

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Planning Inspectorate

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

February 2025

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1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Overview

- 1.1 This early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document has been prepared by Elements Green Trent Limited ('the Applicant') in preparation for the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park ('the Project').
- 1.2 In 2024, the Government introduced new guidance relevant to the application for a DCO:
 - Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024;)¹ and
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024)²
- 1.3 In setting out the requirements and expectations for the preparation of an application for a DCO, both the updated Guidance and the Prospectus introduced an early adequacy of consultation milestone (AoCM).
- 1.4 The Applicant understands this to be aimed at providing them with an opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a document setting out the consultation undertaken during the pre-application phase, how this aligned with the approaches set out in a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and how responses to consultation are being considered in preparation for a DCO application.
- 1.5 The early AoCM should involve a written statement prepared by the Applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This is to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant, prior to the acceptance stage of the DCO application.
- 1.6 The Guidance states: *"This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application."*
- 1.7 *"The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available."*

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

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

2 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

Overview

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

Stages of consultation undertaken

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

Table 1 Pre-application stages and consultation activities undertaken

Date		Consultation undertaken
1	October 2023 – onwards	<p>Project 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 Project, and engagement with these bodies has been ongoing throughout the pre-application period.</p> <p>The Applicant also commenced engagement with locally elected members and representatives including ward and parish councillors and members of Parliament (MPs) through briefing meetings. For example, the Applicant approached Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council on 12 October 2023 to offer a briefing. The</p>

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

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

Date		Consultation undertaken
		host parish councils. These took place from the early summer months through to late November 2024.
6	18 July 2024 – 27 August 2024	<p>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 of the draft SoCC between 19 July 2024 and 27 August 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council on 2 July 2024 for any initial comments. No comments were received on the early working draft, but a meeting was held with Newark and Sherwood District Council on 22 July, during the SoCC consultation, to discuss its contents and the Applicant's approach to consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant shared a draft of the SoCC with Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council for consultation on Friday 19 July 2024. The Applicant requested feedback on the draft to be provided on 27 August 2024, therefore allowing just over five weeks, and therefore exceeding the 28-day statutory minimum timescale, to review and provide comments on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant considered all comments received when finalising the SoCC for publication.</p>
7	19 December 2024	<p>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>
8	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</p>

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<p>2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 09 January 2025 and closing on 20 February 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Project; 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).
9	<p>09 January 2025</p> <p>Publication of 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 Project; 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 Project 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.

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<p>Details of how to access the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project website; • The community consultation leaflet; and • The Section 48 notice.
10	<p>09 January – 20 February 2025</p> <p>Phase two consultation (statutory under Section 47 of the 2008 Act)</p> <p>The Applicant held a six-week community consultation on more detailed proposals for the Project, including the PEIR in accordance with the SoCC.</p> <p>During phase two consultation the Applicant held eight in-person information events and one online webinar. Additionally, the Applicant held two preview events on the 15 and 16 of January 2025 for landowners, Members of Parliament (MPs), parish councils, elected ward members and other stakeholders. During the consultation period the Applicant also attended a meeting organised with residents of Moorhouse.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the consultation information and opportunities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Project 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 Project website; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.

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

3 COMPLIANCE WITH THE 2008 ACT

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

Table 2 Consultation compliance checklist with 2008 Act

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Overview

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

Consultation on a draft SoCC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Comment	Applicant response
	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.
Section 3: Method of Consultation	
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>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 is also informed by the requirements of the 2008 Act and by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance (published by the former Department for Communities and Local Government. Dec 2015). 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:</i></p> <p><i>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects</i>. We are committed to ensuring that the consultation process and associated communications are well publicised and accessible."</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>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 platforms to further

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>publicise the consultation and act as a database for Project information (e.g. dedicated project website and social media accounts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Project's Core Consultation Zone, efforts to engage with Seldom Heard Groups, and the wider consultation area.</p> <p>Whilst the Applicant makes note of this comment, the SoCC provides an overview of the methods of consultation (Section 3) and who we will consult (Section 4), and therefore, has not committed to updating the wording of the SoCC in this paragraph.</p>
Section 4: Who we will consult	
<p>At paragraph 4.1.2 it is stated as follows: In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that communities within the vicinity of the proposals are aware of consultation opportunities. There is no set rule that defines those people, groups or organisations falling into this category. Firstly, NSDC are concerned by the use of the term 'reasonable efforts' as this does not seem to marry with the applicant's commitment to make the consultation</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to undertaking a meaningful and accessible consultation, but we note that the level of effort may be subjective.</p> <p>We have therefore removed the reference to 'reasonable efforts' from the sentence and instead remained factual with Section 47 of the Planning Act. The Applicant has committed to update the wording of the SoCC to say:</p>

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

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>needs of their members. The Applicant will utilise existing networks to share information and encourage participation (e.g. via the Project website, social media and email).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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 The specific dates of Phase Two Consultation are yet to be defined but will be confirmed and included in the final published version of the SoCC. Our Phase Two Consultation is going to take place between Thursday 09 January 2025 and 20 February 2025.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.4 For the purposes of this draft, the Applicant is working towards the dates of Wednesday 23 October and Wednesday 4</i></p>

Comment	Applicant response
	<p>December 2024 for their six-week consultation period.</p> <p>5.4 Please see Table 2 for a schedule of public information events to be held during Phase Two Consultation.”</p>
Section 6: What we will consult on	
<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>
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 Project 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,</p>

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

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

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

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

Publication and publicity of the SoCC

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

Compliance with the SoCC

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

Table 5 SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance

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

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	and methods set out in this SoCC to the extent they are relevant to the subsequent consultation.	
	[Phase two consultation:] We will consult on our developed proposals using the results from the ongoing environmental and technical surveys that have been carried out to date. This information will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).	The Applicant published a PEIR on 09 January 2025 to be consulted on as part of a statutory Section 42, 47 and 48 consultation with prescribed consultees and the community (Phase two consultation), requesting responses by 20 February 2025 (providing a 42-day consultation response period).
5. What Will We Consult On?	<p>The aim of our pre-application consultations is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have a chance to understand and influence our proposals.</p> <p>At each phase of consultation, we will be seeking feedback to help refine our proposals.</p> <p>This will include producing plans and documents to understand and explore topics such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts and accompanying mitigation. • Opportunities for community benefits associated with the Project. • 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>	The Applicant accepted all feedback submitted in response to consultation. Opportunities to provide feedback were publicised through a range of methods including national and local media.
	We will proactively contact individuals, groups and organisations within the CCZ (Core Consultation Zone). The properties within the CCZ will receive communications such as consultation postcards from us	The Applicant issued a community consultation postcard to all properties (over 5,900) within the defined Core Consultation Zone to publicise and encourage responses to the phase two consultation.

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

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

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>an event in North Muskham. These events will be held on different days of the week including weekends, with various hours to accommodate different availability within the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Project website, central booklet, Section 47 and Section 48 notices published in local and national media, press release, and posters at local information points.</p> <p>Due to venue availability, three in-person events were extended and subsequently published on the Project's website. The Applicant extended the following events during their Phase Two consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 political stakeholders and site landowners were invited to view exhibition materials, meet with the project team and provide</p>

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

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

5 CONSIDERATION OF FEEDBACK

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 APPENDIX 1: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – DECEMBER 2025



December 2024

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Statement of Community Consultation

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1. Background

- 1.1.

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

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

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

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

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

1.5.1.

Newark and Sherwood District Council

1.5.2.

Nottinghamshire County Council

1.5.3.

Bassetlaw District Council
- 1.6.

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

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

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

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

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

- 1.11.

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

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

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

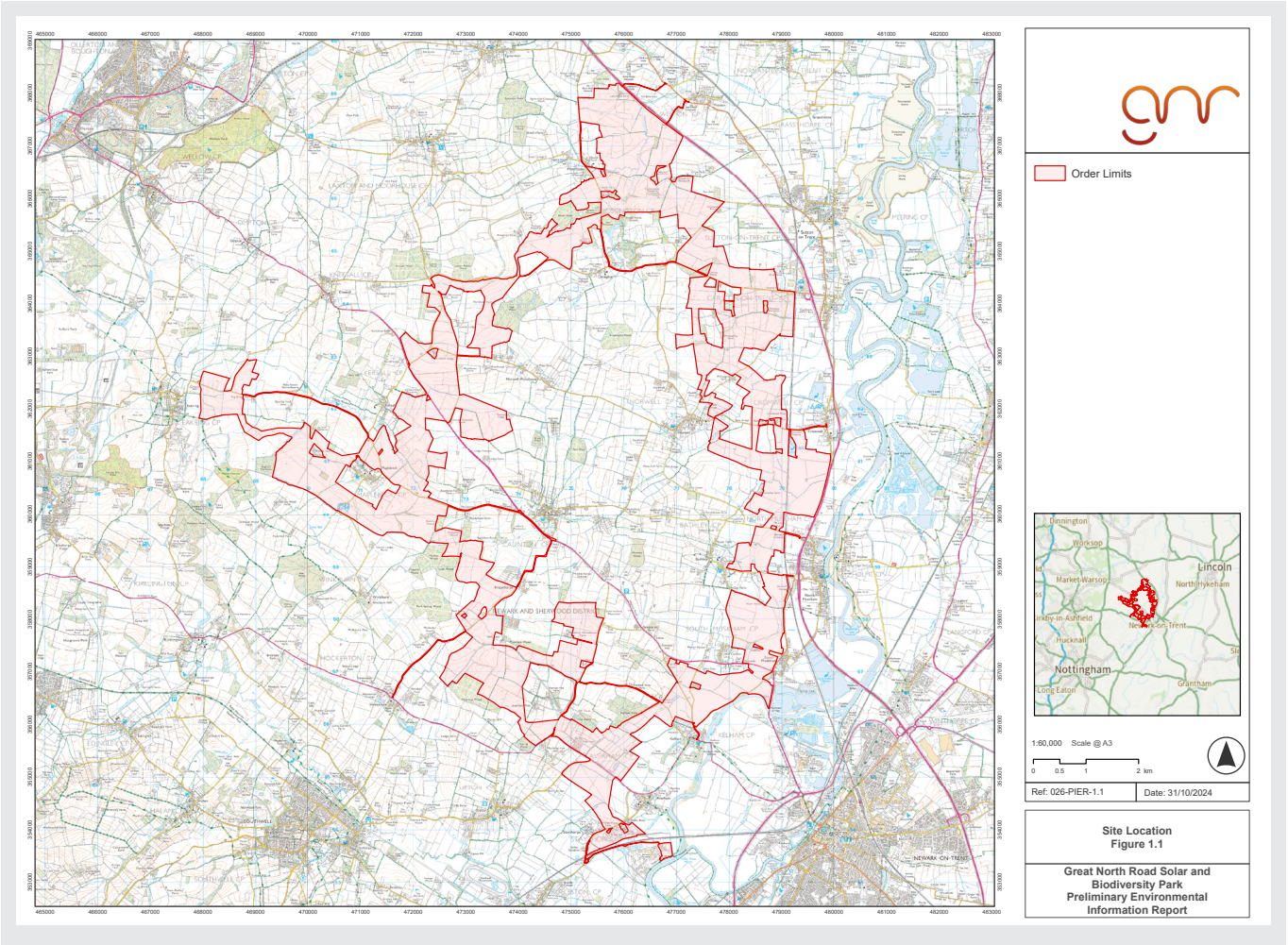


Figure 1: Site location plan

2. Our Consultation Process

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

2.2. This includes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.2. It is necessary to employ a variety of consultation methods so that our consultation is appropriate and accessible to all those people who wish to participate. The methodology we have developed has had regard to the experience of the team in delivering non-statutory consultation on Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park. The Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) adopted by the relevant local authorities¹ have also been reviewed and considered. The methodology utilises a range of tools and techniques to ensure all identified stakeholders are effectively consulted and involved in the Project development process.

3.3. These tools and techniques will include:

3.3.1. Project specific freephone, email and freepost address.

3.3.2. Project website.

3.3.3. In-person and virtual meetings and presentations.

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

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

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

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

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

3.3.9. Virtual webinar format information event.

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

3.3.11. Working with local authorities and parish councils.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Who We Will Consult

- 4.1. Anyone interested in the proposals for Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park is encouraged to take part in consultation.
- 4.2. In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant will consult people living in the vicinity of the land to ensure that communities within the vicinity of the proposals are aware of consultation opportunities. There is no set rule that defines those people, groups or organisations falling into this category.
- 4.3. To help determine the areas where we will consult, professional judgement has been adopted and considered based on common practice, potential effects, and existing infrastructure.
- 4.4. The Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) adopted by the Local Planning Authorities, within whose boundaries our proposed Project lies, have been considered². This helped determine the zone within which each undertake formal consultation, in respect of major development proposals.

Core consultation zone

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

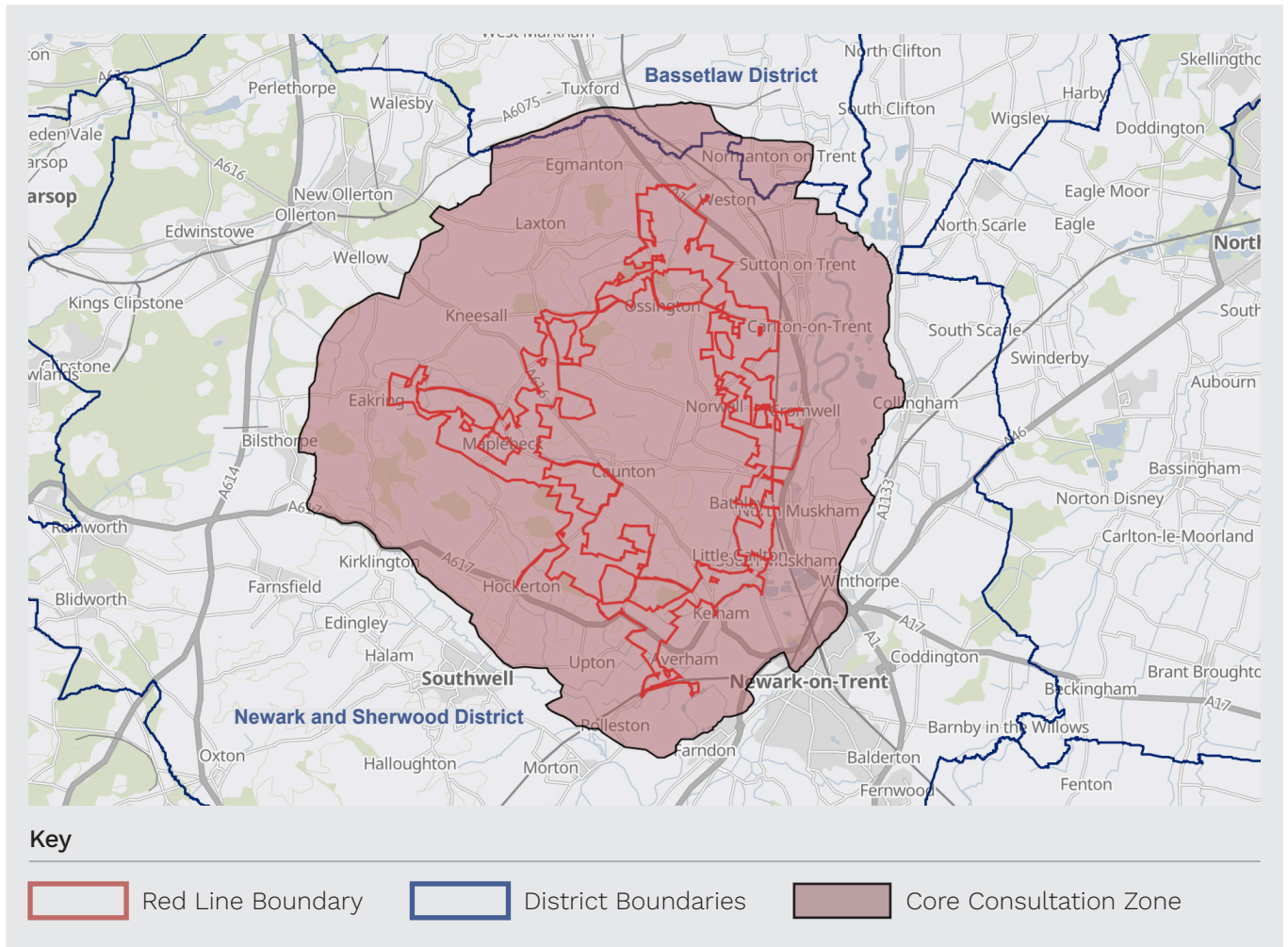


Figure 2: Red-line Project boundary and core consultation zone, shown against local authority boundaries

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

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

Wider consultation zone

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

Seldom heard, hard to reach groups, and wider outreach

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

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

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

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

Table 1: Gateway organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups

5. When We Will Consult

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

6. What We Will Consult On

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

7. How We Will Consult and How Respondents Can Participate

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

Community Consultation Postcard

Project website

Central Booklet

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

Feedback Form

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

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

Technical Documents, Maps, and Plans

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

Public Information Events

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

7.27.1. Event display panels and screens.

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

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

7.27.4. The PEIR NTS (for reference only).

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

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

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

Information Events

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

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

Community Access Points

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

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

Table 3: Community Access Points

Availability of Materials

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

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

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

Table 4: Availability of consultation materials

8. Consultation Reporting

- 8.1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8.8.1.

Describes our consultation process.

8.8.2.

Explains how we have complied with legal requirements.

8.8.3.

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

8.8.4.

Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received.

8.8.5.

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

Contact Us

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

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



Email: info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk



Call: Freephone 0808 175 4054



Write: FREEPOST GNR SOLAR



Visit: www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk



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

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



July 2024



Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Our Phase One Consultation

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

During our consultation we:



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



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



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



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



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



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



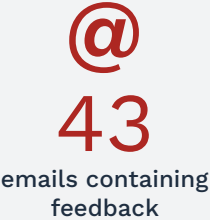
Published all consultation materials online via our dedicated project website, visited by over 4,000 people since the start of consultation.

Consultation Summary Report

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

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

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

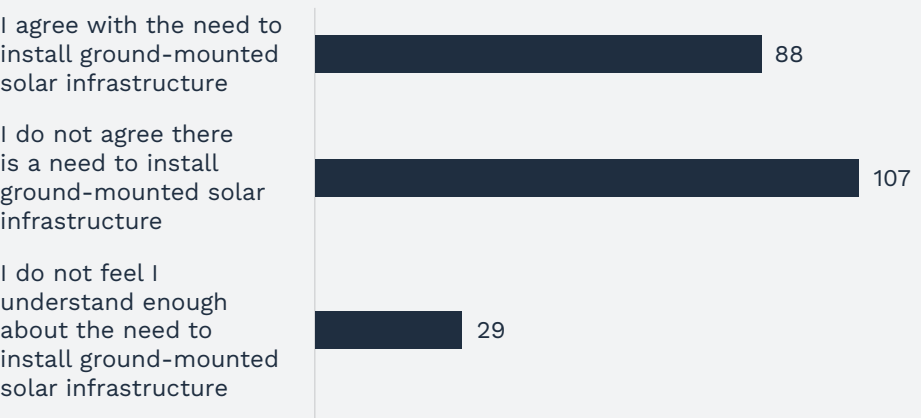


How would you describe your interest in Great North Road Solar Park?

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

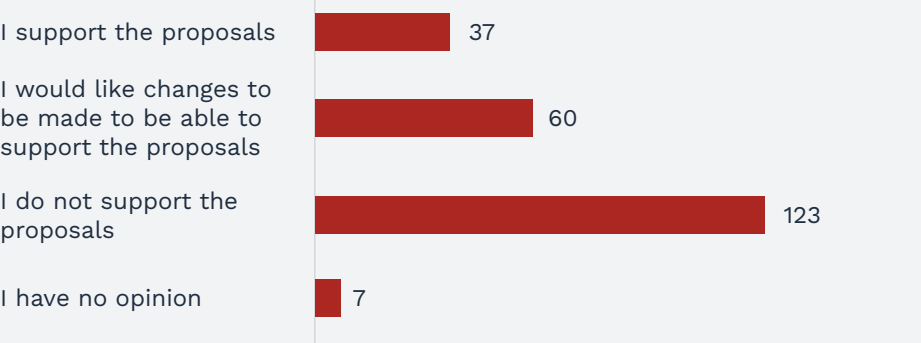
We asked a range of questions to develop our understanding of respondents' views on the installation of ground-mounted solar infrastructure and our early-stage proposals for Great North Road Solar Park.

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



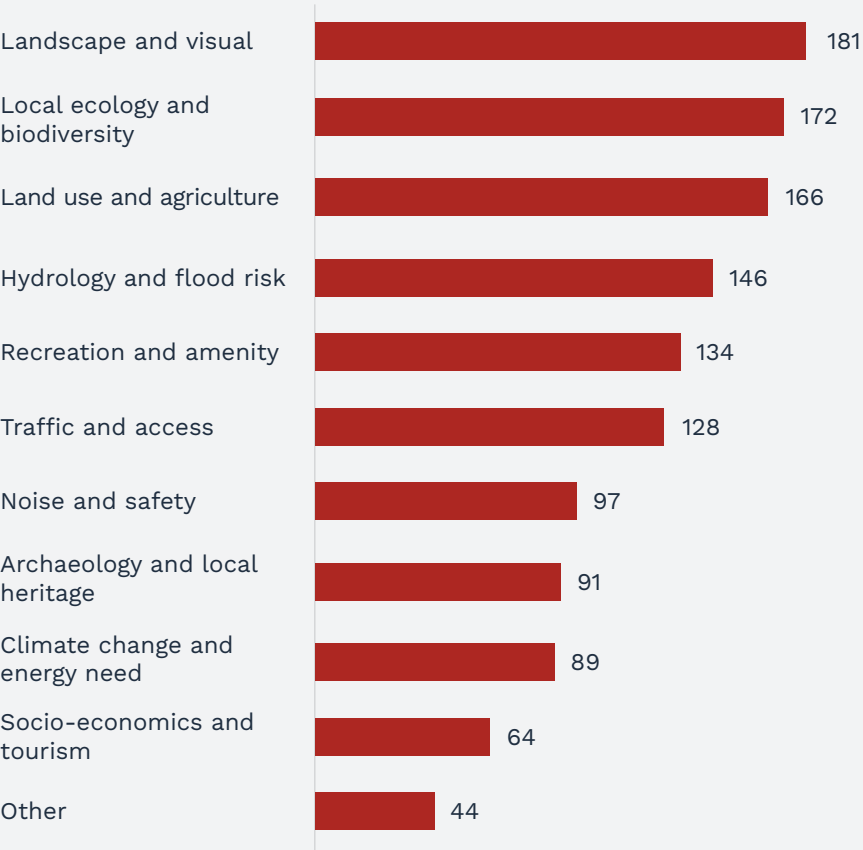
Of the 224 people who responded to this question, 39% of people agreed with the need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK.

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



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

Which aspects of the project are most important to you?



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

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

How we’re listening

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

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

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

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

Next steps

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

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

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

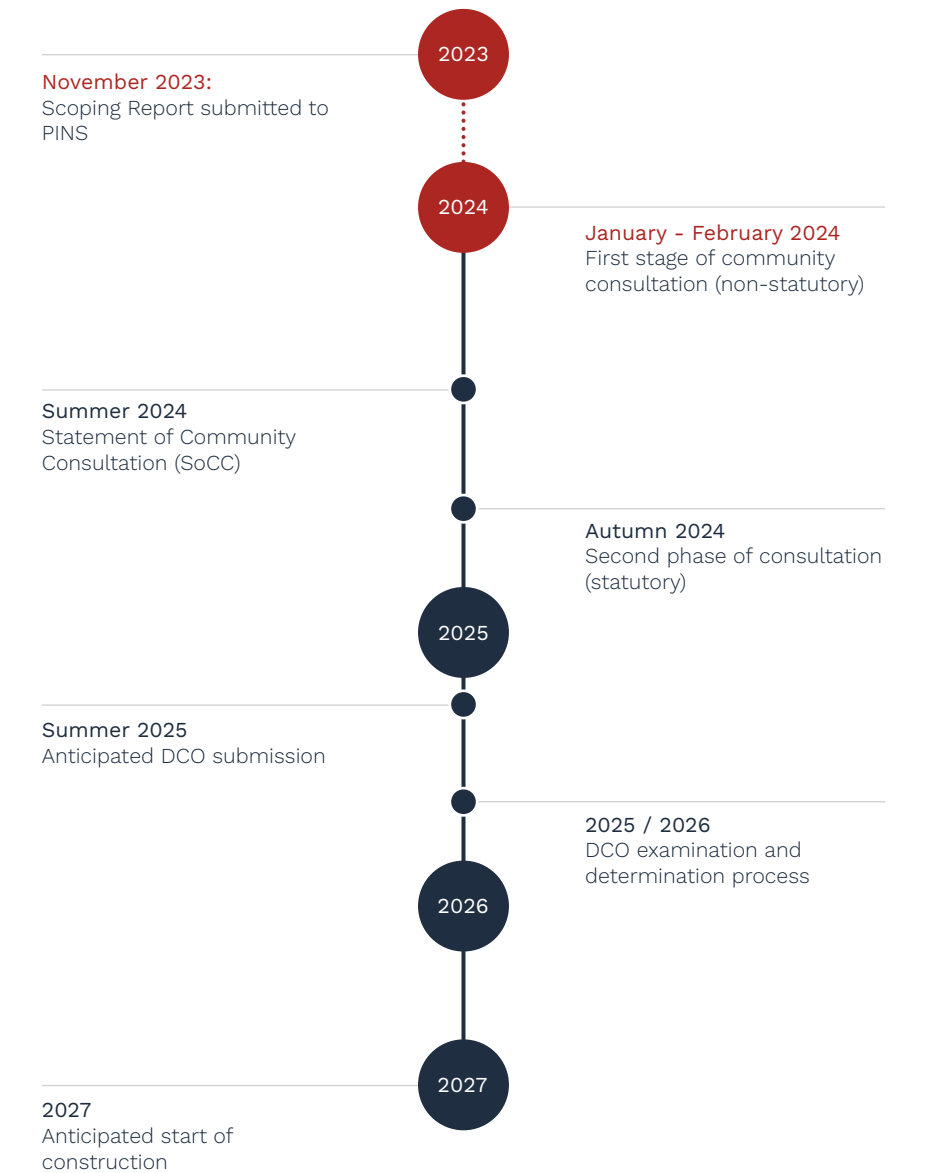
Second phase of community consultation

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

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

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

Project timeline



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



Contact Us

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

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



Email: info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk



Call: Freephone 0808 175 4054



Write: Freepost GNR Solar



Visit: www.GNRSolarpark.co.uk

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

