professionals to establish the status and distribution of these and other ecological features. A full list of baseline studies can be found in Chapter 8 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] . The potential effects on each have also been assessed in Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity.
Respondents expressed support for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and hedgerow planting. Whilst some respondents expressed scepticism regarding the level and delivery of BNG.	Yes	<p>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (including the Development) are currently exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) until an anticipated date of May 2026, and there is not yet any guidance about how statutory BNG will apply to such projects. A government open consultation was launched on 28/05/2025 seeking views on the implementation of BNG for NSIPs.</p> <p>In the absence of formal guidance, and drawing on themes emerging from the ongoing consultation, the BNG Assessment (Technical Appendix A8.13 [EN010162/APP/6.4.8.13]) has been undertaken using the prevailing Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) metric. It calculates the net change in biodiversity units for habitats, watercourses, and hedgerows by comparing the current baseline with the post-Development scenario. The BNG Assessment (Technical Appendix A8.13, [EN010162/APP/6.4.8.13]) quantifies these beneficial changes, which range from low to medium magnitude, and demonstrates a net gain in units for</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>habitat (+60.7%), hedgerows (+26.5%) and watercourses (+11.05%). There will be an increase of 31 hectares of broadleaved woodland (excluding other trees and woodland types), 50 km of hedgerows, and the creation of two new ponds and several scrapes, as well as an increase in watercourse quality and habitat connectivity. There are no other pathways for ecological effects on habitats. Overall, the operational phase will have a significant beneficial effect on habitats at the Local scale.</p> <p>The Development will also support and improve biodiversity in ways that are not captured by the biodiversity metric or may otherwise be difficult to quantify. For example, the Development will improve landscape and habitat connectivity through its riparian corridors and woodland planting thereby having beneficial effects beyond its geographic limits.</p> <p>Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) (Technical Appendix A5.1 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1]) provides details of mitigation, compensation, and enhancement for a range of wildlife.</p>
<p>Respondents expressed concern that the Development will cause potential destruction of local flora such as trees and hedgerows.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Potential effects to trees, woodland and hedgerow are assessed in Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.8]. The Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Technical Appendix A8.12 of the ES) [EN010162/APP/6.4.8.12] includes consideration of Ancient and Veteran trees. Mitigation is proposed to avoid and</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>reduce potential adverse effects to such trees.</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant has committed to a range of measures that enhance and protect key habitats within the Development. These include the creation of over 25.83 hectares of new native woodland (comprising approximately 64,500 trees), 50 kilometres of new species-rich hedgerows, 22 hectares of woodland ecotone, and more than 1,400 hectares of species-rich grassland.</p>
Some respondents requested for new flora to be from a disease-free UK stock.	Yes	This is confirmed in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) (Technical Appendix A5.1 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1]).
Landscape and Visual		
Respondents expressed concern for visual impacts of Development and associated infrastructure, and industrialisation of the countryside.	Yes	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment. Visual impacts are an inherent aspect of solar development at this scale. National planning policy recognises this, but also indicates that reductions on the scale of a nationally significant solar farm in order to address landscape and visual effects should only be made in exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this policy position, the Applicant has made significant reductions to the design following PEIR, resulting in a reduction in visual impact.</p> <p>For more information, please refer to Chapter 7 of the ES: Landscape and Visual [EN010162/APP/6.2.7]. This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of the likely significant effect</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>arising from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Development on landscape and visual receptors.</p> <p>For more information on specific changes to the Development, please refer to the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6] and Chapter 4: Alternatives, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.4], for a description of changes between the PEIR and the ES.</p>
<p>Respondents raised concern around the size of buffer zones and proximity of panels to residential properties.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As detailed in Chapter 18 of the ES: Recreation [EN010162/APP/6.2.18], the Development has been designed with embedded mitigation and enhancement measures to ensure that significant effects on recreational receptors are avoided where possible throughout the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Development. This has been secured via the application of design principles and identification of recreational receptors, ensuring that appropriate buffers are put in place between the receptor and the solar panels or infrastructure, with landscape planting and screening undertaken where appropriate, and potential re-routing of PRow where necessary for the Development.</p> <p>For more information on the concern around proximity of panels to residential properties, please refer to Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.12], and Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.7]. In addition, Technical Appendix A7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.6] provides an assessment of effects on Residential</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		Visual Amenity. All of the 142 homes within 250 m of the Development prior to design changes made after the PEIR stage have been considered in the assessment. The assessment has been updated to reflect the design changes and undertake a detailed consideration of those homes identified as receiving either Large or Large/medium magnitude impacts in the PEIR stage preliminary assessment.
Respondents expressed concern that natural screening measures will take years to mature.	Yes	New hedges would be expected to take 7-10 years to mature to the design heights and that has been factored into the assessment of the landscape and visual effects. However, in a lot of cases, screening would be provided by existing hedges, either at their current height, or allowed to grow taller and where this is the case mitigation will be achieved more rapidly. Removal of tree guards (if used) will be included within the Development maintenance plan. For more information, please refer to Chapter 7 of the ES: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment [EN010162/APP/6.2.7] .
Cultural heritage		
Respondents raised concern for potential damage to heritage and archaeological sites, including listed buildings and conservation areas such as Eakring Conservation Area.	Yes	<p>As detailed in Chapter 11 of the ES: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN010162/APP/6.2.11], the effects of the Development on the historic environment have been fully assessed. This chapter focuses on how the Development may affect the significance of heritage assets, including the extent to which their significance can be experienced or appreciated. Where potential impacts have been identified, the ES outlines the design changes made to reduce those effects.</p> <p>In addition, Technical Appendix A11.8: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS)</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>[EN010162/APP/6.4.11.8] sets out how post-consent works will be undertaken to mitigate direct archaeological significance of effects which have not otherwise been designed out. This is secured as a DCO Requirement.</p> <p>The Conservation Area at Eakring (Figure 11.4a [EN010162/APP/6.3.11.4]) is centred on the parish church. It is a relatively large village which is characterised by its medieval street pattern, steeply banked sunken lanes, and groups of red brick farmsteads. The Conservation Area is focused on the historic core but also includes some of its rural landscape setting to the south. The listed buildings within the Conservation Area comprise the Grade II parish church and six Grade II farmhouses, cottages, windmill, and war memorial. Taken as a group the heritage significance of these assets is high. The assessment confirms that the Development will not harm the heritage significance of the Conservation Area.</p>
Transport and access		
Respondents raised concern for additional disruptive traffic, access issues for narrow roads and damage to road infrastructure by heavy construction vehicles.	No	<p>In response to concerns raised regarding traffic and transport, and as part of the ES, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP). This document, secured through the DCO, provides a framework for managing construction vehicle movements to and from the Development in order to minimise effects on the local highway network during the temporary construction phase. The oCTMP (Technical Appendix A5.2 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2]) outlines key measures including access arrangements, vehicle routing, trip generation estimates, mitigation</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>strategies, and provisions for transporting abnormal loads.</p> <p>These movements will be managed so that the potential effects are mitigated appropriately, this may include temporary localised road closures and plating and packing of the kerbs to avoid damage. Whilst these movements will cause localised traffic disruption during their occurrence, the volume of movements will typically be in the order of 25 deliveries at the receiving accesses over a period of a few months (as shown in green on Table 14.14) and as such, will not influence the assessment outcomes included within this chapter. A specialist contractor has been appointed for assessment of the transportation of abnormal loads and additional details are set out in the oCTMP (Technical Appendix A5.2 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2]).</p>
<p>Respondents expressed concern for safety of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders along narrow roads.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>As described in Chapter 14 Traffic and Access of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.14], a review of current road safety has been undertaken in section 14.5.8. This concluded that there is no pre-existing pattern of collisions which would be exacerbated by the increase in traffic caused by the Development.</p> <p>During construction, additional traffic will be present on the network, but this represents a relatively small percentage of the total volume of traffic already present on the overall network, although this percentage is larger in areas of low baseline traffic levels. Traffic associated with the construction of the Development will result in no more than a marginal increase in the risk of collisions.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		Following the completion of the Development, traffic levels will reduce to extant levels and will therefore not influence any change in safety levels.
Respondents expressed that new passing places within the proposals are inadequate.	Yes	<p>As detailed in Section 14.6.3 of Chapter 14 Traffic and Access of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.14], the selection of passing place locations along the access routes has been informed by several practical considerations to ensure road safety and efficiency. The primary method in this process has been undertaking of swept path analysis and site visits. The swept path analytical tool allows the simulation of vehicle movements along the route, enables pinch-points to be identified and ensures that the passing places are strategically positioned, so as to limit areas of vehicle conflict and facilitate continued two-way traffic flow. Figure 14.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.14.5] shows the proposed location of passing places, all of which are within the adopted highway and Order Limits.</p> <p>In instances where existing passing places and/or areas are insufficient, new places have been strategically proposed. The locations of these new passing places have been informed by the availability of roadside verge, allowing for the expansion of the road width whilst reducing the removal of vegetation. In some instances, where verge space is limited or reduced, the creation of passing places have been established by localised widening on both sides of the road to create a 'bulb' effect.</p> <p>Through continued liaison with the Local Highway Authority, the long-term status of the installed passing places will be agreed on a location-by-location basis whether the passing places will be</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		removed post construction and the verge reinstated or retained thereafter for community benefit and the decommissioning phase.
Soils and agriculture		
Respondents expressed concern for the use of agricultural or high grade BMV land.	Yes	<p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns raised regarding the use of agricultural land and has carefully considered these in the ES. Chapter 17 Agricultural Land of the ES: [EN010162/APP/6.2.17] evaluates the likely effects of the Development on agricultural land, soils, and rural businesses. The assessment concludes that the impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is minimal – representing 0.028% of the total BMV land in England – and is therefore not considered significant.</p> <p>There will be no permanent loss of agricultural land, only temporary use for the duration of the Development, which is consented for a period of 40 years under the DCO. Agricultural land and subsoils will have the opportunity to recover over the lifetime of the Development and may improve in quality, remaining fallow during this period.</p> <p>In addition, impacts on soils have also been minimised through the implementation of an Outline Soil Management Plan (Technical Appendix A17.2) [EN010162/APP/6.4.17.2]. Further details are provided in Chapter 17 Agricultural Land of the ES: [EN010162/APP/6.2.17].</p>
Respondents raised concern for the loss of farmland affecting food security.	Yes	Chapter 17 of the ES: Agricultural Land [EN010162/APP/6.2.17] evaluates the likely effects of the Development on agricultural land, soils, and rural businesses.

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>As detailed in Section 17.8 of Chapter 17: Agricultural Land, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.17], there is no concern from Government about food security, and no requirements or incentives to manage land for food production. The land use change from agriculture (only some of which is for food) to a mix of energy production and agriculture will not result in any significant adverse environmental or economic effects.</p> <p>Data on land use and agricultural production, including for food, has been collected by farm interviews and walk-over surveys, (see Technical Appendix A17.3 Farm Reports [EN010162/APP/6.4.17.3]) and the results and effects are fully assessed in this Chapter (see Section 17.8).</p> <p>In addition, onsite food production will take place with the Applicant's partnership with a local shepherd, ensuring food production will occur via the grazing of sheep.</p>
Respondents expressed that local farming and the rural economy will be adversely affected.	No	<p>The effect on farms have been assessed fully and is described in the ES Chapter 17: Agricultural Land, [EN010162/APP/6.2.17]. The Applicant can confirm there are impacts but no significant effects arise.</p> <p>Further to this, Chapter 13: Socioeconomics and Tourism, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.13] considers the loss of agricultural jobs compared to the creation of new jobs, as well as the impacts on the local economy.</p>
Hydrology, flood risk and drainage		
Respondents stated concern that the	Yes	As detailed in Chapter 9 of the ES: Water Resources [EN010162/APP/6.2.9] , the

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Development will increase flood risk in the area through increased run-off and land drainage blockages. Some respondents specified concern for the drain beyond Moor House.		Applicant has carried out work with the Environment Agency (EA), Internal drainage board (IDB) and ongoing work with local communities to understand the flood risk in the area. The Applicant has completed a flood risk assessment (Technical Appendix A9.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010162/APP/6.4.9.1]), which must be approved by the Environment Agency. The Applicant has identified that solar parks do not increase flood risk. They do not intend to build in Flood Zone 3.
Respondents raised concern for potential increase in water pollution.	Yes	<p>The oCEMP (Technical Appendix A5.3 outline Construction Environment Management Plan [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3]) outlines good construction practice measures to protect the water environment.</p> <p>Further, due to a significant reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the fields proposed for development, there shall be a corresponding reduction in the amount of run-off of the same pollutants into nearby watercourses.</p>
Socioeconomics, tourism, and recreation		
Respondents raised concern that there will be knock-on effects on housing prices, local jobs, economy and local tourism.	Yes	<p>Socioeconomics and tourism have been considered together as part of the socioeconomic impact assessment, captured in Chapter 13: Socioeconomics and Tourism, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.13]. Ground Conditions are assessed in ES Chapter 10 of this ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.10].</p> <p>Employment has been considered in detail as part of the socioeconomic impact assessment, along with other receptors. Technical Appendix A13.2 - Outline Skills, Supply Chain and</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>Employment Plan [EN010162/APP/6.4.13.2] details how education paths can lead to long term employment opportunities associated with the Development.</p> <p>Furthermore, Chapter 13 Socioeconomics and Tourism [EN010162/APP/6.2.13] quantifies the long-term reversible employment opportunities lost pertaining to agricultural land use.</p>
<p>Respondents expressed concern for negative impact and impeding of recreational public paths, rights of way and bridleways.</p> <p>Respondents expressed general support for proposed new paths and bridleways.</p>	Yes	<p>All recreational routes, including bridleways, will be managed throughout construction to ensure the safety of users. For those which are directly impacted by construction activities, diversions and temporary closures will be put in place to ensure this.</p> <p>As detailed in Chapter 18: Recreation, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.18], 21 permissive footpaths and six permissive bridleways are proposed within the Order Limits where they would provide improved access by way of connecting disjointed areas of the network of PRow; reduce the need to walk along roads without pavements or through areas where there may be difficulties in managing the different requirements of recreation and livestock; and/or provide improved options for circular walks.</p>
Respondents expressed that proposed new paths may create security and intrusion issues for adjoining properties.	Yes	As detailed in Chapter 18: Recreation, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.18] , a number of features, including small car parks and a visitor hub, have been removed from the proposal due to feedback from local residents regarding the potential for anti-social behaviours.
Noise and vibration		
Respondents raised general concern	Yes	Potential noise effects are assessed in Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration the ES

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around increases in noise and vibration throughout the lifespan of the Development. Some respondents specified concern about noise during the construction process.		<p>[EN010162/APP/6.2.12]. The oCEMP (Technical Appendix A5.3 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3]) provides details of mitigation which will be implemented to minimise noise and vibration during construction activities. PRow and bridleways are not considered to be noise sensitive receptors as their use by the public is transitory, and as such these receptors will not be subject to the long-term noise exposure that would result in health impacts.</p>
Community benefits and impact		
Respondents expressed general concern for wellbeing and negative impacts on the quality of life for residents.	Yes	<p>In response to well-being concerns, the Development will deliver a range of benefits aimed at enhancing both community health and the natural environment. A key component of this is the provision of an enhanced green infrastructure network, including over 21 km of permissive routes that will significantly improve the connectivity of the local footpath and bridleway network. This improved access to open space and recreational areas – including a new community orchard – will offer valuable opportunities for outdoor activity. Further detail on these measures is available in the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p> <p>Additionally, in recognition of concerns raised regarding ecology and biodiversity, the Applicant has committed to extensive habitat creation and enhancement measures across the Development. These include over 25.83 hectares of new native woodland (comprising approximately 64,500 trees), 50 km of new species-rich hedgerows, 22 hectares of woodland ecotone, and more than 1,400 hectares of species-rich grassland. These interventions are designed to support and protect key natural features –</p>

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		<p>such as woodlands, watercourses, and Local Wildlife Sites – while improving ecological connectivity and reducing habitat fragmentation. This commitment enhances the quality of the surrounding environment, with the aim of contributing to the well-being of local communities. Further detail is provided in Chapter 8 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] and the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p> <p>Further information on Human Health is detailed in Chapter 16: Miscellaneous Issues, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.16].</p>
<p>Respondents raised concern for health impacts, including potential health issues caused by electromagnetic fields.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>As detailed in Section 16.6 of Chapter 16: Miscellaneous Issues, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.16], the scope of the assessment of EMFs in the ES is limited to consideration of any cables associated with the Development which exceed 132 kV. The only part of the Development likely to exceed this voltage is the underground export cable between the Work no. 5b, 400 kV Compound, area, and Work no.s 7, Consented Staythorpe BESS and Connection, and 6, the existing National Grid Staythorpe Substation, which will be a 400 kV cable. The Work no. 5a, BESS, would connect into the Work no. 5b, 400 kV Compound, at a voltage of 132 kV or less.</p> <p>In practice, the 400 kV cable is not likely to be at the extreme edge of the Work area; the Illustrative Design (shown in Figure 5.4 [EN010162/APP/6.3.5.4] shows the 400 kV cable as being 50 m from the nearest residential property. Therefore, no significant effects from electromagnetic fields are anticipated.</p>

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<p>Respondents expressed that community benefits package is a bribe and/or irrelevant, too small or too vague for the size of the Development.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Community Benefit is a recognition that the host community is contributing to national targets to decarbonise and reduce energy bills through solar schemes such as the Development.</p> <p>The Applicant has received many requests to spend the community benefit fund, and the general impression is that it is well-received.</p> <p>The community benefits package forms no part of the DCO proposals (it is separate and voluntary) and is not considered by the SoS as part of the DCO application. Nevertheless, the Government expects community benefit to be paid, it is a standard procedure. In terms of quantum, the proposed community benefit package for the Development of £1m per annum over 40 years is significantly higher than other solar NSIPs and above the government's recommended amount to be paid per MW.</p>
<p>Respondents request for the community benefits fund to be directed towards energy efficiency measures for individual buildings, enhancement of local environment, orchards picnic areas, recreational areas, village and parish infrastructure and learning/educational opportunities.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that many of the requests raised by respondents reflect the intended focus of the NG+ community benefit scheme.</p> <p>The fund has already been partially directed towards initiatives such as energy efficiency improvements (e.g. electrical safety upgrades, LED lighting projects), educational resources (e.g. raised planting beds for local schools), and biodiversity enhancements (e.g. flood resilience infrastructure).</p> <p>Future funding opportunities have been shaped around the five pillars of NG+: Local Environment, Education, Well-being, Food Security and Energy Efficiency. These include:</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>Energy efficiency for individual properties and community buildings – supported by an ongoing survey programme that will inform insulation, LED, solar PV, and heat pump interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of the local environment – with plans under way to fund orchards, biodiversity zones and habitat corridors, including permanent wildflower planting, native tree schemes and species-friendly hedgerows. • Recreational and wellbeing spaces – such as community gardens, picnic areas and low-maintenance outdoor zones, currently under discussion with multiple parish councils. • Village and parish infrastructure – including heating system upgrades, defibrillators, hall refurbishments and accessible furniture. • Learning and skills support – via the launch of the EG Academy, offering free, CPD-accredited online courses and in-person outreach with local colleges and job centres to support upskilling, employability, and green career pathways. <p>NG+ is structured to remain flexible, enabling evolving local needs to be met over the Development's lifetime. The fund will be community-led and governed by an independent trust to ensure that investment decisions remain transparent and fair, and that benefits are distributed equitably across the host area.</p>
Consultation and engagement		
Respondents express concern that consultation process was a tick-box exercise.	Yes	Appendix 5.1.2 to the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1.2] describes how the Applicant's consultation has complied with relevant legislation and associated guidance.

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		<p>The Applicant undertook its consultation in compliance with commitments made in its published Statement of Community Consultation, which in turn was informed through consultation with relevant local authorities. This is described in Section 7 (Preparation for Statutory Consultation) of this Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1.1].</p> <p>A consultation period of 42 days was provided for responses to the PEIR and Phase Two Consultation information, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days.</p> <p>To support responses to the consultation, the Applicant published a range of consultation materials including a Central Booklet summarising the proposals, a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR, held a series of eight in-person information events and one online information event where the proposals could be discussed with members of the Applicant's project team, and hosted free-to-use dedicated communication channels for enquiries.</p> <p>This included notifying over 5,900 properties within the vicinity of the Development, which were identified within a defined Core Consultation Zone presented in the SoCC. In addition to this, the Applicant made consultation materials available online, at four CAP sites, at public information events and by request to the dedicated communication lines. Consultation opportunities and materials were further publicised by local media advertising, statutory notices, and maintaining a register of interested individuals.</p>

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		<p>The Applicant recorded over 500 attendees across the series of public information events held during the phase two (statutory) consultation, which attracted over 300 submissions of feedback.</p> <p>The Applicant is grateful to everyone who has taken the time to engage with the Development to date. The Applicant has made significant changes to the design of the Development to take into account the views of consultees. The design evolution has been iterative and there are many examples of close working with consultees to amend the design. The Applicant states that the consultation process has been extensive and has reached beyond the statutory minimum level in many instances.</p>
Glint and glare		
<p>Respondents raise concern that glint and glare will reflect into adjoining properties and those in land that rises away from the site and increase light pollution in the area.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Glint and Glare impacts relating to the Development have been assessed through 3D modelling, which includes the effect of local terrain / elevation changes. Potential effects are presented in Technical Appendix 16.1 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.16.1].</p> <p>As the Development design is illustrative at this stage, should development consent be granted, a detailed glint and glare mitigation scheme will be prepared prior to construction, based on the final solar PV array design.</p>
Air quality		
<p>Respondents express that construction, increased vehicle movement and</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Chapter 16: Miscellaneous Issues [EN010162/APP/6.2.16], of the ES, addresses the potential for significant air quality effects by considering the baseline</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
potential fire hazards will cause deterioration in air quality.		<p>environment and setting out the potential impacts that could occur during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Development.</p> <p>With one respondent stating they're specifically concerned about air quality deterioration from infrastructure fires, it's important to note that Chapter 16: Miscellaneous Issues, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.16] is supported by the Fire Safety Management Plan (FSMP); an outline of which is provided in Technical Appendix A5.4 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.4], and in preparation, the following policy relating to air quality has been reviewed: Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1): Section 5.2 (Air Quality and Emissions), paragraphs 5.2.1 to 5.2.3, which refer to potential dust and pollutant emissions to air from combustion sources.</p> <p>In summary, background air quality in the vicinity of the Order Limits is good, with low levels of air pollution. Based on the activities comprising the Development, it is anticipated that there would be limited, and not significant, effects on air quality during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases. However, pollution effects are not threshold-based, and hence mitigation to further reduce impacts is set out in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Technical Appendix A5.3; [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3]), Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Technical Appendix A5.2; [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2]) and outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		(DRP) (Technical Appendix A5.6; [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.6]).
Site selection and alternatives		
Respondents express that the site selected is unsuitable, and requests to instead utilise rooftop on residential rooftops, industrial and warehouse rooftops and next to motorways.	Yes	<p>Chapter 4: Alternatives, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.4], provides an overview of alternatives considered by the Applicant including the site selection process undertaken to identify the Development. It also provides a description of the evolution of the Development design up to the point of application submission.</p> <p>It is important to highlight that a significant proportion of the 16.6GW (DESNZ Q2 20240 of installed solar PV capacity in the UK comprises ground-mounted solar farms. Achieving the national net-zero total target of 47GW (DEZNZ Clean Power Capacity Range) of solar PV will not be possible without such installations. While the Applicant strongly supports the use of roof-mounted solar panels and heat pumps, as reflected in the energy efficiency grant scheme for local residents, ground-mounted solar remains essential to meeting the UK's decarbonisation targets.</p>
Respondents request to explore and exhaust other forms of renewable energy generation that doesn't take up land.	Yes	<p>It's important to note that the Development is supported by national policy and is identified as Critical National Priority infrastructure in the National Policy Statements for energy. The need for low-carbon energy infrastructure, is established in EN-1 (Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy) and EN-3 (Renewable Energy Infrastructure), which highlight the need for renewable energy at scale to meet the UK's legally binding net zero targets.</p> <p>Further justification for the Development's contribution to national energy needs is</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>provided in the Planning Statement [EN010162/APP/5.4] and Statement of Need (Planning Need) [EN010162/APP/7.2].</p> <p>In relation to other forms of energy generation, these are not viable at this location, either because of financial considerations and/or because of environmental and planning considerations. This is considered in Chapter 4: Alternatives, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.4].</p>
Decommissioning and construction		
Respondents raise concern for general disturbance construction activity will cause.	Yes	<p>This is noted. All construction activities typically result in short-term, localised impacts; however, these are managed and mitigated through a range of control documents, including the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Technical Appendix A5.3 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3]), Outline Construction Traffic management Plan (CTMP) (Technical Appendix A5.2 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2]), and Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (Technical Appendix A5.1 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1]), which set out appropriate measures to minimise effects during the construction phase.</p> <p>Construction effects are assessed in the ES, and with respect to potential disturbance, particularly Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010162/APP/6.2.12], Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010162/APP/6.2.14]. (including Technical Appendix A5.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2]), and Chapter 18, Recreation [EN010162/APP/6.2.18].</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
<p>Respondents express that decommissioning activity will not lead to return of land to agricultural use.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Development Consent Order will last for the operational phase and decommissioning phase, but not beyond. The actions to be taken at decommissioning will be set out in a Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (DRP) to be agreed through consultation shortly before decommissioning itself occurs. An Outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (DRP) is provided with the ES as Technical Appendix A5.6 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.6].</p> <p>This is considered appropriate, as it allows decommissioning to respond to the needs and wishes applicable at that time.</p> <p>Respondents should also be reassured by the fact that decommissioning bonds are in place within the legal agreements signed by landowners to lease their land for the development. This ensures that should the operator breach the planning agreements and leave the solar equipment onsite, the landowners have appropriate funds to be able to pay to remove it.</p>
<p>Respondents request for associated infrastructure (orchards, new paths, new hedgerows etc.) to be maintained in place after decommissioning.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The actions to be taken at decommissioning will be set out in a Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (DRP) to be agreed through consultation shortly before decommissioning itself occurs. An Outline DRP is provided with the ES as Technical Appendix A5.6 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.6]. This is considered appropriate, as it allows decommissioning to respond to the needs and wishes applicable at that time. For example, the land agreements with landowners include provisions that allow certain ecological enhancements – such as woodland planting – to be retained</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		after decommissioning, rather than being removed.
Respondents raise concern for solar panels being landfilled as recycling capability doesn't exist on mass scale for the UK.	Yes	<p>Solar panel recycling exists already, in 2024, despite the solar PV industry only having been substantially active in the UK for around 15 years. By the time of decommissioning of the Development, in c. 2070, it is highly likely that solar PV recycling will be a well-developed and active industry. It is expected that the metals comprising the cabling, solar PV mounting pole structures, inverters/transformers and fencing will be recycled as it is now.</p> <p>There are currently at least three waste handlers capable of recycling solar PV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycle Solar: Located in Scunthorpe, Recycle Solar is one of the few facilities in the UK that operates on an industrial scale. • Solar Recycling Solutions (SRS): Based in Dartford, SRS offers a comprehensive approach to solar panel recycling. They utilize advanced scanning technology to identify and separate different materials. • Waste Experts: Situated in Huddersfield <p>There is very little prospect of solar panels being deposited in landfill due to the substantial content of steel and glass contained within them. The panels are highly likely to be still producing some output after 40 years and will therefore also be reusable, before recycling is considered. Landfill is not a financially prudent location for a significant number of solar panels carrying value.</p> <p>For more information, please refer to the Technical Appendix TA5.6 Outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		(DRP) provided with the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.6].
Requests for a fly-tipping plan to be created for the construction period to counter chemical and health hazards.	Yes	<p>A specific fly-tipping plan has not been created for the construction period. However, the potential for the Development to lead to an increase in fly-tipping is addressed in Chapter 16, Section 16.7 of the ES: Waste [EN010162/APP/6.2.16].</p> <p>Fly-tipping is not expected to be a significant issue, as the Order Limits will be secured to at least the same standard as existing conditions (e.g. hedges and gates), with additional security measures in place, including operational fencing around Work No. 1 (solar PV) and Works Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 (substations and Battery Energy Storage Systems). During construction hedges fencing will be installed to prevent unauthorised access in terms of security but also Health and Safety. These measures are considered sufficient to deter unauthorised access and minimise the risk of fly-tipping during construction.</p>
General feedback		
Respondents express concern for general size and scale of the Development and associated infrastructure.	Yes	<p>The size and scale of the Development relates to the grid infrastructure available to connect into at Staythorpe National Grid substation and UK government solar PV targets. Solar PV targets cannot be met without some projects at large scale and this Development utilises the full available grid connection with limited upgrades required. The area is very well-suited to a development of this scale due to the amount of available flat land and therefore the ability to contain the visual aspects very effectively within the landscape.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>Notwithstanding this, there have been substantial reductions in areas of land proposed for solar PV following the design published in the PEIR, as shown on Figure 4.9b [EN010162/APP/6.3.4.9.2].</p> <p>The evolution of the Development is set out in Chapter 4: Alternatives, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.4].</p> <p>For more information on specific changes to the Development, please refer to the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p>
<p>General opposition to the Development, including concerns for accumulation of such projects in the county/area causing too much disruption and burdening the energy grid.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Development is supported by national policy and is identified as Critical National Priority infrastructure in the National Policy Statements for energy. The need for low-carbon energy infrastructure, is established in EN-1 (Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy) and EN-3 (Renewable Energy Infrastructure), which highlight the need for renewable energy at scale to meet the UK's legally binding net zero targets.</p> <p>Further justification for the Development's contribution to national energy needs is provided in the Planning Statement [EN010162/APP/5.4] and Statement of Need (Planning Need) [EN010162/APP/7.2].</p> <p>In relation to grid capacity, the Development will not burden the grid. The grid operator, National Energy System Operator (NESO), is responsible for managing grid capacity and connection offers. Solar PV plays a crucial role in balancing the UK energy system, especially in complementing wind generation by providing energy at</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>different times, and is increasingly supported by battery storage technology to address the intermittency of renewable energy and enhance grid stability.</p> <p>Regarding concerns over cumulative disruption, the cumulative effects of this project in combination with other developments are fully assessed in Chapter 19 Interrelationships of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.19]. This considers two or more effects that may cumulatively cause an impact on a receptor that in isolation may not. This relates to the Development, not other schemes, and further information can be found in Chapter 2: Environmental Impact Assessment, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.2] which outlines the cumulative assessment methodology, and Technical Appendix A2.1: Cumulative Assessments Stages 1 and 2 [EN010162/APP/6.4.2.1].</p>
<p>Respondents express concern for battery safety and electrical fires on site.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant has taken measures to ensure the safest possible design for the Battery Storage proposal, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Battery proposal onsite is located a long distance from the nearest residential property. • The Applicant has adopted LFP battery chemistry which is more advanced in safety terms and is less prone to thermal runaway than Lithium-ion, which was commonly used in recent years. • There are two emergency access tracks for fire engines to enter site in case one is hindered by smoke plumes. <p>Details of the fire risk reduction and management measures are set out in the ES Technical Appendix A5.4, Outline Fire</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		Safety Management Plan (oFSMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.4]
Respondents express that the Development will not benefit the local area, instead only make profits for the developer.	No	<p>The benefits to the local area from the Development are numerous. Some of the key benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Development supports the existing infrastructure/grid capacity at Staythorpe Substation, through 'clean' electricity provision. • Potential to meet the power needs of approximately 400,000 homes with clean and affordable energy. • Creation of industry specific, highly skilled local jobs and other mixed skill level jobs. 180 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the construction phase and 48 FTE jobs during operation. One local person has already been employed in the local area in the pre-application phase of the Development. Many other local jobs supported in the wider supply chain for the Development, including local hostels, hotels and restaurants, local ecologists, and consultants. • The EG Academy, linked to the Development, is an educational establishment has already benefitted 80 local people who have participated in its free Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses on Solar and BESS technology. These people have received accredited qualifications and are in a position to enter the growing solar and BESS workforce. • The Development supports the legacy role Nottinghamshire plays in generating/supplying energy requirements. • Implementation of a range of measures that enhance and protect key habitats within the Development.

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>This includes the creation of 31 hectares of new woodland, 22 hectares of woodland ecotone, and 50 km of new hedgerows. As well as this, the site would comprise extensive grassland under the solar PV arrays (999 hectares), new and retained diverse grassland habitats (407 hectares), and retained arable land (144 hectares) managed with a high degree of conservation management for birds. Overall, the Development is expected to deliver a substantial biodiversity net gain, including increases of +60.7% in habitat units, +26.5% in hedgerow units, and +11.05% in watercourse units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to the countryside for local people/community groups through a better-connected footpath and bridleway network – through the creation of over 32.6 km of new permissive routes across the Development – and access to open space and recreational spaces. • The Development would also allow soil which has been intensively farmed to rejuvenate and be returned to arable farming at the end of the operational life of the Development. Some intensive arable farmland is to be replaced with community-based provisions, such as an orchard. • There would be permanent highway safety improvements as a result of the development taking place. <p>Further detail is provided in the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p> <p>Further to this, as detailed in Chapter 13: Socioeconomics and Tourism, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.13], the</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>Development proposes approximately 800 MW of Solar PV. According to the IRENA Renewable Cost Database 2022³⁶, the installed cost of utility scale solar PV is approximately £739 per kW, based on the average \$ to £ exchange rate in 2022. Therefore, applied to the Development this would result in a direct capital investment of circa £590.8m.</p> <p>The ONS report 'Low carbon and renewable energy economy, UK: 2019'³⁷ estimates that for every £1 of direct turnover in the UK's Solar PV energy sector, a further £0.70 of indirect turnover is generated. ONS has published 'Low carbon and renewable energy economy, UK: 2022'. However, they have yet to publish the revised indirect estimates for previous years and provisional 2021 and 2022 indirect estimates. Therefore, the data provided in the 2019 version is, at present, the latest available data. On that basis, a further indirect capital investment of approximately £413.6m is likely to be generated as a result of this Development. Overall, that equates to a direct and indirect investment into the local economy of around £1.004 billion.</p>
<p>Respondents raise that Development lacks clarity on land use changes of the Order Limit, specifically cable and access corridors being unclear in project material.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>A Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6] has been prepared to describe the process of design of the Development, drawing together information relating to the design of the Development and explaining in an accessible, non-technical manner what physical, environmental, human, technical and commercial factors have fed into the overall project design and how they have shaped it. It also sets out the national policy context and guidance that has informed the early design of the Development. It does not provide a full appraisal against current planning policy,</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>which is set out within the Planning Statement [EN010162/APP/5.4].</p> <p>As detailed in Chapter 5: Development Description of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.5], the cable and access corridors have been identified using a Rochdale Envelope (parameters-based) approach, allowing for appropriate flexibility while ensuring robust environmental assessment. As the Development has progressed, these corridors have been further refined and narrowed. Some flexibility remains necessary to accommodate detailed design and to avoid local site-specific constraints that may arise during construction.</p> <p>The parameters used in the ES represent a realistic worst-case scenario and are assessed accordingly in each technical chapter. This approach ensures that the final built design will not result in environmental effects beyond those identified in the ES.</p> <p>For a description of changes between the PEIR and ES, please refer to Chapter 4: Alternatives, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.4].</p>
General support for the Development.	No	The Applicant is grateful to all those who expressed their support in writing and extends its appreciation to all supporters of the Development.
Climate change and energy need		
General support for renewable energy in principle.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Respondents express that Development will not be an effective tool	Yes	The UK is very well suited to Solar PV as part of its energy mix for the following reasons:

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
in tackling climate change, with the UK's lack of sunlight and unreliable production of energy.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar irradiance levels are stable in the UK, coupled with a cooler climate than many countries, allowing more efficient transmission through electrical equipment and less overheating. <p>The UK benefits from sufficient sunlight, although it isn't as warm as other countries, only sunlight every day is required to provide a stable baseload of daytime power, whether direct sunlight or merely daylight.</p> <p>Baseload power through Solar PV being produced every day is an important addition to the plentiful wind power on the UK grid which is only available when the wind blows. The calm, sunny spring of 2025 demonstrates that a decarbonised UK grid has clearly benefitted from existing Solar PV on the network and the efficacy of the technology</p>
Respondents raise that Development construction may be more damaging for the climate than the eventual good it can do.	Yes	Chapter 15: Climate Change, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.15] , assess the worst-case outcomes for the Development's emissions. In relation to carbon emissions savings, the Development will have a major significant beneficial effect. When considered cumulatively with UK-wide renewable energy development, it will have a major and significant beneficial effect by actively reversing the risk of severe climate change relative to the baseline scenario.
General scepticism about net zero and climate change mitigation efforts.	No	Chapter 15: Climate Change, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.15] , assess the worst-case outcomes for the Development's emissions. Regardless of net zero goals, the development will lead to a worst-case net reduction of 789,292 teCO ₂ e in emissions, actively contributing

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		to mitigating the risk of severe climate change.
Respondents express concern that 'heat island' effect is not fully understood, and that excessive heat will cause more damage.	No	Research has focused on solar panels in arid areas. Current research indicates that the presence of grassland under panels mitigates any potential heat impacts, and therefore this is not anticipated to be a concern for the Development given UK weather conditions.

13 SECTION 42 STATUTORY CONSULTATION: RESPONSES RECEIVED, ISSUES RAISED AND CHANGES MADE

276 The Applicant received responses from 36 Section 42 consultees to the statutory consultation.

277 A detailed record of all comments received from Section 42 consultees to the statutory consultation, and the Applicant's response to these comments, is provided as **Appendix 5.1.11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN010162/APP/5.1.11]**.

278 **Table 13.1** presents a summary of this feedback.

Table 13.1: Summary qualitative data from Phase Two Consultation, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback.

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
Ecology and biodiversity		
Consultees express concern for inadequate biodiversity net gain. Further concerns the Development will damage local ecology. Some respondents specifying woodlands and hedgerows.	Yes	<p>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (including the Development) are currently exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) until an anticipated date of May 2026, and there is not yet any guidance about how statutory BNG will apply to such projects. A government open consultation was launched on 28/05/2025 seeking views on the implementation of BNG for NSIPs.</p> <p>In the absence of formal guidance, and drawing on themes emerging from the ongoing consultation, the BNG Assessment (Technical Appendix A8.13 [EN010162/APP/6.4.8.13]) has been undertaken using the prevailing Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) metric. It calculates the net change in biodiversity units for habitats, watercourses, and hedgerows by comparing the current baseline</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>with the post-Development scenario.</p> <p>The Development will deliver significant ecological and biodiversity enhancements through habitat creation and mitigation strategies, informed by both species-specific and landscape-scale considerations. This strategy includes: extensive grassland under the solar PV arrays (999 hectares), new and retained diverse grassland habitats (407 hectares), and retained arable land (144 hectares) with a high degree of conservation management for birds. Despite inter-specific variation in habitat requirements and ecologies, these measures are likely to compensate for the loss of open farmland habitats and benefit the breeding assemblage.</p> <p>Further to this, the Development incorporates targeted interventions to benefit key landscape features such as woodlands, watercourses, and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Ecotones around woodlands will buffer them from surrounding land use and reduce edge effects, and where these woodlands are also LWS, ecotones will reduce threats and pressures on them. The creation of 31 hectares of new woodland, 22 hectares of woodland ecotone, and 50 km of new hedgerows are beneficial effects in their own right, but they will</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>also benefit retained woodland and hedgerows by reducing habitat fragmentation. Additional enhancements include the creation of two new ponds, wildlife scrapes, and improvements in watercourse quality and habitat connectivity.</p> <p>Overall, the Development is expected to deliver a substantial biodiversity net gain, including increases of +60.7% in habitat units, +26.5% in hedgerow units, and +11.05% in watercourse units.</p> <p>Further detail is provided in Chapter 8 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] and Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant has partnered with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, the Sherwood Forest Trust, the Trent Rivers Trust and RSPB who continue to assist the Applicant in increasing benefits of the scheme for wildlife through their participation in formulating the ongoing iterations of the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1].</p>
Consultees raised concern for wildlife and the destruction of wildlife habitats.	Yes	Potential effects to wildlife during construction and operation are assessed in Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] , which includes details of mitigation,

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>compensation, and enhancement.</p> <p>The oCEMP (Technical Appendix A5.3 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3]) and oLEMP (Technical Appendix A5.1 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1]) provide further details of these measures during construction and operation.</p>
Landscape and visual		
<p>Consultees mention the natural aesthetic and views will be impacted by Development infrastructure.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges this comment. Visual impacts are an inherent aspect of solar development at this scale. National planning policy recognises this, but also indicates that reductions on the scale of a nationally significant solar farm in order to address landscape and visual effects should only be made in exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. However, landscape and visual impacts have been minimised as far as possible whilst also achieving the Development which makes a significant contribution to Net Zero Targets.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this policy position, the Applicant has made significant reductions to the design following PEIR, resulting in a reduction in visual impact. A description of which is captured in Chapter 4: Alternatives, of the</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.4], and the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p> <p>For more information, please refer to Chapter 7 of the ES: Landscape and Visual [EN010162/APP/6.2.7]. This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of the likely significant effect arising from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Development on landscape and visual receptors.</p>
Request for more information / full Residential Amenity Assessment.	Yes	<p>The Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is presented in Technical Appendix A7.6 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.6].</p> <p>This assessment considers only what the resident may see from a property. Views or 'visual amenity' are just one component of residential amenity and the two should not be confused. The latter is a planning matter and may also include aspects such as noise, air quality, traffic, etc., in addition to residential visual amenity. This RVAA considers the visual amenity aspects of residential amenity. Where necessary, other aspects are considered in the relevant chapters of the ES.</p> <p>This assessment, and the process of RVAA, seeks to identify where effects on residential visual amenity are of such a nature or magnitude that they may need to be considered in the overall balance of</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>‘Residential Amenity’ or ‘Living Conditions.’ The point at which this happens is referred to as the Residential Visual Amenity (RVA) Threshold.</p> <p>The RVAA identifies that effects would be at the highest level of magnitude at no properties and there would be no potential for the RVA threshold to be exceeded at any homes as a result of the construction and/or operation of the Development.</p>
Cultural heritage		
<p>Consultees expressed concern for the Development’s impact on heritage assets.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As detailed in Chapter 11 of the ES: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN010162/APP/6.2.11], the effects of the Development on the historic environment have been fully assessed. This chapter focuses on how the Development may affect the significance of heritage assets, including the extent to which their significance can be experienced or appreciated. Where potential impacts have been identified, the ES outlines the design changes made to reduce those effects.</p> <p>In addition, the outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (oAMS) (Technical Appendix A11.8 [EN0101/APP/6.4.11.8]) sets out how post-consent works will be undertaken to mitigate effects</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		which have not otherwise been designed out.
Some consultees requested a post-consent Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) to reduce the Development's impact on heritage assets.	Yes	An Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (oAMS) has been included within the ES (Technical Appendix A11.8 [EN0101/APP/6.4.11.8]). The AMS sets out the mechanisms by which mitigation will be secured.
Transport and access		
Consultees expressed concern for various routes proposed being inadequate for construction traffic.	Yes	<p>The Applicant can confirm that passing places are proposed along the routes being used for construction where the road widths do not currently comfortably accept HGV traffic. These are shown on Figure 14.5 of ES Chapter 14, Traffic & Transport [EN010162/APP/6.2.14], and are proposed to ease two-way traffic flows.</p> <p>In addition, measures contained within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) (Technical Appendix A5.2) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2] that seek to minimise negative effects, with measures such as deliveries avoiding peak periods on the roads.</p> <p>The oCTMP confirms that prior to construction works commencing on roads to be used for construction, a condition survey will be undertaken and remedial measures needed to facilitate the works agreed with the local highway authority and completed. Further interim</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		surveys and post-completion condition surveys will also be conducted and any agreed corrective measures undertaken.
Some requested more information on access routes and traffic management.	No	<p>In response to concerns raised regarding traffic and transport, and as part of the ES, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) (Technical Appendix A5.2 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2]). This document, secured through the DCO, provides a framework for managing construction vehicle movements to and from the Development in order to minimise effects on the local highway network during the temporary construction phase. The oCTMP outlines key measures including access arrangements, vehicle routing, trip generation estimates, mitigation strategies, and provisions for transporting abnormal loads.</p> <p>These movements will be managed so that the potential effects are mitigated appropriately, this may include temporary localised road closures and plating and packing of the kerbs to avoid damage. Whilst these movements will cause localised traffic disruption during their occurrence, the volume of movements will typically be in the order of 25 deliveries at the receiving accesses over a period of a few months (as shown in green on Table 14.14) and as such, will</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>not influence the assessment outcomes included within this chapter. A specialist contractor has been appointed for assessment of the transportation of abnormal loads and additional details are set out in the oCTMP (Technical Appendix A5.2 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2]).</p> <p>As detailed in Section 14.6: Development Access and Traffic, of Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.14], access to the Development has been ascertained by a methodology using a hierarchy of routes to the access locations to be used for the Works Areas shown on Figure 5.1: Works Areas [EN010162/APP/ 6.3.5.1] during the construction phase. These routes will be secured through the oCTMP and then the CTMP secured by a Requirement in the DCO. The oCTMP will be used as a basis for the final CTMP to be submitted for approval to NSDC in consultation with NCC and National Highways.</p>
Consultees raised concern for safety of recreational users and residential drivers.	Yes	<p>As detailed in Section 14.6.2: Site Access Arrangements of Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.14], detailed consideration has been given to the access arrangements for the Works Areas shown on Figure 5.1: Works Areas [EN010162/APP/ 6.3.5.1] to ensure that they are appropriate to meet the needs of the Development, whilst also</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		giving due consideration to operational safety, environmental impact and minimising disruption to other road users.
Soils and agriculture		
Consultees expressed concern for the use of agricultural / BMV land.	Yes	<p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns raised regarding the use of agricultural land and has carefully considered these in the ES. Chapter 17 Agricultural Land of the ES:</p> <p>[EN010162/APP/6.2.17] evaluates the likely effects of the Development on agricultural land, soils, and rural businesses. The assessment concludes that the impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is minimal – representing 0.028% of the total BMV land in England – and is therefore not considered significant.</p> <p>The Applicant ensures there will be no permanent loss of agricultural land, only temporary use for the duration of the Development. Agricultural land and subsoils will have an opportunity to recover over the lifetime of the Development and improve in quality, remaining fallow for the period.</p> <p>In addition, impacts on soils have also been minimised through the implementation of an Outline Soil Management Plan [EN010162/APP/6.4.17.2]. Further details are provided in Chapter 17 of the ES:</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		Agricultural Land [EN010162/APP/6.2.17] .
Consultees raised concern for the classification of land.	No	<p>The agricultural land quality of the Order Limits has been recorded, and the results are set out in Technical Appendix A17.1 Agricultural Land Classification Survey [EN010162/APP/6.4.17.1].</p> <p>In addition, Table 17.8: ALC Results (Order Limits) by Works Area shown in Chapter 17: Agricultural Land of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.17], presents the ALC results within the Order Limits by Works Area. Works Areas 6 (existing National Grid Substation) and 7 (Staythorpe BESS and Connection) are not included in the Table.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns raised regarding the use of agricultural land and has carefully considered these in the ES. Chapter 17 of the ES: Agricultural Land [EN010162/APP/6.2.17] evaluates the likely effects of the Development on agricultural land, soils, and rural businesses. The assessment concludes that the impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is minimal – representing 0.028% of the total BMV land in England – and is therefore not considered significant.</p>
Some consultees commented on sheep grazing within solar PV sites.	No	In terms of land use, there will be a change over most of the Order Limits from arable (cereals and

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>break crops mostly) to grassland. Once the Solar PV modules have been installed, the land may be used by sheep for grazing (or otherwise managed grassland, although this is commercially substantially worse). Both land uses fall within the definition of agriculture. The change of agricultural land management from arable to mixed Solar PV modules and grassland uses is a land management consideration. These are considered in Section 17.8.2.4 of Chapter 17: Agricultural Land, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.17]. Land use changes of this nature do not result in an adverse effect on agricultural land quality.</p>
Hydrology, flood risk and drainage		
<p>Consultees expressed concern for increased flooding due to the Development.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As outlined in Technical Appendix.A9.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy [EN010162/APP/6.4.9.1], research outlines that solar panels do not have a significant effect on runoff volumes or peak flows, however where ground beneath panels is bare there may be an increase in peak discharge. Grassland under the PV arrays will act to bind the soil and slow the flow of water from the PV arrays therefore not contributing to or exacerbating existing flooding.</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant has ensured that Work Area 1: Solar PV, Work Area 4: Substations, and Work Areas 5a and 5b are</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		located outside of Flood Zones 2 and 3, based on the illustrative design.
Consultees note the need for flood mitigation measures.	Yes	<p>The Applicant is determining the most suitable and efficient methods of helping to alleviate the existing flooding issues and commits to bringing these forward as separate Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA) planning applications to be submitted to Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC).</p> <p>As part of this, the Applicant is working with the Trent Rivers Trust (TRT) to identify the most effective flood mitigation strategies for several local villages in the identified Parishes of: Maplebeck, Egmonton, Sutton-on-Trent, Carlton-on-Trent, Weston/Grassthorne, South Muskham and Kelham. Grassthorne and Laxton and Moorhouse have been included as a new addition following Phase Two Consultation.</p>
Socioeconomics, tourism, and recreation		
Consultees comment on the need for accessible PRowS and permissive routes in the location of the Development.	Yes	The Development would also deliver benefits to the local community via an enhanced green infrastructure network including a better-connected footpath and bridleway network – through the creation of over 32.6 km of permissive routes across the Development – and access to open space and recreational spaces. These would include the provision of permissive paths and a new community orchard.

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>Further detail is provided in the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6] and Chapter 18 of the ES: Recreation [EN010162/APP/6.2.18].</p> <p>Where routes run adjacent to solar panels, a minimum corridor of 10 m will be in place between the fence line for any existing or new recreational route. The fence line will have a minimum offset of 3 m from solar panels, more typically 5 m, further distancing routes from panels.</p> <p>The additional permissive routes will provide improved off-road connection to surrounding villages and improved access to open areas outside of Works no.1, Solar PV.</p>
<p>Consultees comment on the need for mitigation measures for recreational spaces near the Development.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As detailed in Chapter 18: Recreation of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.18], the layout of the Development has been designed with the aim of minimising effects on PRow, as set out in ES Chapter 4: Site Selection and Design Evolution [EN010162/APP/6.2.4].</p> <p>The Development has been designed with embedded mitigation and enhancement measures to ensure that significant effects on recreational receptors are avoided where possible throughout the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Development. This has been</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>secured via the application of design principles and identification of recreational receptors, ensuring that appropriate buffers are put in place between the receptor and the solar panels or infrastructure, with landscape planting and screening undertaken where appropriate, and potential re-routing of PRow where necessary for the Development.</p> <p>Measures included within the design to mitigate and enhance the recreation receptors and/or the experience of using them are shown on Figure 5.2: Masterplan [EN010162/APP/6.3.5.2], and summarised in Figure 18.3: Proposed Recreation Changes, [EN010162/APP/6.3.18.3].</p>
<p>Consultees note the potential to increase employment in the area being 'minor beneficial'.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Employment has been considered in detail as part of the socioeconomic impact assessment, along with other receptors. Technical Appendix A13.2 - Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010162/APP/6.4.13.2] details how education paths can lead to long term employment opportunities associated with the Development and how long-term operational phase employment can be maximised.</p> <p>Further to this, as outlined in Chapter 13: Socioeconomics and Tourism, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.13], the construction phase of the Development is estimated to create 180 direct local FTE</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>construction and manufacturing jobs in the Study Area over the 2-year construction programme, 120 in construction and 60 in manufacturing.</p> <p>The operational and maintenance stage would result in the creation of approximately 48 FTE jobs over the full operational phase of 40 years. The jobs created will be in the renewable energy sector, assisting in the UK's transition to net zero.</p> <p>Furthermore, there is expected to be an increase in jobs associated with sheep grazing, equivalent to 8 local direct FTE jobs.</p> <p>The successful implementation of the Technical Appendix A13.2 - Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010162/APP/6.4.13.2] will ensure the local benefit from job and training opportunities is maximised.</p>
Noise and vibration		
Consultees raise concern for noise during the construction phase.	Yes	<p>The assessment of noise and vibration is undertaken in ES Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010162/APP/6.2.12] and concludes that the impact of noise and vibration is predicted to be Negligible to Minor Adverse and is therefore not significant during the construction phase.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
Some consultees express concern for noise and vibration impact on residents and wildlife.	Yes	<p>The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Technical Appendix A5.3 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3]) states that an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed during construction. The scope of works for the ECoW includes planning for known ecological issues and localised constraints and responding to new ones. Therefore, where new sensitivities are identified appropriate mitigation can be identified and implemented, where necessary.</p>
Community benefits and impact		
Some consultees express concern for community benefits being insufficient.	No	<p>The community benefits package, known as NG+, forms no part of the DCO proposals (it is separate and voluntary) and is not considered by the SoS as part of the DCO application. Nevertheless, the Government expects community benefit to be paid, it is a standard procedure. In terms of quantum, the proposed community benefit package for the Development of £1m per annum over 40 years is the most generous we have seen amongst other solar NSIP proposals and above the government's recommended amount to be paid per MW.</p> <p>The fund has already been partially directed towards initiatives such as energy efficiency improvements (e.g. electrical safety upgrades, LED lighting projects), educational resources (e.g. raised planting</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>beds for local schools), and biodiversity enhancements (e.g. flood resilience infrastructure).</p> <p>Future funding opportunities under NG+ have been shaped around key community priorities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency for individual properties and community buildings – supported by an ongoing survey programme that will inform insulation, LED, solar PV, and heat pump interventions. • Enhancement of the local environment – with plans under way to fund orchards, biodiversity zones and habitat corridors, including permanent wildflower planting, native tree schemes and species-friendly hedgerows. • Recreational and wellbeing spaces – such as community gardens, picnic areas and low-maintenance outdoor zones, currently under discussion with multiple parish councils. • Village and parish infrastructure – including heating system upgrades, defibrillators, hall refurbishments and accessible furniture. • Learning and skills support – via the launch of the EG Academy, offering free, CPD-accredited online courses and in-person outreach with

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>local colleges and job centres to support upskilling, employability, and green career pathways.</p> <p>NG+ is structured to remain flexible, enabling evolving local needs to be met over the Development's lifetime. The fund will be community-led and governed by an independent trust to ensure that investment decisions remain transparent and fair, and that benefits are distributed equitably across the host area.</p> <p>To demonstrate early commitment, the Applicant has already commenced delivery of community benefits through a discretionary NG+ fund, with approximately £8,000 allocated in 2024/5 and a further £18,000 available in 2025. This is enabling tangible local improvements ahead of planning consent. To date, funding has supported improvements to village halls, church safety works, primary school gardens, sports team equipment, flood resilience infrastructure, and biodiversity planting schemes across the Development. Further initiatives are in planning or procurement stages following ongoing conversations with parish councils, schools, and community groups.</p> <p>Looking ahead, the full £1 million per year NG+ community benefit fund will commence from 2026</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		(subject to DCO consent). This will be administered by an independent trust to ensure transparency, fairness, and local oversight. The NG+ scheme will prioritise energy efficiency, food security, education, biodiversity, and wellbeing projects, shaped in collaboration with local stakeholders to ensure long-term impact aligned with community needs.
Consultants expressed general concern about impacts on community health and well-being.	Yes	<p>In response to well-being concerns, the Development will deliver a range of benefits aimed at enhancing both community health and the natural environment. A key component of this is the provision of an enhanced green infrastructure network, including over 32.6 km of permissive routes that will significantly improve the connectivity of the local footpath and bridleway network. This improved access to open space and recreational areas – including a new community orchard – will offer valuable opportunities for outdoor activity. Further detail on these measures is available in the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p> <p>Additionally, in recognition of concerns raised regarding ecology and biodiversity, the Applicant has committed to extensive habitat creation and enhancement measures across the Development. This includes the creation of 31 hectares of new woodland, 22 hectares of</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>woodland ecotone, and 50 km of new hedgerows. As well as this, the site would comprise extensive grassland under the solar PV arrays (999 hectares), new and retained diverse grassland habitats (407 hectares), and retained arable land (144 hectares) managed with a high degree of conservation management for birds. Overall, the Development is expected to deliver a substantial biodiversity net gain, including increases of +60.7% in habitat units, +26.5% in hedgerow units, and +11.05% in watercourse units. This commitment enhances the quality of the surrounding environment, with the aim of contributing to the well-being of local communities.</p> <p>Further detail is provided in Chapter 8 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] and the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p> <p>Further to this, as detailed in Chapter 16: Miscellaneous Issues, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.16], a Human Health Impact Assessment (HHIA) has been undertaken to consider key determinants to protect human health. HHIA's are designed to determine whether a proposal might improve health inequalities or negatively affect people's health and wellbeing in its widest</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>sense. The people who might be affected are different depending on the nature and magnitude of the potential effect; where effects are predicted, the affected population is described.</p> <p>Key determinants to the protection of human health, including mental health aspects associated with changes to amenity as a result of the Development, have been considered as part of this HHIA. The outcome of the HHIA indicates that the Development is unlikely to negatively affect people's health and wellbeing in its widest sense. There are no effects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause potentially severe or irreversible negative effects; • Affect a large number of people; or • Specifically, may affect people who already suffer poor health or are socially excluded. <p>The only adverse effect scoped into the assessment was potential physical effects arising from slightly reduced air quality as a result of construction/decommissioning plant and traffic. This is assessed as being of minor significance, based on worst-case assumptions, which is not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.</p>
Consultation and engagement		

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
<p>Respondents have commented on the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant, with many stating that the consultation activities carried out by the Applicant have not been adequate.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised around the length of consultation periods, as well as the consultation materials produced.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Appendix 5.1.1 to the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1.1] describes how the Applicant's consultation has complied with relevant legislation and associated guidance.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook its consultation in compliance with commitments made in its published Statement of Community Consultation, which in turn was informed through consultation with relevant local authorities. This is described in Section 7 (Preparation for Statutory Consultation) of this Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p> <p>A consultation period of 42 days was provided for responses to the PEIR and Phase Two Consultation information, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days.</p> <p>To support responses to the consultation, the Applicant published a range of consultation materials including a Central Booklet summarising the proposals, a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR, held a series of eight in-person information events and one online information event where the proposals could be discussed with members of the Applicant's project team, and hosted free-to-use dedicated communication channels for enquiries.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>This included notifying over 5,900 properties within the vicinity of the Development, which were identified within a defined Core Consultation Zone presented in the SoCC. In addition to this, the Applicant made consultation materials available online, in a virtual information event which was available throughout the consultation period at four CAP sites, at public information events and by request to the dedicated communication lines. Consultation opportunities and materials were further publicised by local media advertising, statutory notices, and maintaining a register of interested individuals.</p> <p>The Applicant recorded over 500 attendees across the series of public information events held during the phase two (statutory) consultation, which attracted over 300 submissions of feedback.</p> <p>The Applicant is grateful to everyone who has taken the time to engage with the Development to date.</p>
Glint and glare		
<p>Consultees expressed general concern about glint and glare, especially for those taking part in recreational activities.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Glint and Glare effects on PRoWs has been considered and is presented in Technical Appendix A16.1: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010162/APP/6.4.16.1].</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		The effects of glint and glare on boaters on the River Trent were initially presented within the PEIR and are reassessed based upon the design of the Development in the ES.
Some consultees expressed concern about the scope of glint and glare assessments.	Yes	<p>The glint and glare assessment, presented in Technical Appendix A16.1: Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010162/APP/6.4.16.1], has used the standard driver's eye level height of 2.75m, which is in accordance with Network Rail requirements. The 3D glint and glare modelling software takes terrain/elevation changes into account. That final mitigation scheme will be designed in consultation with relevant parties including Network Rail, and will be submitted for their approval prior to construction.</p>
Some consultees specified glint and glare concerns for drivers on the A1.	Yes	<p>As detailed in Chapter 16: Miscellaneous Issues of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.16], the assessment has identified limited potentially significant glint and glare effects on certain stretches of the A1 (northbound) and A616 (northwest-bound), and none in the opposite directions. Mitigation for these would be required, as set out below.</p> <p>The assessment has identified no potentially significant glint and glare effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The East Coast Main Line in either direction; • The River Trent (which is outside the study area,

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>following design changes); and Any residential property.</p> <p>A number of potential mitigation measures are proposed to be considered, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifying the extent of the PV array areas; • The use of textured glass PV panels in key areas; • Additional visual screening in the form of fencing and / or planting; and • Changes to the azimuth and / or tilt angle of the PV arrays. <p>In order to ensure that the mitigation properly responds to the actual design to be constructed, the detailed glint and glare mitigation scheme will be designed to match the final PV array design in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and will be submitted to the Council for their approval prior to construction. This will be secured via a DCO Requirement.</p>
Air quality		
<p>Consultees expressed general concern for air pollution as a result of dust during construction.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 16: Miscellaneous Issues [EN010162/APP/6.2.16], of the ES, addresses the potential for significant air quality effects by considering the baseline environment and setting out the potential impacts that could occur during the construction, operation, and</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>decommissioning phases of the Development.</p> <p>This chapter includes an assessment of effects on air quality and from dust, and finds no significant effects, with further mitigation being provided in ES Technical Appendix A5.3, oCEMP [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3]</p>
Site selection and alternatives		
<p>Consultees expressed concern for the scale of the proposals.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The size and scale of the Development relates to the grid infrastructure available to connect into at Staythorpe National Grid substation and UK government solar PV targets. Solar PV targets cannot be met without some projects at large scale. The area is very well-suited to a development of this scale due to the amount of available flat land and therefore the ability to contain the visual aspects very effectively within the landscape.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, there have been substantial reductions in areas of land proposed for solar PV following the design published in the PEIR, as shown on Figure 4.9b [EN010162/APP/6.3.4.9.2].</p> <p>The evolution of the Development is set out in Chapter 4: Alternatives, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.4].</p> <p>For more information on specific changes to the Development,</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		please refer to the Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6] .
Some consultees commented on areas that were deemed as unsuitable for development.	Yes	<p>The Development is viable in its proposed location, as set out in the ES Technical Appendix A4.1: Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6].</p> <p>The Applicant believes that solar PV should also be located on residential and commercial roofs, where suitable, but that an 800 MW solar development could not viably be distributed across roofs within the same search area.</p>
Consultees expressed concern about site selection, amid accumulation of similar projects in the region.	No	<p>The Development is supported by national policy and is identified as Critical National Priority infrastructure in the National Policy Statements for energy. The need for low-carbon energy infrastructure, is established in EN-1 (Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy) and EN-3 (Renewable Energy Infrastructure), which highlight the need for renewable energy at scale to meet the UK's legally binding net zero targets.</p> <p>Further justification for the Development's contribution to national energy needs is provided in the Planning Statement [EN010162/APP/5.4] and Statement of Need (Planning Need) [EN010162/APP/7.2].</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>The grid operator, National Energy System Operator (NESO), is responsible for managing grid capacity and connection offers. Solar PV plays a crucial role in balancing the UK energy system, especially in complementing wind generation by providing energy at different times, and is increasingly supported by battery storage technology to address intermittency and enhance grid stability.</p> <p>Regarding concerns over cumulative disruption, the cumulative effects of this project in combination with other developments are fully assessed in Chapter 19 of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.19].</p>
Decommissioning and construction		
<p>Consultees expressed general concern about disruption/damage from construction and decommissioning activity.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As part of the ES, the Applicant's Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3] sets out measures to protect environmental resources during the construction phase of the Development.</p> <p>The CEMP includes the following sections which provide additional details about specialist matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A5.3.5 Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP); • Section A5.3.9 Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP);

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A5.3.10 Construction Site Waste Management Plan (CSWMP); • Section A5.3.11 Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP); and • Section A5.3.12 Incident Response Plan; and. • Section A5.3.13 Crossing Schedule. <p>It's important to note that the Applicant has overall responsibility for the Development and its construction, including the appointment and performance of the Principal Contractor and other contractors. The Principal Contractor will be responsible for implementing the CEMP.</p> <p>In addition, construction effects are assessed in the ES with respect to potential disturbance, particularly Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010162/APP/6.2.12], Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010162/APP/6.2.14]. (including Technical Appendix A5.2 Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2]), and Chapter 18, Recreation [EN010162/APP/6.2.18].</p> <p>As part of the ES, the Applicant's Outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (DRP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.5] sets out the proposed content of a</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>final DRP, which will be submitted to NSDC for approval no less than 6 months before the decommissioning phase commences.</p> <p>The final version of the Decommissioning Restoration Plan will be reviewed and updated to ensure that decommissioning works are undertaken according to the legislation, regulations, and good practices at the time.</p>
<p>Some consultees expressed that associated infrastructure such as orchards etc should be maintained after decommissioning.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The wildlife and biodiversity areas will be managed and maintained during the operational phase of the Development, as set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) in ES Technical Appendix A5.1 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1].</p> <p>At decommissioning, these areas may be retained or may be removed. This decision will be made shortly before decommissioning in consultation with NSDC, as part of the Decommissioning Restoration Plan, ES Technical Appendix A5.6 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.6]. For example, the land agreements with landowners include provisions that allow certain ecological enhancements – such as woodland planting – to be retained after decommissioning, rather than being removed.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
Some consultees expressed concern about site waste management and fly tipping at construction and decommissioning stages.	Yes	<p>Where access to off-road areas is required as part of the Development, this will be secured by gates (with keys for those who need them for access). If there is any change to off-road access for activities such as fly-tipping resulting from the Development, it will be a decrease in such access.</p> <p>Fly tipping, however, is not expected to be a significant issue, given that the Order Limits will benefit from the same level of security (hedges, gates, etc.) as is currently in place, with the addition of further fences around Work no. 1 (solar PV) and Work no.s 4, 5, 6 and 7 (substations and BESS). During construction hedges fencing will be installed to prevent unauthorised access in terms of security but also Health and Safety. These measures are considered sufficient to deter unauthorised access and minimise the risk of fly-tipping during construction.</p> <p>For more information, please view Chapter 16: Miscellaneous Issues of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.1.16].</p>
Consultees raised general concern about recyclability of panels.	Yes	<p>Solar panel recycling is already established in the UK as of 2024, despite the solar PV industry having only gained significant momentum over the past 15 years. By the time the Development is decommissioned, anticipated around 2070, it is likely that solar</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>PV recycling will be a mature, well-developed industry with advanced processes and infrastructure in place.</p> <p>It is expected that materials such as metals from cabling, solar PV mounting structures, inverters, transformers, and fencing will be recycled, as is common practice today. As set out in Section 16.7, Waste, of ES Chapter 16, Miscellaneous [EN010162/APP/6.2.16], all materials are expected to be reused, recycled or have their energy recovered, in accordance with the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>At present, there are at least three specialist waste handlers in the UK with the capability to recycle solar PV panels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycle Solar (Scunthorpe): One of the few industrial-scale solar panel recycling facilities in the UK, offering large-scale processing capabilities. • Solar Recycling Solutions (SRS) (Dartford): Provides a comprehensive recycling service using advanced scanning technology to identify and separate materials efficiently. • Waste Experts (Huddersfield): Offers panel recycling and disposal services, supporting the

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		circular economy through responsible waste management.
Consultees raised concern for the return of fields to original agricultural use after decommissioning.	Yes	<p>As detailed in Section A5.6.3: Site Restoration of Technical Appendix A5.6: Outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (DRP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.6], areas of the Development that are not to be retained beyond decommissioning would be changed to their future land use as part of decommissioning.</p> <p>The general process would be that the Development components would be removed, and then the Development would be prepared for its future use. Details of the proposed land use, and the processes for decommissioning and restoration, would be set out in the DRP. Although substations may remain, along with woodland and hedges, solar PV arrays will be removed entirely, and the land will be returned to its original use.</p> <p>The actions to be taken at decommissioning will be agreed through consultation shortly before decommissioning itself occurs. At this time, the Outline Decommissioning Restoration Plan, provided with the ES as Technical Appendix A5.6 [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.6], is considered appropriate, as it allows decommissioning to</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		respond to the needs and wishes applicable at that time.
General feedback		
General concern about the ethics of sourcing PV panels, particularly from China and risks this may be associated with modern slavery was raised by consultees.	Yes	<p>It is expected, but not yet commercially agreed, that the steel would be provided by UK manufacturers making their steel using electric arc furnaces. It has been assumed within Chapter 15, Climate Change [EN010162/APP/6.2.15], that the Development components, e.g. solar PV modules, PV framework, and BESS cells, will be produced in China and delivered via sea from China, to ensure a worst-case scenario is presented. As outlined within Section 15.5 of the chapter, only the PV mounting framework has the potential to be produced in the UK, but the potential emissions savings have not been included in the assessment as the mitigation cannot be committed to at this stage.</p> <p>In terms of modern slavery in the supply chain, the Applicant has signed the 'UK Solar Industry Supply Chain Statement 2024' along with other members of the UK solar industry, committed to supporting the development of an industry that promotes the highest possible levels of transparency, social responsibility and good governance throughout global solar supply chains.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		This includes action to minimise and reduce the impact of extracting raw materials, to conserve water and to lower carbon emissions across the value chain, and to ensure the industry is free of any human rights abuses, including forced labour, anywhere in the global supply chain.
General concerns about fire risks and hazards, especially potential for fire at the BESS were raised by consultees.	Yes	<p>Details of the fire risk reduction and management measures are set out in Technical Appendix A5.4: Outline Fire Safety Management Plan (oFSMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.4].</p> <p>The oFSMP has been prepared by using the same approach which was adopted successfully at the consented Staythorpe BESS project (Planning Reference 22/01840/FULM). That approach was agreed after extensive consultation with Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS), and after accounting for concerns raised by the public in relation to fire safety. It was developed in coordination with industry leading experts including a Senior Advisor to the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), the expert advisor to NFRS and a former Head of Safety for another large Fire and Rescue Service.</p>
General objection to the current designs were made by consultees.	Yes	A Design Approach Document [EN010162/APP/5.6] has been prepared to describe the process of design of the Development, drawing together information

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>relating to the design of the Development and explaining in an accessible, non-technical manner what physical, environmental, human, technical and commercial factors have fed into the overall project design and how they have shaped it. It also sets out the national policy context and guidance that has informed the early design of the Development. It does not provide a full appraisal against current planning policy, which is set out within the Planning Statement [EN010162/APP/5.4].</p> <p>In addition, please refer to Chapter 4: Alternatives, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.4], for a description of changes between the PEIR and the ES.</p>
Climate change and energy need		
<p>Consultees recognised the contribution the Development would make to local and national decarbonisation targets.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 15: Climate Change, of the ES [EN010162/APP/6.2.15], assess the worst-case outcomes for the Development's emissions. In relation to carbon emissions savings, the Development will have a major significant beneficial effect. When considered cumulatively with UK-wide renewable energy development, it will have a major and significant beneficial effect by actively reversing the risk of severe climate change relative to the baseline scenario.</p> <p>Regardless of net zero goals, the development will lead to a worst-case net reduction of 789,292 teCO₂e in emissions, actively</p>

Feedback comments	Has this comment been addressed by further evidence?	Applicant response
		contributing to mitigating the risk of severe climate change.
<p>Consultees raised concerns regarding the carbon footprint of importing associated infrastructure such as PV and steel for fencing etc.</p>	Yes	<p>It has been assumed within ES Chapter 15 Climate Change [EN010162/APP/6.2.15], that the Development components, e.g. solar PV modules, PV framework, and BESS cells, will be produced in China and delivered via sea from China, to ensure a worst-case scenario is presented.</p> <p>As outlined within Section 15.1 of the chapter [EN010162/APP/6.2.15], only the PV mounting framework has the potential to be produced in the UK, but the potential emissions savings have not been included in the assessment as the mitigation cannot be committed to at this stage. The hope and expectation is that the steel will be manufactured in UK-based electric arc furnaces, but this cannot be confirmed at present due to factors external to the Development. This is clarified in the ES Chapter 15 Climate Change [EN010162/APP/6.2.15].</p> <p>It's important to note that regardless of net zero goals, the development will lead to a net reduction of 789,292 teCO₂e in emissions, actively contributing to mitigating the risk of severe climate change.</p>

14 ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND (SOCG)

14.1 INTRODUCTION

²⁷⁹ The Applicant continued discussions with a number of consultees to respond to all the comments raised in response to Section 42 consultation on the PEIR and as part of the ongoing discussions with consultees to reach positions of agreement or understanding.

²⁸⁰ In summary, following the close of the Section 42 consultation on 20 February 2025 and the Applicant Submission, meetings were held with several statutory consultees. These are detailed in **Table 13.7**.

Table 13.2: Ongoing meetings with stakeholders undertaken between 20 February and Application submission

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
28 February 2025	RWE	Heads of Terms for option for license to use heavy lifting platform as well as associated access through Staythorpe Power Station is in progress.
13 March 2025	Natural England	Phase Two Consultation feedback response and discussion on Letter of No Impediment
18 March 2025	JPAG (Joint Parish Council Action Group)	Discussion on areas of common ground around policy matters, grouping concerns of the JPAG, flooding issues / schemes
17 April 2025	JPAG (Joint Parish Council Action Group)	Confirmation of common ground reached on policy points. Confirmation the parties will collaborate in the months leading up to and beyond submission. Discussions on biodiversity, landscape and visual. Issues tracker exchanged with JPAG views and Applicant responses.
9 March 2025	Newark Town Council	Discussion on the Development and Newark Town Council's response to Phase Two Consultation, with Newark Town Council voting in support of the Development.

14.2 ONGOING COMMUNITY RESPONSES

- 281 The Applicant continued to engage with MPs, local authority elected members, parish councils and key stakeholders following the close of Phase Two Consultation.

14.3 ONGOING LANDOWNER NEGOTIATIONS

- 282 The Applicant has continued engagement with landowners and those with land interests regarding the Development. Full detail of negotiations and engagement undertaken with land interests regarding the Development can be found in the **Pre-application Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker [EN010162/APP/4.4]** and **Book of Reference [EN010162/APP/4.3]**.

14.4 ONGOING AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

- 283 Statements of Common Ground are drafted, and engagement will be undertaken with the relevant Section 42 consultees after the submission of the application.
- 284 Statements of Common Ground have already been progressed with the following consultees: Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC), the Environment Agency (EA), Natural England, Historic England, National Highways, and the Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG).

15 CONCLUSION

15.1 CONCLUSION ON THE APPLICANT'S REGARD TO CONSULTATION RESPONSES

285 The design of the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park has evolved over time, shaped by technical requirements, environmental studies, and valuable feedback from local communities and stakeholders. Throughout the pre-application period, the Applicant has carefully considered comments received during all phases of consultation, both from the public and technical consultees, which has led to a number of positive refinements to the proposals.

286 As a result, several features of the Development have been directly influenced by the feedback received, including:

- In response to Phase One Consultation feedback, in March 2024, the Applicant made early design changes, including the removal of panels in certain areas and the relocation of a substation. These changes were shared on 28 March 2024 with key stakeholders and individuals on the Applicant's keep informed list. These early design changes are presented in Appendix 5.1.4: Post-Phase One Consultation Materials **[EN010162/APP/5.1.4]**.

287 The Applicant responded to community and technical stakeholder feedback by introducing Natural Flood Management solutions. As part of this, the Applicant is working with the Trent Rivers Trust (TRT) to identify the most effective flood mitigation strategies for key locations in the identified Parishes of: Maplebeck, Egmonton, Sutton-on-Trent, Carlton-on-Trent, Weston/Grassthorne, South Muskham and Kelham. Grassthorne and Laxton and Moorhouse have been included as a new addition following Phase Two Consultation. In addition, the Applicant has ensured that Work Area 1: Solar PV, Work Area 4: Substations, and Work Areas 5a and 5b are located outside of Flood Zones 2 and 3, based on the illustrative design.

288 In recognition of concerns raised regarding ecology and biodiversity, the Applicant has committed to a range of measures that enhance and protect key habitats within the Development. This includes the creation of 31 hectares of new woodland, 22 hectares of woodland ecotone, and 50 km of new hedgerows. As well as this, the site would comprise extensive grassland under the solar PV arrays (999 hectares), new and retained diverse grassland habitats (407 hectares), and retained arable land (144 hectares) managed with a high degree of conservation management for birds. Overall, the Development is expected to deliver a substantial biodiversity net gain, including increases of +60.7% in habitat units, +26.5% in hedgerow units, and +11.05% in watercourse units. These interventions are designed to support important landscape features such as woodlands, watercourses, and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), while also improving ecological connectivity and reducing habitat fragmentation. Further detail is provided in Chapter 8 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity **[EN010162/APP/6.2.8]** and Design Approach Document **[EN010162/APP/5.6]**.

- 289 The Applicant has introduced NG+, a community-support initiative linked to the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, developed in direct response to feedback received during the pre-application period. NG+ includes a £1 million-per-year fund to support local priorities such as environment, education, food security, wellbeing, and energy efficiency. The initiative also fosters partnerships with local universities and promotes apprenticeships and job creation during construction and operation. More information is available on the dedicated NG+ webpage: <https://ngplus.uk/>.
- 290 As well as NG+, the EG learning Academy (<https://www.egacademy.co.uk/>) was created to provide free CPD courses for local people to learn the skills to be able to work in the renewable sector. With many engagement events already having taken place, over 80 local people now have solar or BESS qualifications as a result.
- 291 The Development would also deliver benefits to the local community via an enhanced green infrastructure network including a better-connected footpath and bridleway network. New permissive routes have been proposed to increase the connectivity of the network during the operational phase, including 21 new permissive footpaths, and 6 new permissive bridleways, creating 32.6 km of new permissive route, as described in Table 18.7 in Chapter 18: Recreation, of the ES **[EN010162/APP/6.2.18]**. A circular recreational route would be created around the Order Limits, covering 50.6 km, including 12.5 km of new permissive path.
- 292 In response to concerns raised regarding traffic and transport, and as part of the ES, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP). This document, secured through the DCO, provides a framework for managing construction vehicle movements to and from the Development in order to minimise effects on the local highway network during the temporary construction phase. The oCTMP (Technical Appendix A5.2 **[EN010162/APP/6.4.5.2]**) outlines key measures including access arrangements, vehicle routing, trip generation estimates, mitigation strategies, and provisions for transporting abnormal loads.
- 293 The Applicant acknowledges concerns raised regarding the use of agricultural land and has carefully considered these in the ES. Chapter 17 of the ES: Agricultural Land **[EN010162/APP/6.2.17]** evaluates the likely effects of the Development on agricultural land, soils, and rural businesses. The assessment concludes that the impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is minimal – representing 0.028% of the total BMV land in England – and is therefore not considered significant. In addition, impacts on soils have also been minimised through the implementation of an Outline Soil Management Plan **[EN010162/APP/6.4.17.2]**. Further details are provided in Chapter 17 of the ES: Agricultural Land **[EN010162/APP/6.2.17]**.
- 294 The Applicant notes the importance of job creation of industry specific, highly skilled local jobs and other mixed skill level jobs. There will be 180 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the construction phase and 48 FTE jobs during operation. One local person has already been employed in the local area in the pre-application phase of the Development. Many other local jobs supported in the wider supply chain for the Development, including local hostels, hotels and restaurants, local ecologists, and consultants.

15.2 CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 295 The Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive pre-application on the Development.
- 296 This consultation has been informed by and complied with the requirements of the 2008 Act, and associated guidance and legislation.
- 297 The Applicant's strategy of coordinating consultation activities across the Development has resulted in a high level of engagement throughout the development process.
- 298 The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an interactive consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the design of the Development in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.
- 299 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 this Consultation Report.
- 300 Consultation responses to each phase of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of this iterative process, with stakeholders, such as Local Planning Authorities, statutory consultees, community groups, and members of the local community, playing a key role in the design of the proposals.
- 301 The Applicant's strategy of coordinating the Phase Two Consultation to be statutory under Section 42, Section 47, and Section 48 in parallel allowed for meaningful engagement and consideration of feedback on the PEIR.
- 302 The Applicant has sought to address comments, concerns and issues raised in the final design of the Development where possible and has responded to comments raised in the Consultation Report.
- 303 As well as preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has set out how it complied with guidance and advice on the consultation in the Section 55 Checklist **[EN010162/APP/1.2]** that is also part of the DCO application documents.
- 304 The Applicant is grateful to all parties who have engaged throughout the pre-application process.