



Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Statement of Compliance

Document Reference: EN010162/APP/5.1.1A

Revision Number 2

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

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1 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

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for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 guidance on the pre-application process (2015) (Withdrawn) (Table 1.4); and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

1.1 TABLE 1.1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR THE PLANNING ACT 2008

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

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>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>
	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

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

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

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

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 09 January 2025 and closing on 20 February 2025.
Section 47 (Duty to consult the local community)	(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	The Applicant prepared and published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
	(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 Development is not within their administrative boundary, the Applicant's proposed consultation area extends into their area and the Applicant therefore considered it prudent to consult with them on the proposed approach to community consultation.</p>
	(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with	Between 09 July 2024 and 07 August 2024, the Applicant formally consulted host and local authorities on a draft of the SoCC prior to commencing Phase Two Consultation. The host and local

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.	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 is included in the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1] .
	(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	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.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>where and when the statement can be inspected, and</p> <p>(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.</p>	<p>Notices were published in the Newark Advertiser on 19 December 2024 and the Nottingham Post on 19 December 2024 to publicise the SoCC and its availability.</p> <p>The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of Development updates.</p>
	<p>(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act in accordance with the SoCC.</p> <p>This is evidenced in Section 8 of the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p>
<p>Section 48 (Duty to publicise)</p>	<p>(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.</p>	<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)

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

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

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

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

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

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	dates when the notice is last published.	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>requirements. Applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have the original body.</p> <p>Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.</p>	<p>See the Consultation Report Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7] for the list of Section 42 consultees.</p> <p>The Applicant also had regard to any changes in contact details that it was made aware of via the information lines.</p>
29	<p>Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the pre-application requirements. [...] Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with consultees for the provision of such inputs.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken extensive engagement with expert bodies and technical consultees throughout the pre-application process. This began in 2023, and continued through iterative phases of consultation, as described in the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p>
34 and 35	<p>(34) Local authorities have considerable expertise in consulting local people. They will be able to draw on this expertise to provide advice to applicants on the makeup of the community and on how consultation might best be undertaken. In addition, many authorities will already have a register of local interest groups, and should be able to readily provide applicants with an appropriate list of such groups for the purposes of consultation.</p> <p>(35) The Applicant has a duty under Section 47 of the Planning Act to prepare a Statement of</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with the Section 43(1) local authorities on the draft SoCC between 19 July 2024 and 27 August 2024, as detailed in Section 7 of the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p> <p>The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council on 2 July 2024 for any initial comments. No comments were received on the early working draft, but a meeting was held with Newark and Sherwood District Council</p>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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		<p>and host authorities were given the opportunity to comment on this list and suggest additional organisations for inclusion.</p> <p>Through consultation, the Applicant has prepared and published a range of consultation materials available in various formats to cater for differing preferences and levels of interest and expertise. For example, this included: a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR; Community Consultation Information Booklet; and a Feedback Form.</p> <p>The Applicant also maintained a range of free-to-use communication channels (Freephone, Freepost and email) throughout the pre-application period.</p>
55	<p>Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed. Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the project proposals and outlining the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. [...] Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities if requested. There may be cases where documents</p>	<p>Section 6 (What We Will Consult On?) of the Applicant's SoCC set out the intended scope of each phase of consultation.</p> <p>In support of this, a Community Consultation Leaflet was published for each defined phase of consultation, to clearly set out the proposals and information being consulted on.</p> <p>The back page of the Phase Two Consultation Central Booklet and Section 3 (Method of Consultation) of the Applicant's SoCC explained that materials could be provided in alternative formats upon request.</p>

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	may need to be bilingual...but it is not the policy of the Government to encourage documents to be translated into non-native languages.	
56	Applicants are required to set out in their Statement of Community Consultation how they propose to consult those living in the vicinity of the land. They are encouraged to consider consulting beyond this where they think doing so may provide more information on the impacts of their proposals..."	<p>Section 6 (Who Will We Consult?) of the Applicant's SoCC (as provided in Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.5]) sets out who the Applicant intended to consult. This includes describing the methodology behind a defined core consultation zone of over 5,900 properties, as well as the Applicant's methods for publicising consultation opportunities beyond the core consultation zone through advertising in local media, maintaining a register of interested individuals, publishing informative consultation materials online making them available to collect from defined Community Access Points.</p> <p>The SoCC included defining a core consultation zone within which all properties were issued with consultation notifications. The methodology for defining this zone involved extending an initial distance of 2km from the edge of the proposed solar development areas, and 500m from the proposed cable route.</p> <p>Where proportionate, the core consultation zone was extended further subject to consideration of existing natural and human boundaries,</p>

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

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

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	<p>value if they are consulted when the project proposals are fluid, followed up by confirmation of the approach as proposals become firmer. In principle, therefore applicants should undertake initial consultation as soon as there is sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the project properly.</p> <p>(70) To manage the tension between consultation early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for larger projects with long development periods. For example, the applicant might wish to consider undertaking non-statutory early consultation at a stage where options still being considered. This will be helpful in informing the proposals and assisting the applicant in establishing a preferred option on which to undertake statutory consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the development of the Development in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative design of the Development, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p> <p>Table 1.2 of the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1] sets out the pre-application stages and consultation undertaken.</p>
72	<p>The Planning Act requires a consultation period of a minimum of 28 days from the day after receipt on the consultation documents. It is expected that this may be sufficient for projects which are straightforward and uncontroversial in nature. But many projects, particularly larger or more controversial ones, may require longer consultation periods than this.</p>	<p>The Applicant held a series of defined phases of consultation, each exceeding 28 days.</p>

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

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	where it is localised in nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non-statutory, targeted consultation. A developer's Statement of Community Consultation should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach.	This consultation is described in Section 11 of the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1] .
77	Consultation should also be fair and reasonable for applicants as well as communities. To ensure that consultation is fair to all parties, applicants should be able to demonstrate that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities.	<p>The pre-application consultation process that the Applicant held complied with its commitments as consulted on for the draft SoCC and set out in the final published SoCC captured in Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.5].</p> <p>The consultation reached widely across the community, welcoming over 550 public attendees to the Phase Two Consultation information events and receiving 311 submissions of feedback.</p> <p>The Applicant was able to undertake all methods of consultation and engagement it committed to in the SoCC.</p>
78 and 79	<p>(78) Applicants are required under section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a consultation report alongside their application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Act.</p> <p>(79) Therefore, the consultation report should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline; • set out specifically what the applicant has done in 	<p>The Applicant has prepared a Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1] consistent with this guidance.</p> <p>Relevant sections of the Consultation Report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 (Introduction) sets out the Applicant's approach to consultation and includes Table 1.2 setting out the pre-application stages and consultation undertaken in chronological order. • Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of

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	<p>compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out how the applicant has taken account of any responses to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's statement of community consultation; • set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses); • provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed; • provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to the project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts; • where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken; and • be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the 	<p>Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1] sets out how the Applicant has complied with relevant legislation and guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 7 (Preparation for Statutory Consultation) sets out how the Applicant consulted relevant local authorities to inform the SoCC, including comments received and consideration given to these. • Sections 12 and 13 provide a summary of responses received to Section 47 and Section 42 consultation and the Applicant's consideration of these responses. These sections are supported by Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN010162/APP/5.1.10] and Appendix 5.1.11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN010162/APP/5.1.11].

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	consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters.	
81	It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results ...	<p>The Applicant's Development communications channels remained open following the close of the Phase One Consultation period. Through these channels, the Applicant continued to receive and respond to enquiries regarding the Development.</p> <p>The Development website continued to be available for any interested parties to access Development information, including updates on the proposals, Frequently Asked Questions, and a dedicated News webpage.</p> <p>Following the review and consideration of feedback received, the Applicant prepared a Phase One Consultation Summary Report to share details of the level engagement, themes of responses received, and updates regarding the Applicant's consideration of feedback and next steps for the Development.</p> <p>The Applicant distributed a postcard publicising the Phase One Consultation Summary Report to over 5,800 residential and business properties within the vicinity of the Development area. The Applicant emailed the proactively engaged key political and representative</p>

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

1.5 TABLE 1.5: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR PLANNING ACT 2008: PRE-APPLICATION STAGE FOR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (APRIL 2024)

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)		
Paragraph 020	<p>How can applicants ensure consultation is proportionate?</p> <p>The pre-application consultation undertaken should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the project and its effects. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not appropriate. For a straightforward and uncontroversial application, an applicant may choose to discharge the obligations of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act concurrently in a single round of consultation, or in separate stages. For more complex proposals, an applicant may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may choose to run a multi-stage consultation process.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined phases of consultation during the pre-application period, to allow for iterative involvement, engagement and feedback throughout the development of proposals.</p> <p>This included a non-statutory Phase One Consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 16 January and 27 February 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the Development in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative progress of the Development, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p>

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		The Applicant's approach to consultation was set out in the SoCC, which in turn was informed through consultation with relevant local authorities, as described in Section 7 of the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1] .
Paragraph 020	Larger, more complex applications are likely to warrant going beyond the statutory 28-day minimum timescales for consultation laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response.	All defined consultation periods (statutory and non-statutory) for the Development have exceeded 28 days.
Paragraph 020	<p>Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in the SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in light of responses to the consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted within the application.</p> <p>Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.</p> <p>For any material change to be part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information</p>	<p>Following the close of Phase Two (statutory) Consultation, the Applicant continued to refine the proposals for the Development in preparation for submitting a DCO application.</p> <p>This refinement was informed by further design work and due diligence, consideration of consultee feedback, and responding to the results and data from environmental assessments.</p> <p>This resulted in a series of localised additions to the PEIR Order Limits consulted on during Phase Two Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook further consultation targeted on these localised additions to ensure communities and consultees had an opportunity to comment on the full Order Limits prior to a DCO application being submitted.</p>

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	<p>leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.</p> <p>Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needed to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.</p>	<p>This consultation is described in Section 11 of the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p>
Paragraph 021	<p>Who should be consulted?</p> <p>Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act, Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 set out details of who must be consulted...</p> <p>While the list of prescribed bodies who must be consulted was updated in April 2024, from time to time a body may cease to exist but may still be listed as a statutory consultee in the Regulations pending their updating. In such situations applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Planning Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed the consultee list on a regular basis to ensure that the contact details were up to date and that any successor body was consulted with.</p> <p>See Consultation Report Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7].</p> <p>The Applicant also had regard to any changes in contact details that it was made aware of via the information lines.</p>

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	compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.	
Paragraph 022	<p>How can applicants consult communities effectively?</p> <p>It is good practice for applicants to work with local stakeholders in the formative stages of the project, through early engagement. This can help inform the Programme Document that they later take to the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Early engagement with local authorities, parish and town councils can help applicants to ensure they find the best approach to engage the relevant communities in the most effective and proportionate way.</p>	<p>The Applicant engaged relevant local authorities prior to undertaking a non-statutory phase of consultation, as described in Section 3 of the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a non-statutory phase of consultation on early-stage proposals between 16 January 2024 and 27 February 2024. This consultation included inviting feedback on the methods of consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant reflected on this feedback, alongside the level of engagement with the consultation when preparing the SoCC.</p>
Paragraph 022	<p>Under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants are required to produce a SoCC, setting out how they intend to consult the local community on the proposed application. Applicants should consider how they can engage communities in a way that supports them to understand the necessary issues at an appropriate stage to support preparation of their application, and how they will show how they have responded to their issues of concern.</p>	<p>The Applicant's preparation of the SoCC is described in Section 7 of the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p> <p>The Applicant sought feedback from host local authorities on an early working draft of the SoCC between 02 July 2024, prior to commencing formal consultation on the SoCC later that month.</p> <p>The Applicant formally consulted on a draft of the SoCC between 19 July and 27 August 2023.</p> <p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47</p>

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		of the 2008 Act on 19 December 2024.
Paragraph 022	<p>Local communities may need support to help them to input to the NSIP consenting process. Independent community liaison chairs or forums can be used to provide support to local communities and non-statutory consultees to enable them to provide an effective input to the pre-application process. Applicants will want to consider whether these should be used, not least to assist an applicant's own assessment of potential examination issues in preparing their Programme Document and SoCC.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this updated guidance. The Applicant has sought to ensure consultation activities are accessible and has been open to engagement requests.</p> <p>As detailed in the Applicant's SoCC, <i>"the Applicant's consultation methodology has been developed to accommodate communicating as effectively as possible with these groups so they can have their say. Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for their members will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This will then be agreed and planned with the requesting organisations."</i></p> <p>A copy of the Applicant's published SoCC is captured in Appendix 5.1.5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.5].</p>
Paragraph 024	<p>What do applicants have to do to consult people with an interest in land?</p> <p>Where an applicant proposes to compulsorily acquire an interest or take temporary possession of land it does not own in order to implement a proposed NSIP, under section 42 of the Planning Act they must identify and consult people, including those who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question.</p> <p>It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of</p>	<p>The Applicant has sought to identify and consult with those with an interest in the land.</p> <p>The Applicant sought to identify the section 42(1)(d) consultees by undertaking diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. This included reviewing publicly available data (for example at the Land Registry), sending out Land Interest Questionnaires, undertaking site visits and erecting site notices.</p>

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	<p>the application to the Planning Inspectorate that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. Applicants must ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is sufficiently up to date at the time of submission (acknowledging the timescales for preparing and updating it) and fully meets the requirements of Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.</p>	<p>The Applicant notified 569 identified Section 44 consultees by post on 08 January 2025, ahead of the statutory consultation period commencing on 09 January 2025. These consultees were informed of a response deadline of 20 February 2025, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days.</p> <p>The Applicant notified a further 20 Section 44 consultees following the start of the phase two statutory consultation period (09 January 2025). Each consultee was notified by letter and provided with a response deadline of at least 28 days.</p> <p>Where owners, lessees, tenants or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Development site area.</p> <p>The list of all land interests consulted is presented in Appendix 5.1.7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.7] (hereafter referred to in this Consultation Report as ‘Section 44 consultees’). This appendix details the date on which they were notified of consultation and the deadline provided to them for responding.</p> <p>All persons listed in the Book of Reference [EN010162/APP/4.3], which is up to date at the time of submitting the application for a DCO, were consulted under</p>

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		<p>Section 42(1)(d). It is noted that the list of persons with an interest in land is subject to change over time, as a result of changes to land ownership.</p> <p>This is described in Section 9.6 of the Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1].</p>
Paragraph 025	<p>What is the early adequacy of consultation milestone?</p> <p>The Programme Document will enable the Planning Inspectorate to determine at the Inception Meeting that the proposed consultation arrangements are adequate for the level of complexity of the proposed project. The Programme Document should also identify an appropriate milestone during the preapplication stage to enable the Planning Inspectorate to test the progress of the consultation.</p>	<p>A Programme Document was prepared and shared with the Planning Inspectorate in October 2024.</p> <p>The Programme Document was prepared to identify the engagement and application preparation activities that have been carried out by the Applicant during the pre-application process.</p> <p>The Applicant has since hosted the Programme Document on the Development website.</p>
Paragraph 025	<p>This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.</p> <p>The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the</p>	<p>Prior to submitting an application for a DCO, the Applicant prepared a written statement in response to the government's guidance regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. A copy of this written statement is provided in Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1].</p> <p>The Applicant submitted their written statement on the adequacy of consultation undertaken to the Planning Inspectorate on 13 March 2025. This was to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant, prior to the</p>

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	<p>components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.</p> <p>The adequacy of consultation milestone is an informal but nonetheless important opportunity to check that the pre-application programme is on track, and if it is seriously adrift the Planning Inspectorate will advise the applicant about the steps necessary to enable the application to be submitted having fulfilled the statutory requirements. Inevitably this could mean a renegotiation of the expected date of submission, with the objective of avoiding the prospect of an application not being accepted for examination.</p>	<p>acceptance stage of a DCO application.</p> <p>Consistent with guidance, the two host authorities – Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council – were provided with an opportunity to comment on the adequacy of consultation. The host authorities did not request further consultation to be undertaken.</p>
Paragraph 026	<p>What is the consultation report and how should applicants respond to consultees?</p> <p>[The Consultation Report] should not include an excessively detailed description of every element of the consultation programme. The main objective should be to provide clarity not just on what consultation has been done but, crucially, how the applicant has taken it into account. It should therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline; • set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including 	<p>The Applicant has prepared a Consultation Report [EN010162/APP/5.1] consistent with this guidance.</p> <p>Relevant sections of the Consultation Report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 (Introduction) sets out the Applicant's approach to consultation and includes Table 1.2 setting out the pre-application stages and consultation undertaken in chronological order. • Appendix 5.1.1: Statement of Compliance [EN010162/APP/5.1.1] sets out how the Applicant has complied with relevant legislation and guidance.

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	<p>advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC; • set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses); • provide a description of how the proposed application for submission has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses, showing any significant changes made as a result; • provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to a proposed project, including advice from statutory consultees and local authorities on effects, were not followed; and • be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 7 (Preparation for Statutory Consultation sets out how the Applicant consulted relevant local authorities to inform the SoCC, including comments received and consideration given to these. Table 7.3 sets out the commitments from the SoCC and describes how the Applicant has complied with these commitments; • Sections 12 and 13 provide a summary of responses received to Section 47 and Section 42 consultation and the Applicant's consideration of these responses. These sections are supported by Appendix 5.1.10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN010162/APP/5.1.10] and Appendix 5.1.11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN010162/APP/5.1.11].
Paragraph 026	It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various	The Development website continued to be available for any interested parties to access Development information, including updates on the proposals, Frequently

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	<p>consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.</p>	<p>Asked Questions, and a dedicated News webpage.</p> <p>Following the review and consideration of feedback received, the Applicant prepared a Phase One Consultation Summary Report to share details of the level of engagement, themes of responses received, and updates regarding the Applicant's consideration of feedback and next steps for the Development.</p> <p>The Applicant distributed a postcard publicising the Phase One Consultation Summary Report to over 5,800 residential and business properties within the vicinity of the Development area. The Applicant emailed the proactively engaged key political and representative stakeholders and anyone who had registered to be kept updated on the Development.</p> <p>The Phase One Consultation Summary Report was also published on the Development website. A copy of the Phase One Consultation Summary Report is captured in Appendix 5.1.4: Post-Phase One Communications Materials [EN010162/APP/5.1.4].</p>