



Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Environmental Statement

Volume 2 – Chapters

Chapter 3 – Consultation

Document reference – EN010162/APP/6.2.3

Revision number 1

June 2025

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Contents

3.1	Introduction	2
3.1.1	Consultation Activities	2
3.2	EIA Scoping	3
3.3	Non-Statutory Consultation	3
3.4	Statutory Consultation.....	4
3.5	Additional, Targeted Consultation	5
3.6	Meetings with Consultees	6

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1 This chapter of the ES provides a summary of the approach taken to consultation to date and how consultation has influenced the EIA carried out to date in relation to the Development.
- 2 Further detail on the consultation undertaken for the Development is provided in the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1], which accompanies the Application. That document sets out the consultation activities undertaken, the responses received and explains where the comments have been addressed in the Application.
- 3 This chapter is supported by the following Technical Appendices (TAs), which are also available on PINS website:
 - TA A3.1: EIA Scoping Report¹ [EN010162/APP/6.4.3.1];
 - TA A3.2: EIA Scoping Opinion² [EN010162/APP/6.4.3.2]; and
 - TA A3.3: Other Comments on EIA Scoping Report^{3,4,5} [EN010162/APP/6.4.3.3].
- 4 A glossary of terms is provided in ES Chapter 20, Glossary [EN010162/APP/6.2.20].

3.1.1 Consultation Activities

- 5 The main consultation activities that have been undertaken and have informed this ES include:
 - EIA Scoping;
 - Non-statutory consultation including public information events;
 - Statutory consultation including public information events;
 - Additional, targeted consultation; and
 - Meetings and other communication with statutory consultees and other stakeholders.
- 6 Consultation responses received have been taken into account and are referenced throughout the technical chapters of this ES. The Development design has also evolved to take into account the responses received and has resulted in mitigation being “embedded” into the design.
- 7 The following sections summarise the main consultation activities which have been undertaken in relation to the Development.

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010162/EN010162-000008-GNR%20EIA%20Scoping%20Report%2020231108.pdf>

² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010162/EN010162-000012-EN010162%20Great%20North%20Road%20Solar%20Park%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010162/EN010162-000055-Nottinghamshire%20County%20Council.pdf>

⁴ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010162/EN010162-000049-Weston%20Parish%20Council.pdf>

⁵ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010162/EN010162-000054-Newark%20and%20Sherwood%20District%20Council.pdf>

3.2 EIA SCOPING

- 8 Scoping is the process of identifying the issues to be addressed during EIA. An EIA Scoping Report¹ (TA A3.1; [EN010162/APP/6.4.3.1]) was submitted to PINS in November 2023. The Scoping Opinion (TA A3.2; [EN010162/APP/6.4.3.2]) was received from PINS on 20th December 2023² and other responses were received shortly afterwards (TA A3.3; [EN010162/APP/6.4.3.3]). The scope of the EIA was informed by this process, together with the nature and scale of the Development, its location and consultants' experiences.

3.3 NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

- 9 Phase One (non-statutory) consultation ran for six weeks, from Tuesday 16 January 2024 to Tuesday 27 February 2024. A series of public information events were held during this period.
- 10 To publicise the consultation and encourage responses, the Applicant distributed a community consultation postcard to a core consultation zone of over 5,800 residential and business properties in the vicinity of the Development. This core consultation zone was initially defined by including properties within a minimum of 2 km from the proposed solar panel site areas of the Development, and a minimum 1 km from the cable route search corridors (as presented at the time of consultation). The events were also advertised in regional newspapers. The project team engaged with parish, district, county councillors, the prospective East Midlands mayoral candidates and the local MP at this time. The project hosted free-to-use communications channels – including phone, post and email – for anyone interested in the proposals to submit questions and comments.
- 11 The details of the public consultation events held in January and February 2024 are provided in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Summary of Public Consultation Events

Date	Location	No. attendees
Monday 29 January 2024, 17:30 – 19:00	Community webinar	33
Tuesday 30 January 2024, 12:00 – 18:00	Eakring Cator Hall	80
Wednesday 31 January 2024, 14:00 – 18:00	Laxton Village Hall	89
Thursday 1 February 2024, 14:00 – 18:00	Newark Town Hall	75
Monday 5 February 2024,	Community webinar	28

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010162/EN010162-000008-GNR%20EIA%20Scoping%20Report%2020231108.pdf>

Date	Location	No. attendees
17:30 – 19:00		
Thursday 8 February 2024, 14:00 – 18:00	Carlton-on-Trent Village Hall	92
Friday 9 February 2024, 14:00 – 20:00	Maplebeck Village Hall	85
Saturday 10 February 2024, 12:00 – 17:00	Kelham House Country Manor	72

- 12 Over 550 people attended the public information events. The Applicant received 276 submissions of feedback in response to the phase one consultation. This included 233 feedback form submissions (paper forms and online submissions) and 43 submissions of written feedback via email and post.
- 13 Feedback received during and after the public information events was collated and summarised in an update newsletter entitled the "Phase One Consultation Summary Report" dated July 2024, which was available on the project website (<https://www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk/documents>) and can be viewed in Appendix 5.1.4 Post-Phase One Consultation Materials.
- 14 The feedback received informed the ongoing Development design process between late February and August 2024.

3.4 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

- 15 The Applicant consulted with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Bassetlaw District Council, the relevant Local Planning Authorities under Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 on the scope and content of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). Responses received were incorporated into the final Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The way the Applicant engaged with the local community was set out in the SoCC for the Development.
- 16 Phase two (statutory) consultation ran for 6 weeks, from Thursday 9 January 2025 to Thursday 20 February 2025. A series of public information events were held during this period.
- 17 A community consultation postcard, which included the details of the information events and how to respond to the consultation, was sent to approximately 5,900 properties within the core consultation zone. This zone was defined by initially extending a minimum distance of 2 km from the boundary of solar sites and 1 km from the edge of the cable route corridor of the Order Limits (as drawn at that time). The events were advertised in regional newspapers. The project team engaged with parish, district and county councillors at this time. The project hosted free-to-use communications channels – including phone, post and email – for anyone interested in the proposals to submit questions and comments. All

consultation materials were made available to view and download on the project website.

- 18 The details of the public information events held in January and February 2025 are provided in Table 3.2. The Applicant also held two preview information events on 15 and 16 January 2025 where political stakeholders, landowners and community representatives were invited to view the consultation materials and speak with the project team. These events took place during the second week of the consultation period and welcomed 61 attendees.

Table 3.2: Summary of Phase Two Public Information Events

Date	Location	Number of Attendees
Thursday 23 January 2025, 14:00 – 20:00	Maplebeck Village Hall	38
Friday 24 January 2025, 14:00 – 19:30	Sutton-on-Trent Sports Club	60
Saturday 25 January 2025, 11:00 – 15:00	North Muskham Rural Community Centre	96
Wednesday 29 January 2025, 14:00 – 20:00	Laxton Village Hall	60
Thursday 30 January 2025, 11:00 – 15:00	Kelham House Country Manor	36
Friday 31 January 2025, 14:00 – 19:30	Carlton-on-Trent Village Hall	61
Tuesday 4 February 2025, 14:00 – 19:30	Eakring Cator Hall	36
Wednesday 5 February 2025, 11:00 – 18:00	Newark Town Hall	53
Monday 10 February 2025, 17:30 – 19:00	Community webinar	19

- 19 Over 450 people attended the public information events, and 311 pieces of feedback were received during the consultation, including 48 hard copy feedback forms, 172 responses to the digital feedback form, and 91 written responses received via email or post. The project website saw over 10,000 visitors during the consultation period, with the dedicated Consultation page receiving over 3,300 views.
- 20 The feedback received informed the ongoing Development design process between late January and March 2025.

3.5 ADDITIONAL, TARGETED CONSULTATION

- 21 Following the Phase Two (statutory) consultation described above, and in response to the ongoing Development design process, consultation

feedback and the findings of research into certain land titles, minor additions (as well as reductions) were made to the Order Limits. These were to facilitate construction-phase access to the Site, principally along two routes that had not been proposed in the Stage 2 consultation (east along Ossington Lane from Sutton-on-Trent, and west/south from Great North Road along Weston Road and Moorhouse Road). A targeted consultation was held between Thursday 8 May 2025 and Friday 6 June 2025 on these additions.

- 22 The Applicant notified the community within the vicinity of these additions to the PEIR Order Limits by posting the Targeted Consultation Information Leaflet to the 1,513 properties within the parish boundaries of Weston, Egmonton, Carlton-on-Trent, Norwell, Sutton-on-Trent, Ossington, Laxton and Moorhouse, and Ossington. This leaflet was also available to view and download from the project website and was shared electronically with identified key political stakeholders, community representatives and those who had signed up to the Applicant's keep informed list.
- 23 The Applicant received 56 pieces of feedback during this targeted phase of consultation, including 17 submissions to the online feedback form and 39 written pieces of feedback via email and post.
- 24 No consultation comments received in response to this targeted consultation required further changes to the Development proposals

3.6 MEETINGS WITH CONSULTEES

- 25 A series of meetings has been undertaken with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees and stakeholders with an interest in the Development site. Feedback received at these meetings has been considered in the Development design.
- 26 Where relevant, these meetings are referred to in the relevant technical chapters (7-19 [EN010162/APP/6.2.7-19]) of this ES.
- 27 A full list of all meetings can be found in the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].