



Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

January 2026 Version 2



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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report ('the Report') has been prepared on behalf of Kingsway Solar Farm Limited (the 'Applicant') under the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects¹ guidance dated 30th April 2024 (the 'Guidance').
- 1.1.2 The Applicant will apply to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for the Kingsway Solar Farm ('the Scheme'). The Application is expected to be submitted in Q1 2026. In addition to the Guidance introduced in April 2024, the Planning Inspectorate issued the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus² ('the Prospectus') in May 2024. Both the Guidance and the Prospectus set out updated requirements for those wishing to apply for development consent.
- 1.1.3 The adequacy of consultation milestone provides the Applicant with an opportunity to outline the stages of consultation that have taken place to date and demonstrate compliance with the Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') and the Programme Document.
- 1.1.4 The Guidance describes the Report as "*a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC*". The Report is intended to be submitted no later than around three months before submission of the Application. It is also described in the Guidance as an "*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*".
- 1.1.5 The Guidance also states that the Report should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.
- 1.1.6 Under Section 55(4)(b) of the Act, at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from local authorities about the adequacy of consultation.
- 1.1.7 The Applicant has been committed to carrying out meaningful, statutory pre-application consultation and engagement with the local community and stakeholders in the vicinity of the Scheme, and has done so by going beyond the minimum requirements set out in the Act.
- 1.1.8 This Report provides an overview of the engagement and consultation activity to date and how this complied with the requirements of the Act.

¹ www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects

² www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus

2. Scheme overview

2.1 The Proposed Scheme

- 2.1.1 This section outlines the Scheme as presented during statutory consultation, to reflect the information presented in the consultation outlined in this report. It is noted that minor changes to the Scheme design are being progressed for the Development Consent Order ('DCO') Application submission, largely to reflect inputs received at statutory consultation, other direct engagement with stakeholders and further technical and environmental surveys.
- 2.1.2 The land required for the proposed Application is located within the administrative boundaries Cambridgeshire County Council ('CCC'), South Cambridgeshire District Council ('SCDC') and East Cambridgeshire District Council ('ECDC').
- 2.1.3 The Scheme comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and an approximate 15 km overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Burwell South substation (due to be located to the south of the existing Burwell substation, the exact location yet to be determined by National Grid).
- 2.1.4 The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located. The Scheme would have capacity to generate around 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity and connect to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).
- 2.1.5 The solar PV panels and associated BESS would be located within three development areas (A, B and C), referred to collectively as the PV area. The inter-array areas are the indicative areas within which connection cables (the 'inter-array connection') would link the land parcels of the PV area. The configuration of the inter-array connection would be either overhead lines (up to 132kV), underground cabling (up to 132kV) or a combination of both. The grid connection corridor is the area between the PV area and the proposed National Grid Burwell South substation in which a 400kV overhead line (the 'grid connection') will be located.

3. Consultation and engagement overview

3.1 Consultation approach

- 3.1.1 The Applicant has engaged with stakeholders and the community in line with the requirements set out in the Act, along with the Guidance on pre-application consultation published by the Government, as well as the Planning Inspectorate's Advice for Local Authorities (August 2024)³ on the role of local authorities in the development consent process, and Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (September 2024)⁴.
- 3.1.2 The Applicant engaged and consulted with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of developing the Scheme. This provided an opportunity for people to give feedback and share local insights at a formative stage in the Scheme's development, ahead of an initial design being developed, which was then presented at the second stage of consultation.
- 3.1.3 The Applicant undertook a multi-staged programme of consultation and engagement to help build understanding, encourage greater participation in the development of the Scheme and provide opportunities for local views to influence the proposals:
- Early engagement: raising awareness and introducing the Scheme to the local community and stakeholders.
 - Stage one (non-statutory) consultation: a six week consultation held between Thursday 31 October and Thursday 12 December 2024 (see section 3.2).
 - Stage two (statutory) consultation: a six week consultation held between Wednesday 17 September and Wednesday 29 October 2025 (see section 3.3).

3.2 Early engagement

- 3.2.1 The Applicant initially met with CCC and SCDC officers and members in December 2023 to introduce and brief them on the Scheme prior to planned wider public engagement.
- 3.2.2 At this time, the Applicant had conducted initial assessments to find the most appropriate locations for the development areas. The Applicant then spent time during 2024 identifying the most appropriate land within the local area for the development of the Scheme, which resulted in some areas of land being removed and some added to the PV area.
- 3.2.3 By making changes to the land included for the Scheme, the Applicant had the opportunity to enhance its flexibility. The approach allowed the Applicant to minimise, and where necessary mitigate, potential impacts on the surrounding environment, ensuring the Scheme could be developed sustainably and effectively.

3.3 Stage one (non-statutory) consultation

- 3.3.1 Once the PV area had been developed, the Applicant undertook a programme of engagement and consultation in October 2024 to help raise local awareness of the updated, early stage proposals. The stage one (non-statutory) consultation also aimed to:
- Engage early with the community and statutory consultees to incorporate technical advice and local knowledge into the Scheme's development;
 - Brief local elected representatives and secure their support for the engagement approach;

³ www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-for-local-authorities

⁴ www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation

- Understand initial views and allow stakeholders to shape the Scheme through the design process; and
- Provide an early indication of the Applicant’s approach to consultation and the aspects of the Scheme for which feedback was sought.

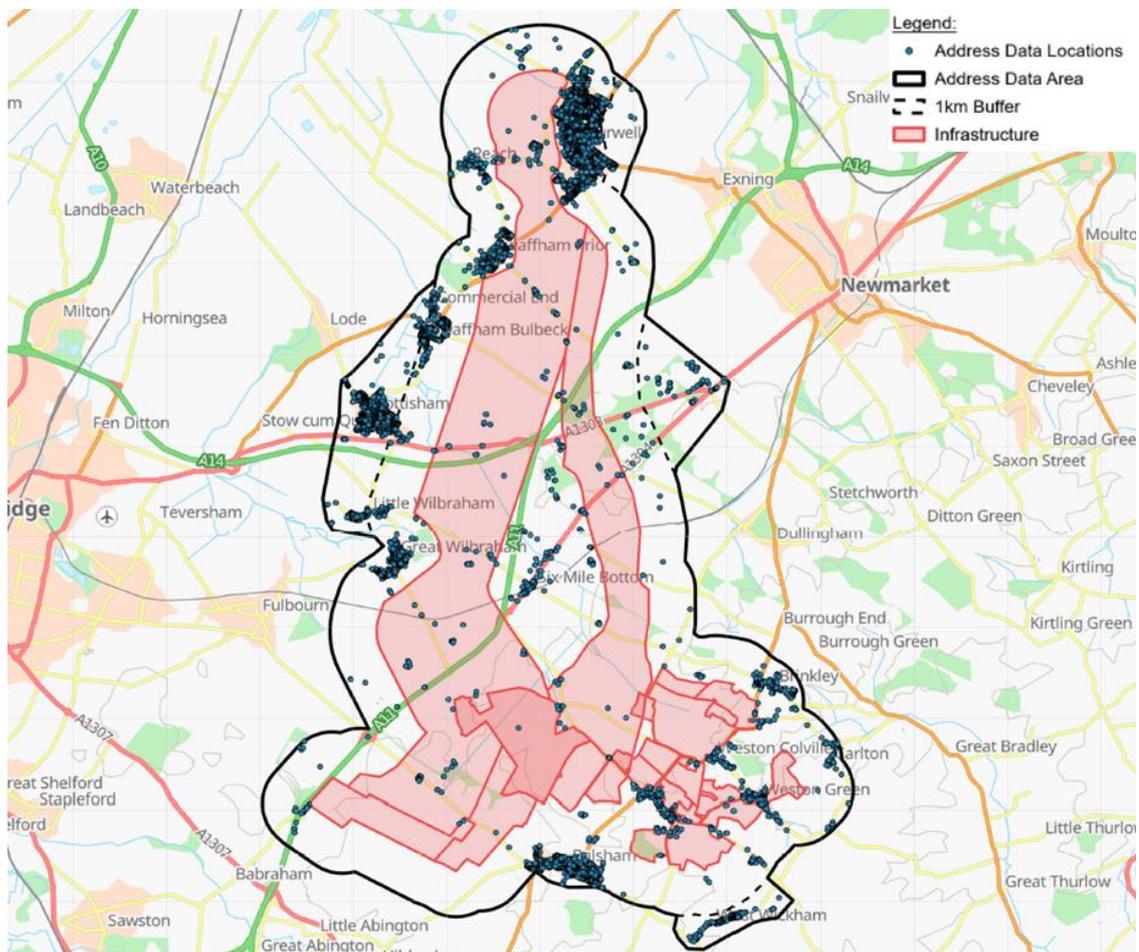
3.3.2 The six-week stage one consultation took place between Thursday 31 October and Thursday 12 December 2024. The consultation provided members of the local community and key stakeholders an opportunity to learn more about the proposals and give their initial feedback at a formative stage.

3.3.3 The stage one consultation included:

- **A consultation newsletter:** this was delivered to 7,584 addresses in an identified Stage One Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) comprising homes and businesses surrounding the proposed Scheme boundary. The Stage One PCZ extended at least 1km, and up to 2km, from the Scheme boundary. incorporating the settlements of Balsham, West Wrating, Weston Colville, Weston Green, Brinkley near the solar development areas. It also incorporated the settlements of Six Mile Bottom, Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham, Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Reach and Burwell along the connection corridors. The newsletter introduced the Scheme to local residents and how they could get involved in the upcoming consultation.

Figure 1 below shows the Stage One PCZ for the stage one consultation. The Scheme boundary presented at the stage one consultation is marked in red, and the Stage One PCZ is shown in black.

Figure 1: Stage one consultation Primary Consultation Zone



- **Update of a Scheme website:** the website (www.kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk) included information about the Scheme and upcoming engagement activities. The website also contains contact details for people to get in touch with the project team. This remained the key location for project documents and updates throughout the project lifecycle.
- Project briefings were offered to Pippa Heylings MP (South Cambridgeshire) and Charlotte Cane MP (Ely and East Cambridgeshire).
- Officer and member briefings were offered to CCC, SCDC and ECDC.
- Briefings were also offered to local Parish Councils. Project briefings took place with the following stakeholders:
 - Two briefings with officers and members for CCC and ECDC;
 - Balsham Parish Council;
 - West Wratting Parish Council;
 - Weston Colville Parish Council;
 - Carlton-cum-Willingham Parish Council;
 - Brinkley Parish Council;
 - Burwell Parish Council;
 - Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council; and
 - Kingsway Solar Community Action Group.

3.3.4 The Applicant delivered the following activities as part of this stage of consultation:

- **Three in-person public events:** the Applicant held three in-person events which provided an opportunity for consultees to learn about the project, engage with the project team and ask questions. Specialists from the planning, environmental, communications, and engineering teams were available to answer detailed questions as they arose. In total, there were 444 attendees across all three events.
- **Online Webinar:** the Applicant held an online webinar to for consultees to learn about the project in a digital format. This took the form of a presentation followed by a question and answer session. The webinar was attended by 51 people.
- **Press release:** a press release was shared with local newspaper publications to share details of the Scheme and the consultation with a wider audience beyond the PCZ. The press release included details about the proposals and the consultation.
- **Adverts:** a consultation advert was published in print and digitally in the local newspaper, the Cambridge News, which provided an overview of the Scheme, details about the consultation, and contact details for how to get in touch with the project.

3.3.5 To support the consultation events, the Applicant produced information banners to explain the early proposals, which were on display at the three in-person events. Digital copies of the information banners were also hosted on the Scheme website.

3.3.6 The Applicant also produced a feedback form which was available in hard copy on request and at the in-person events. This could be submitted digitally on the Scheme website or returned via the Freepost address. The Applicant received 696 responses to the stage one consultation which helped to shape the more detailed proposals that were shared at the stage two consultation.

- 3.3.7 A high-level summary of the feedback received during the stage one consultation was collated into a newsletter that was sent via email to stakeholders. It was also published on the Scheme website⁵.
- 3.3.8 A more detailed summary of the key themes that arose during the consultation and information regarding how the Scheme has taken them into account is available in the stage two consultation information booklet⁶.

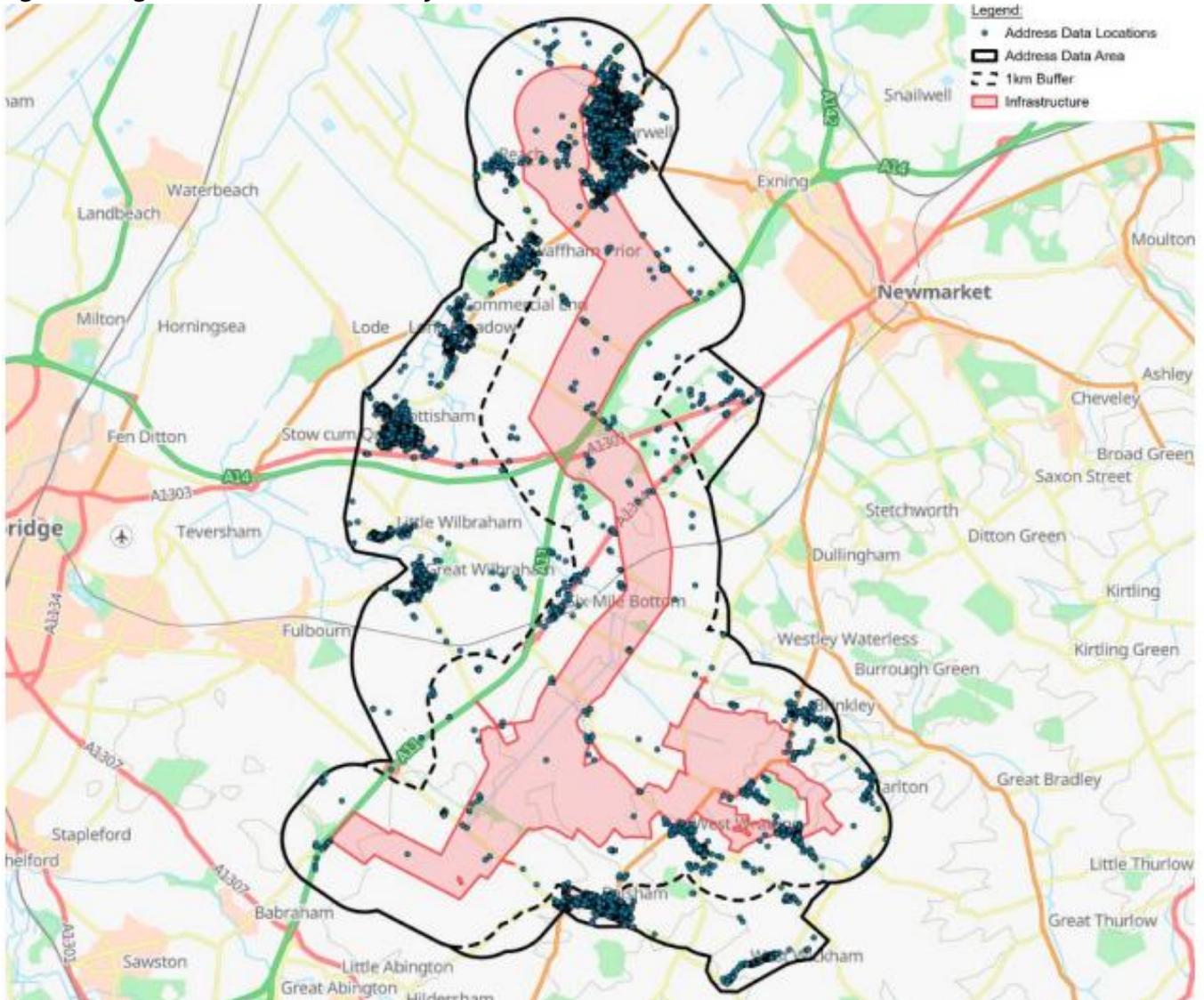
3.4 Stage two consultation

- 3.4.1 A stage two (statutory) consultation was held from Wednesday 17 September until Wednesday 29 October 2025, running for six weeks. The consultation provided an opportunity for the Applicant to present the initial Scheme design and seek further feedback from consultees.
- 3.4.2 The primary aim was to ensure that the community, landowners, stakeholders and technical consultees had the opportunity to review, comment on, and influence aspects of the proposals before submission of the DCO application.
- 3.4.3 Under Section 47 of the Act, the Applicant has a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the proposals. To help facilitate and guide the engagement with the local community, the PCZ was updated following the stage one consultation.
- 3.4.4 As part of the updated design presented during the stage two consultation, the connection corridor boundary north of the A1303 was extended slightly further east. As a result, the Stage One PCZ was extended east by 1km.
- 3.4.5 In total, 7,660 addresses were identified within the revised Stage Two PCZ and were all sent a consultation newsletter to notify them of the launch of the stage two consultation. Elected members of Parish, District and County and Constituency offices were also notified via email to ensure stakeholders were kept up to date on the Scheme's development, and the materials that were entering the public domain.
- 3.4.6 Figure 2 below shows the Stage Two PCZ for the stage two consultation. The Scheme boundary presented at the stage two consultation is marked in red, and the Stage Two PCZ is shown in black.

⁵ https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Kingsway-Solar_Summer-update-newsletter-2025.pdf

⁶ https://www.kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/documents/Kingsway%20Solar_Stage%20two%20consultation_Consultation%20information%20booklet_Final%20version%20for%20website%201.pdf

Figure 2: Stage two consultation Primary Consultation Zone



3.4.7 In addition to the PCZ, the Applicant consulted with the following groups:

- Statutory consultees (see Appendix D), such as:
 - Landowners with interest in the Scheme;
 - Local authorities (host and neighbouring);
 - Technical stakeholders; and
 - Parish councils (host and neighbouring parish councils), and
- Non-statutory consultees (see Appendix E), such as
 - Community groups;
 - Environmental groups in the vicinity of the Scheme;
 - Seldom-heard groups; and
 - Members of Parliament.

3.4.8 The Applicant recognised that people who live and work beyond the PCZ may have an interest in the Scheme proposals and would like to participate in the stage two consultation. The Applicant was committed to ensuring that individuals, communities, and organisations could take part in the consultation and therefore used several digital and non-digital methods to raise awareness of the consultation as outlined in Table 1.

3.4.9 Copies of the various consultation documents will be provided with the Consultation Report submitted with the DCO application, as comprehensive evidence of the consultation undertaken.

Table 1: Stage two consultation engagement methods

Method	Detail
Consultation newsletter	<p>A consultation newsletter was posted via Royal Mail to all properties within the PCZ to notify them of the launch of the stage two consultation. It was also issued via email to wider consultees, including community groups and interested parties who had signed up to the Scheme's mailing list.</p> <p>The newsletter was hosted on the Scheme website and provided an overview of the proposals, a map of the Scheme, and details of the consultation, including the date and location of the events and how to provide feedback.</p>
Press release	<p>A local media press release provided wider notification to local stakeholders of the consultation events, reaching stakeholders outside the consultation mailing zone. The press release was briefed into local and regional media outlets, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge News / Cambridgeshire Live • Cambridge Independent • Cambs Times • Ely Standard • Saffron Walden Reporter • Suffolk News/Free Press • Newmarket Journal • Haverhill Echo/Bury Free Press
Emails and Section 42, 44 and 47 stakeholder letters	<p>Emails were sent to Section 42, 44 and 47 stakeholders, where email addresses were known, to inform them about the launch of the stage two consultation, advertise the upcoming events and explain how to provide feedback.</p> <p>All Section 42 and 44 consultees were also sent personalised letters via post on 17 September 2025 which a copy of the Section 48 notice and a map of the Scheme boundary. The letters informed consultees about the stage two consultation and invited them to provide their feedback.</p>
Consultation website	<p>The Scheme website was updated on the launch of the stage two consultation to include all of the consultation materials on the 'Documents' page.</p> <p>Details of the proposals, consultation events, and information on how to provide feedback on the proposals were also published on a dedicated 'Consultation' page.</p>

Method	Detail
	<p>An interactive map of the Scheme, which allowed users to zoom in and out of areas of interest to them and read more about certain design aspects, was available on 'The Scheme' page of the website.</p> <p>A virtual consultation room was also added to the 'Consultation' page of the Scheme website ahead of the first consultation event. This replicated the information on display at in-person events in a digital format. Users could navigate the information banners, maps and consultation materials online, providing another interactive method for people to engage with the consultation.</p>
Statutory notices and adverts	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the consultation and the SoCC were published in local and national news publications, including Cambridge News, The Guardian and London Gazette.</p> <p>The Applicant also ran paid digital and print adverts in Cambridge News and the Cambridge Independent during the consultation period. This included social media advertising through Cambridge News.</p>
Information points	<p>Hard copies of the consultation information booklet, consultation newsletter and feedback form were available to take home from five local information points located within proximity to the Scheme site.</p> <p>A copy of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) (see Section 4), the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR were also available to view at four of these locations.</p>
Site notices	<p>Notices were placed in publicly accessible locations within the Scheme boundary to notify of the consultation.</p>
In-person consultation events	<p>The Applicant held four in-person consultation events for anyone with an interest in the Scheme to attend, find out more about the proposals and discuss the proposals with the project team. In-person events were held at venues within the PCZ and publicised in the consultation materials.</p>
Online information presentation	<p>The Applicant uploaded an online information presentation to the Scheme website during the consultation period to provide an overview of the proposals and where to find out more information.</p>
Stakeholder briefings	<p>Briefings with stakeholders were offered prior to the stage two consultation launch and took place throughout the consultation period. Briefings were conducted both in-person and online. The briefings were offered to members and officers of Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, the host Members of the UK Parliament, host parish councils and Kingsway Solar Community Action Group.</p>

3.4.10 Table 2 details the documents that were made available as part of the stage two consultation.

Table 2: Stage two consultation documents

Document	Detail
Consultation newsletter	Provided a high-level overview of the Scheme, of the consultation events and how people can get involved. The consultation newsletter indicated where the relevant project information could be found and publicised the consultation events, including locations, dates, and times. This was sent to all homes and businesses within the PCZ and was made available on the Scheme website, at the consultation events, information points, and on request by post.
Consultation Information Booklet	<p>Included the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summary of the proposals; • details of how people could take part in the consultation; • information on the potential benefits and impacts of the Scheme; • proposed mitigations to any potential impacts; and • the timeline for the scheme (planning, construction, operation and decommissioning). <p>This was made available on the Scheme website, at the consultation events, information points, and on request by post.</p>
Feedback Form	Allowed people to provide feedback on the proposals. This included an ‘open box’ question should consultees wish to provide any other feedback after responding to the questions in the form. The feedback form could be completed online or downloaded in a printable format, if required, and sent into the consultation via Freepost. Paper copies were available at the consultation events, information points, and on request by post.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS)	<p>The PEIR contained a description of the Scheme, a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects, and the initial strategies to mitigate these effects. The PEIR was based on information available at the time. The NTS summarised the contents of the PEIR in a non-technical manner, including the preliminary assessment of effects and mitigation measures.</p> <p>The PEIR and an NTS of the PEIR were available for download from the Scheme website. Paper copies of the PEIR and NTS were available at the consultation events and four information points for reference.</p>
Interactive map	Located online, the interactive map allowed users to search for areas of interest to them and included explanations of the individual Scheme elements.
SoCC	Available online as part of the consultation, and in paper format at the consultation events and in four information points for reference.
Virtual consultation room	Located online, the virtual consultation room provided the scheme information in the same format as was presented at the in-person consultation events.

3.4.11 Respondents were able to provide their feedback in the following ways:

- Completing a feedback form online at www.kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk
- Completing a feedback form, and returning it free of charge to FREEPOST DOWNING KINGSWAY (no stamp required)
- Submitting completed feedback form by email to enquiries@kingswaysolar.co.uk
- Providing freeform comments by email or post.

3.5 Landowner engagement

3.5.1 As set out in Section 44 of the Act, the Applicant is required to consult with three categories of person under Section 42(1)(d): (1) landowners, lessees, tenants, occupiers; (2) those with other interests in the land or have a power to sell and convey the land or release the land; and (3) those who may be entitled to make a claim for compensation as a result of the Scheme.

3.5.2 Ahead of the stage two consultation, the Applicant carried out a diligent inquiry to identify all persons with an interest in land within the categories set out in Section 44 of the Act. This included reviewing the public data (e.g. the Land Registry), sending out a Land Interest Questionnaire, undertaking site visits and erecting site notices.

3.5.3 In the event of unknown landowners, the Applicant initially erected site notices for unregistered land and made site visits to query ownership with locals. The Applicant also contacted persons with an interest in land (PILs) using identified contact details to query the ownership of any adjoining land.

3.5.4 A letter was issued to all Section 44 stakeholders at the launch of the consultation, which explained why they have been contacted in their capacity as a person with an interest in land, details about the consultation and how they could take part, a copy of the Section 48 notice and a copy of the Scheme boundary plan.

3.5.5 All persons identified as having an interest in land within the Scheme boundary, or affected by the Scheme, were identified and notified of the statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 42 of the Act.

3.5.6 The Applicant is continuing their diligent enquiry so that new PILs are identified at the earliest opportunity and such persons will be listed in the Book of Reference, which will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

3.6 Compliance under Section 42 of the Act

3.6.1 The Applicant consulted with the prescribed bodies pursuant to Section 42(1)(a) of the Act. The Applicant identified prescribed consultees with careful reference to:

- Schedule 1 of the 'The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009' ('APFP Regulations'); and
- the list of consultation bodies in Appendix 1 of the EIA Scoping Opinion adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations.

3.6.2 Section 42(1)(b) of the Act states that applicants must consult all local authorities which fall within one of the categories detailed in section 43 as follows:

- "B" Authorities (a unitary or district council in which the project is located);
- "A" Authorities (a unitary or district council which borders a "B" authority);
- "C" Authorities (a county council in which the project is located); and

- "D" Authorities (a unitary or district council which borders a "C" authority).

3.6.3 In accordance with Section 42(1)(b) of the Act, Table 3 shows the local authorities that were consulted under section 43.

Table 3: Local authorities consulted under section 43

Organisation	Category
Bedford Borough Council	A
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	A
Braintree District Council	A
Cambridge City Council (Greater Cambridge Shared Planning)	A
Central Bedfordshire Council	A
Fenland District Council	A
Huntingdonshire District Council	A
North Hertfordshire District Council	A
Uttlesford District Council	A
West Suffolk District Council	A
South Cambridgeshire District Council (Greater Cambridge Shared Planning)	B
East Cambridgeshire District Council	B
Cambridgeshire County Council	C
Essex County Council	D
Hertfordshire County Council	D
Lincolnshire County Council	D
Norfolk County Council	D
North Northamptonshire Council	D
Peterborough City Council	D
Suffolk County Council	D

3.6.4 Consultation letters were sent via post to all Section 42 consultees which arrived on the day of the consultation launch (see Appendix D). The letters notified consultees about the launch of the consultation, identified where consultees could view the consultation materials, explained how consultees could respond to the consultation, and confirmed the deadline for providing feedback. The letters provided a link to the consultation website where all of the consultation documents could be downloaded. Enclosed was a copy of the Section 48 notice and a plan of the Scheme boundary.

3.6.5 For the Section 42 consultees that we also had email addresses for, an email was sent to them on 17 September 2025, in addition to the letter they would receive in the post to notify them that the stage two consultation was officially open. A copy of the letter they would receive via post was attached to the email.

3.7 Compliance under Section 48 of the Act

- 3.7.1 As per Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant was required to publish the Section 48 notice:
- for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the proposed development would be situated;
 - once in a national newspaper; and
 - once in the London Gazette.
- 3.7.2 In accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant published a notice as required by Section 48 of the Act for the stage two consultation in the following newspapers on the following dates:
- Cambridge News: Wednesday 10 September and Wednesday 17 September 2025
 - The Guardian: Wednesday 17 September 2025
 - London Gazette: Wednesday 17 September 2025.
- 3.7.3 The Section 48 notice included all details prescribed by Regulation 4(3) APFP Regulations, and a copy of the notice was sent to all Section 42 consultees, including the consultation bodies as an enclosure to the Section 42 letters for the statutory consultation.
- 3.7.4 The Consultation Report will outline in greater detail how the Applicant identified and consulted with the relevant prescribed bodies and local authorities as required under Section 42 and how it publicised the application in line with the requirements of Section 47 and 48 of the Act.

3.8 Compliance under section 46 of the Act

- 3.8.1 Prior to the stage two consultation, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate of its intention to consult under Section 42 and supplied relevant information in relation to the proposed Scheme.
- 3.8.2 The notification was sent to the Planning Inspectorate electronically on 16 September 2025 and included a copy of the Section 42 and 44 consultation letters, a copy of the Scheme Boundary Plan and copy of the Section 48 notice.

4. Developing the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

4.1 Developing the SoCC

4.1.1 Ahead of the stage two consultation, a SoCC was prepared, consulted on, and published following the process in accordance with section 47 of the Act and Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “EIA Regulations”).

4.1.2 The SoCC set out how the Applicant planned to consult with the local community on its proposals for the Scheme.

4.2 SoCC consultation

4.2.1 CCC, SCDC and ECDC are the relevant host local authorities for the Scheme under s43(1) of the Act. The Applicant carried out early engagement with these host authorities on the approach to statutory consultation, before formally consulting them on the draft SoCC over a 28-day period. Only CCC responded to this early draft. Table 4 below outlines the comments and the Applicant’s response.

Table 4: Summary of local authority responses to the early draft SoCC

Local Authority	Section	Comment	Regard had
CCC	1.2 – Why are we publishing this document?	Cross reference with use of local press	The Applicant updated the SoCC and included a signpost to where details about advertising through local press was included.
	6.1 – The primary Consultation Zone	For the avoidance of doubt ‘to local MP’s constituency offices’	The Applicant kept the wording in the SoCC as ‘Local MP’s offices’ as a combination of constituency and Westminster offices were contacted from the contact details publicly available.
	6.1 – The primary Consultation Zone	Has consideration been given to communities impacted by the construction - e.g. traffic through areas further away from the solar and pylon infrastructure?	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant responded to CCC to confirm that the main construction traffic routes being considered within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) were located within the PCZ. The Applicant advised there were some wider construction routes being considered that fell outside of the PCZ, which are predominantly on the strategic road network and for the most part not proposed for heavy goods vehicles. The Applicant confirmed it was confident that through the community newsletter to properties within the PCZ and other promotional activities detailed within the SoCC, that potentially impacted communities would be able to find out and take part in the consultation.

	6.3 – What are we consulting on?	Suggest changing wording to ‘selected corridor (two options presented previously)’	The wording in the SoCC was updated to confirm the Applicant was consulting on “our indicative alignment for the overhead line within the grid connection corridor”. The updated wording to describe what the Applicant was consulting on was consistent with the wording used throughout the other consultation materials.
	6.4 – Who are we consulting?	Good to have more detail - I would encourage a wider consultation zone for some of these groups than the PCZ, for example Parish Councils	<p>The Applicant provided additional clarity against each of the groups outlined within the SoCC. Section 6.7 was amended to provide for additional consultation promotional activities to take place outside of the mailing to the PCZ.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to CCC to confirm it would consult all host and neighbouring parish councils, and that some of the neighbouring parish councils were located outside of the PCZ.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to CCC to welcome suggestions for any additional community groups or organisations that the local authority would like to be contacted by email regarding the consultation. These suggestions were subsequently provided and added to the SoCC. See Table 5 in this document for further details.</p>
	6.4 – Who are we consulting?	Break down host and neighbouring LAs	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant consulted with the host local authorities CCC, SCDC and EDC, and the neighbouring authorities Bedford Borough Council, Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, Braintree District Council, Cambridge City Council (Greater Cambridge Shared Planning), Central Bedfordshire Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, Uttlesford District Council, West Suffolk District Council, Essex County Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Norfolk County Council, North Northamptonshire Council, Peterborough City Council and Suffolk County Council.

	6.4 – Who are we consulting?	[businesses] Near to Granta Park and Babraham Research Campus	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised CCC that the PCZ was developed to be proportionate to the size and potential impact of the Scheme. The businesses in two areas mentioned are located a distance outside of the PCZ, but were still be able to find out about the consultation through other promotional activities detailed in the SoCC, such as local media and press coverage, as well as via the parish councils (Babraham PC and Little Abingdon PC) which were contacted and encouraged to promote the consultation via their own channels. The Applicant welcomed comments on whether there was a particular reason to write directly to these businesses.
	6.5 – How are we consulting?	Suggest changing wording ‘the proposals’ to ‘the scheme (planning, construction, operation and decommissioning)’	The Applicant updated the SoCC to reflect this suggestion.
	6.5 – How are we consulting?	Can it be clarified an open box will be available to raise matters felt not to be applicable to the questions?	The Applicant updated the SoCC to confirm the feedback form would have an ‘open box’ question should consultees wish to provide any other feedback after responding to the questions in the form.
	6.5 – How are we consulting?	Can it also be available online for people to print their own copy?	The Applicant updated the SoCC to confirm the feedback form would be available online for consultees to download in a printable format, if required.
	6.5 – How are we consulting?	Is there a defined format/objectives of the NTS will have in them - For example - No more than x pages, summary of impacts and mitigations	The Applicant responded directly to CCC to confirm that the NTS will summarise the contents of the PEIR in a non-technical manner, including the preliminary assessment of effects and mitigation measures. This was updated in the SoCC. The Applicant further confirmed with CCC that it expected the NTS to be a similar length to other DCO solar projects and shared some examples.
	6.5 – How are we consulting?	Posters of the events and even sign ups? Information on Eventbrite/ sign up to events on Eventbrite and/ or other more local community notice boards including online?	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant responded to CCC to confirm that members of the community would not have to pre-register to attend the consultation events, and they’re proposed to be open to all so people could drop in

			<p>whenever they like within the advertised timeframes.</p> <p>The Applicant also confirmed it would email parish councils at consultation launch with a digital copy of the consultation newsletter and a consultation poster. At the consultation launch, the Applicant encouraged parish councils to share these through their existing communications channels and place the poster on parish notice boards.</p>
<p>6.5 – How are we consulting?</p>		<p>There is also Bottisham Community Library, Linton Library. There are also a number of Mobile Library services in the area. Happy to assist in a contact from the Library team</p>	<p>The Applicant responded to CCC to confirm it would update the SoCC to include Bottisham Community Library as a local information point.</p> <p>However, following initial engagement with Bottisham Community Library, the library confirmed it would be unable to host the consultation materials due to the limited available space. As a result and following liaison with CCC, the Cambridge Central Library was added as a replacement in the SoCC, as the nearest ‘hub’ library to the Scheme site.</p> <p>Bottisham Community Library then offered to host some of the consultation materials in dedicated space. Copies of the consultation information booklet, feedback forms and consultation newsletters were deposited, which were available to be taken away. While the use of Bottisham Community Library was too late to be confirmed in the SoCC, it was advertised on the Scheme website.</p> <p>Regarding Linton Library, the Applicant initially confirmed it was having discussions with the Black Bull in Balsham to host the full suite of consultation materials, and its preference was to use this an information point because it is located closer to the solar development areas than Linton Library and therefore more accessible.</p> <p>Following further engagement with CCC, to improve accessibility and availability of the consultation materials, both the Black Bull in Balsham and Linton Library were confirmed as information points to host the</p>

			<p>full suite of consultation materials. This was updated in the SoCC.</p> <p>Regarding the use of the local mobile library service, the Applicant responded to CCC to note the service appeared to visit local villages once a month for a short window, which would not be suitable for local people to easily and readily access the consultation materials. The Applicant obtained contact details from the mobile library service team and offered to arrange for copies of the consultation poster to be delivered and placed in the mobile library.</p>
6.5 – How are we consulting?	[provision of information in an alternative format] For clarity this is without charge?	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised CCC that it would review requests for consultation materials in an alternative format on a case-by-case basis to determine their legitimacy. The Applicant confirmed that while it would not expect to charge for these requests, it would be determined by working with the individual to understand which materials are required and in which alternative format.	
6.6 – How the public will be able to participate and respond	[location of consultation events] Because of the considerable area the scheme covers the locations will need to be carefully considered. - see comments below. Equally for each of these would suggest a full day to maximise attendance by different demographics - see comments below. Consider one being a weekend as opposed to all being a week day	The Applicant responded to the comments as they were made – see below.	
6.6 – How the public will be able to participate and respond	[use of an interactive map] Very welcome	The Applicant noted this comment.	
6.7 – Promoting the consultation	No reference to social media - are you going to promote the scheme and consultation through any social media?	Following further engagement with the local authorities, in addition to running paid digital and print adverts in Cambridge News and the Cambridge Independent during the consultation period, the	

			Applicant updated its plan to include paid social media advertising through Cambridge News to target people living in the vicinity of the project. This was updated in the SoCC.
6.7 – Promoting the consultation	Cambridge Independent? Cambs Times? Ely Standard? And others		<p>The Applicant advised CCC it was planning to issue its press release to the following local and regional publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge News / Cambridgeshire Live • Cambridge Independent • Cambs Times • Ely Standard • Saffron Walden Reporter • Suffolk News/Free Press • Newmarket Journal • Haverhill Echo/Bury Free Press <p>This was confirmed in the final version of the SoCC.</p>
6.7 – Promoting the consultation	[stakeholder briefing invitations] How far in advance of the consultation?		No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised CCC that it would issue briefing invitations between two to three weeks in advance of the consultation launch.
6.7 – Promoting the consultation	[Swaffham Prior Village Hall] This is the only one for the pylon route. If it were the East option Six Mile Bottom will need to be a consideration.		No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised CCC that there was not a suitable venue in Six Mile Bottom that is able to host a consultation event. The location of the in-person events were carefully considered, balancing the distance from different communities and how far they would need to travel, venue accessibility and feedback received during our stage one consultation.
6.7 – Promoting the consultation	Promote longer hours to maximise attendance from different demographics. At least start at 12 noon.		<p>No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised that of the four in-person events, three were proposed to be held during the working week between the hours of 2pm to 8pm to ensure different demographics of people could attend. In particular, running the events into the evening would provide an opportunity for people that work during the day to come after the working day is over.</p> <p>During the stage one consultation, the in-person events were held between 2pm to 8pm and were well attended, which</p>

			indicated that six-hour, week-day events during the stage two consultation would be proportionate. The Applicant welcomed thoughts on whether a specific demographic would not be able to access the in-person events between the proposed times of 2pm to 8pm: no comments were received.
	6.7 – Promoting the consultation	Welcome until 8pm to capture those at work during the day.	The Applicant noted this comment.
	6.9 – Seldom Heard Groups	[examples of seldom heard groups] Older members of the community/ those with English as a second language/ gypsy and traveller communities are not included in this list	The Applicant updated the SoCC to include these suggestions.

- 4.2.2 The Applicant carried out formal consultation with each of the aforementioned host local authorities on the draft SoCC over a 28-day period.
- 4.2.3 The Applicant also shared the draft SoCC with the following neighbouring local planning authorities for information purposes only Braintree District Council, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Cambridge City Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, Uttlesford District Council and West Suffolk District Council.
- 4.2.4 The draft SoCC was sent to the host authorities on Friday 1 August 2025, with a deadline for responses set for Sunday 31 August 2025. CCC, SCDC, ECDC, Braintree District Council and Central Bedfordshire Council provided feedback on the draft SoCC.
- 4.2.5 Following the SoCC consultation, the Applicant reviewed and incorporated the feedback received where possible.
- 4.2.6 As part of SCDC and ECDC’s responses to the SoCC consultation, the Applicant noted concerns were raised that the Applicant had not met the requirements under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 to consult on the SoCC, and the draft SoCC had an absence of details preventing full comments to be provided on its acceptability or its final content.
- 4.2.7 On 1 September 2025, the Applicant responded to SCDC and ECDC to confirm it did not consider there to have been any non-compliance, and referenced the specific test within Section 47(2) which requires: “*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.*”
- 4.2.8 The Applicant considers this requirement was clearly met as it undertook two rounds of engagement on the draft SoCC with the relevant local authorities, including SCDC and ECDC (as detailed in Section 4.2 of this document). The Applicant also held three meetings with SCDC and ECDC on 24 July, 14 August and 28 August 2025.

- 4.2.9 There is no requirement within Section 47(2) to provide a specific level of detail for consultation or to provide a draft SoCC for review. Instead, the requirement is to consult on “*what is to be in the statement*”. The Applicant considers the drafts provided clearly outlined the nature and content of what was to be in the final SoCC and note the local authorities were still able to comment on all relevant matters, including where details were yet to be confirmed in the draft SoCC, or matters they considered were “gaps” in the SoCC.
- 4.2.10 The Applicant considers the multiple meetings and opportunities for written responses provided SCDC and ECDC appropriate opportunity to request any clarifications or further details it needed to finalise its feedback, prior to the deadline for comments on the draft SoCC on 31 August 2025. While no such requests were received, the Council’s responses were still able to comment on matters they considered not to have sufficient information on.
- 4.2.11 The Applicant confirmed it did not consider there to be sufficient justification to delay the SoCC or statutory consultation for additional rounds of feedback, and it would be taking into account the feedback received on the draft SoCC, alongside the other local authorities, in finalising the document.
- 4.2.12 Table 5 below outlines the key feedback received on matters within the SoCC from the host and neighbouring authorities, along with the Applicant’s response.

Table 5: Summary of local authority responses to the SoCC

Local Authority	Section	Comment	Regard had
Central Bedfordshire Council	n/a	Central Bedfordshire Council has no comments to make on the draft Statement of Community Consultation.	The Applicant noted this comment.
Braintree District Council	n/a	Thank you for consulting Braintree District Council on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) for this scheme. Given the distance of the application site from our administrative boundary the Council do not wish to make any specific comments with regard to the draft SOCC. We trust that you will engage extensively and in a constructive and responsive manner with the relevant host authorities and all interested parties in the affected area.	The Applicant noted this comment.
CCC	Section 1.2 P.5	The neighbouring planning authorities listed to receive the SoCC are all district planning authorities. County Councils (Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, and Northamptonshire) as well as unitary authorities (Peterborough and Bedford Borough) need to be added.	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant confirmed via an email exchange with CCC that all neighbouring local authorities were consulted as 'statutory consultees' for the statutory consultation. The SoCC consultation process was undertaken as described in Section 1.2 of the SoCC, with the following neighbouring authorities receiving the draft document for information purposes: Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Braintree District Council, Cambridge City Council (Greater Cambridge Shared Planning), Central Bedfordshire Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, Uttlesford District Council and West Suffolk District Council.
	Section 6.4 P.15	'host and neighbouring parish councils' have been noted to be consulted. We	No changes were made to the SoCC. All parish councils that are wholly or partly

		<p>would request that all Parish Councils that are wholly or partly in the PCZ are consulted.</p> <p>CAPALC (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils) can be utilised to reach all relevant Parish Councils. Home – CAPALC</p>	<p>within the PCZ were consulted as part of the statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Section 6.5 P.17</p>	<p><i>A paper copy of the PEIR and NTS will be available at our consultation events, and the information point, The Black Bull, for reference.'</i></p> <p>Point of clarity required on the local information points. Is this only the Black Bull, or does this include the two libraries listed below? It would be preferred that all identified local information points, as well as the Black Bull, had physical copies of: non-technical summaries, SoCC, and full PIER, to improve access and availability. See comment below about adding Linton Library as an information point.</p> <p>Location of information points: it is suggested to also add Linton Library and the mobile library services.</p> <p>Clarification is required for if there are any charges for braille, large print, or alternative language.</p>	<p>The Applicant updated the proposals for all four information points to host physical copies of the PEIR, NTS and SoCC for reference, and physical copies of the consultation information booklet, feedback form and consultation newsletter to be taken away. This was updated in the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant advised CCC that following initial engagement with Bottisham Community Library, the library confirmed it would be unable to host the consultation materials due to the limited available space. As a result and following liaison with CCC, the Cambridge Central Library was added as a replacement in the SoCC, as the nearest 'hub' library to the Scheme site.</p> <p>Bottisham Community Library then offered to host some of the consultation materials in dedicated space. Copies of the consultation information booklet, feedback forms and consultation newsletters were deposited, which were available to be taken away. While the use of Bottisham Community Library was too late to be confirmed in the SoCC, it was advertised on the Scheme website.</p> <p>Regarding Linton Library, the Applicant initially confirmed it was having discussions with the Black Bull in Balsham to host the full suite of consultation materials, and its preference was to use this an information point because it is located closer to the solar development</p>	<p>The Applicant updated the proposals for all four information points to host physical copies of the PEIR, NTS and SoCC for reference, and physical copies of the consultation information booklet, feedback form and consultation newsletter to be taken away. This was updated in the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant advised CCC that following initial engagement with Bottisham Community Library, the library confirmed it would be unable to host the consultation materials due to the limited available space. As a result and following liaison with CCC, the Cambridge Central Library was added as a replacement in the SoCC, as the nearest 'hub' library to the Scheme site.</p> <p>Bottisham Community Library then offered to host some of the consultation materials in dedicated space. Copies of the consultation information booklet, feedback forms and consultation newsletters were deposited, which were available to be taken away. While the use of Bottisham Community Library was too late to be confirmed in the SoCC, it was advertised on the Scheme website.</p> <p>Regarding Linton Library, the Applicant initially confirmed it was having discussions with the Black Bull in Balsham to host the full suite of consultation materials, and its preference was to use this an information point because it is located closer to the solar development</p>

			<p>areas than Linton Library and therefore more accessible.</p> <p>Following further engagement with CCC, to improve accessibility and availability of the consultation materials, both the Black Bull in Balsham and Linton Library were confirmed as information points to host the full suite of consultation materials. This was updated within the SoCC.</p> <p>Regarding the use of the local mobile library service, no changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant responded to CCC to note the service appeared to visit local villages once a month for a short window, which would not be suitable for local people to easily and readily access the consultation materials. The Applicant obtained contact details from the mobile library service team and offered to arrange for copies of the consultation poster to be delivered and placed in the mobile library.</p> <p>The Applicant advised CCC that it would review requests for consultation materials in an alternative format on a case-by-case basis to determine their legitimacy. The Applicant confirmed that while it would not expect to charge for these requests, it would be determined by working with the individual to understand which materials are required and in which alternative format.</p>
	<p>Section 6.6 P.17</p>	<p>It is noted ‘up to four’ community drop in events will be hosted. These events need to be confirmed. The note ‘up to four’ is referenced a few other times on P.18. In the event that one or more of these venues is not available, we would expect an alternative to be found (see request for a fifth venue below).</p>	<p>The Applicant updated the SoCC to confirm there would be four in-person consultation events.</p>

	<p>Section 6.7 P.18</p>	<p>Press release row: ‘A local media press release’. Please identify the news outlets.</p> <p>In addition the following local village magazines have been brought to our attention and we would encourage to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottisham Cresset (Bottisham) • Bulbeck Beacon (Swaffham Bulbeck) • Lode Star (Lode) • Village Voice (Brinkley; Burrough Green; Carlton; Westley Waterless) • Stetchworth News (Dullingham; Stetchworth) <p>Emails row: ‘this will allow stakeholders’ – please define the type of stakeholder – e.g. statutory consultees e.g. all in appendix 2 e.g. all responders to informal consultation.</p> <p>Information point row: ‘hard copies of the consultation materials’ - Need to state this is limited to Newsletter, booklet and feedback form, and that paper copies of the PEIR and NTS will be available at consultation events, and the information point (The Black Bull). Our preference (see comment for section 6.6) is for all information points to have all material.</p>	<p>The Applicant updated the SoCC and confirmed it issued a press release to the following local and regional publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge News / Cambridgeshire Live • Cambridge Independent • Cambs Times • Ely Standard • Saffron Walden Reporter • Suffolk News/Free Press • Newmarket Journal • Haverhill Echo/Bury Free Press <p>The Applicant contacted the listed magazines provided to notify and provide them with relevant details of the statutory consultation to include in their publications.</p> <p>The Applicant updated the SoCC to confirm the stakeholders receiving emails.</p> <p>The comment regarding the local information points was responded to above and updated in the SoCC.</p> <p>Regarding stakeholder briefings, no changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised CCC that briefings were arranged prior to the consultation with members for all three host local authorities. Briefing invitations were issued to MPs, host parish councils and KSCA prior to the consultation launch, but the dates for the briefing meetings were not included in the SoCC as they were scheduled when responses were received.</p>
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		<p>Stakeholder briefings & previews row: 'briefings with key political stakeholders will be arranged' – dates will be required here in the published version.</p>	
	<p>Section 6.7.1 P.18 - 19</p>	<p>Ensure all consultation venues are confirmed and have had the necessary completion of risk assessments.</p> <p>The location of the proposed events are in the proximity of the solar sites and the western cable route. Effort should be made to find a 5th event near to the communities potentially impacted by the eastern cable route. Adding an event in Brinkley, or possibly better Bottisham would be of benefit.</p>	<p>The consultation venues were confirmed in the SoCC and risk assessments carried out.</p> <p>The Applicant advised CCC that the location of the in-person events were carefully considered, balancing the distance from different communities and how far they would need to travel, venue accessibility and feedback received during stage one consultation. The Applicant believes it was acceptable for communities close to the eastern connection corridor to attend any of the consultation events in Swaffham Prior, Balsham or West Wratting. Three in-person events were held during the stage one consultation which were well attended by 444 people, and for the stage two consultation a fourth event was added.</p> <p>There were multiple ways the Applicant made consultation materials accessible during the stage two consultation. If someone was unable to attend an in-person event, a virtual consultation room was made available through the consultation website which closely replicated the experience of attending an in-person event. Users could navigate the same information banners and consultation materials that were available at each of the four events.</p> <p>The virtual consultation room provided another interactive way for people to engage with the project, and provide an online 'event experience' should someone have been unable to attend in-person.</p> <p>With these proposals in place, it was not considered a fifth consultation event was</p>

			required and the SoCC was therefore not updated.
	<p>Section 6.9 P.19-20</p>	<p>It would be beneficial if the information points could reflect the number and areas of the consultation venues – at least four.</p> <p>The following groups and venues have been raised with us to help reach the seldom heard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old people’s homes/ Day Centres • Bottisham Airfield Museum • Veteran groups • Cambridgeshire ACRE’s Community hubs. • Three social enterprises who have co-workers living with learning disabilities are in the zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red2Green are based in Swaffham Bulbeck/Bottisham • Snakehall farm in Reach. Part of Prospects Trust • Burwell Print • Parent Connect Burwell will hold an in-person event on September 17th at 10:00 am, offering support and a cuppa for parent carers. • How Are You East Cambs and How Are You South Cambs will list more groups, 	<p>The comment regarding the number and location of local information points has been responded to above and was updated in the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant added the suggested seldom heard groups onto the consultation emailing list and were updated in appendix 2 of the SoCC.</p>

		activities and Support organisations How Are You East Cambs? Home// How Are You South Cambs? Home	
Appendices 2. P.22-25	In addition to the venues and stakeholders listed, the following have been brought to our attention, and we would encourage engagement with them: Local Businesses Penny Farm The Red Lion, (pub Brinkley) New England Stud Six Mile Bottom Estate Willingham Green Stud Business Groups The Jockey Club Schools Bottisham Village College Community Climate Leaders Climate Leaders group – https://camemergency.org/contact/ East Cambs Climate Action Network - the most active network in the East Cambs district and has their own newsletter. https://eastcambscan.org/contact-us/ Linton has a Eco group	The Applicant advised that was engaging with landowners and occupiers within the vicinity of the Scheme as part of its engagement programme and they were written to as part of statutory consultation. The Applicant added the suggested seldom heard groups onto the consultation emailing list and were updated in appendix 2 of the SoCC.	
Wording and structural comments			
Section 1.2 P.4	[reference to overhead line] possibly delete and add in brackets further detail below.	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised CCC that this was the Scheme description and for consistency across consultation materials the wording was kept the same.	
Section 1.2 P.4	[reference to individual word] delete.	The Applicant updated the SoCC to remove the word.	

	Section 1.2 P.4	For the final version to be issued to the public, will this be changed to past tense?	The Applicant updated wording in the SoCC to be past tense.
	Section 6.2 P.15	[reference to consultation dates] Date to be confirmed in published version.	The Applicant confirmed the final consultation event dates in the SoCC.
	Section 6.5 P.16	[reference to information presentation being uploaded to the Scheme website during the consultation] at the start of?	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised CCC that the online presentation would be uploaded during the consultation period, in advance of the first consultation event. The online presentation was uploaded to the Scheme website on 18 September 2025, the day after the consultation launched.
	Section 6.5 P.16	[reference to where to find out more information] Include a document library on the web site with the PEIR and Non Tech Summaries.	No changes were made to the SoCC. The PEIR and NTS of the PEIR were uploaded to a dedicated documents library on the Scheme website, which hosted all of the consultation materials.
	Section 6.6 P.17	[reference to interactive Scheme map] Very welcome.	The Applicant noted this comment.
	Section 6.6 P.17	[reference to information points] reference above.	The Applicant updated the SoCC to include a signpost to where details about the information points could be found.
	Section 6.6 P.17	[reference to contact centre details] reference details below.	The Applicant updated the SoCC to include a signpost to where details about the contact centre could be found.
	Section 6.8 P.19	[reference to contacting stakeholders at consultation launch] Is this a notification or reference to the proposed briefings?	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised CCC this was in reference to notifying stakeholders of the consultation launch and encouraging them to share information with members of their constituencies or local communities.
SCDC	Appendix	The Council requests that the document identify the relevant statutory consultees. For the avoidance of doubt, these should be listed and added to Appendix 2. If all statutory consultees are the same as those listed in Table 2 of the draft SoCC,	The Applicant added the full list of statutory consultees as an Appendix 3 in the SoCC in response to this suggestion.

		then this information can be easily transferred.	
	n/a	<p>The Council recommends that Parish Councils, Action Groups and Residents' Associations are appropriately included as part of the engagement process, as they are often overlooked in strategic consultations. Parishes play a key role in promoting engagement and are often acutely aware of issues and concerns that require consideration. Increasing dialogue and engagement with parishes and residents' associations would greatly benefit the process.</p> <p>It is also recommended that all Parish Councils are provided with information on the consultation and how people can get involved. This would ensure local newsletters can be used, particularly outside the consultation zone where no information postcards will be delivered.</p> <p>Although Parish Councils and local residents may be familiar with the site and surrounding area, it is important to show all relevant constraints for clarity. Specific details such as distances, heights, and potential impacts should be provided in the consultation material.</p>	<p>The Applicant updated the SoCC to confirm host parish councils and the Kingsway Solar Community Action Group had been offered briefings. These stakeholders were also contacted at the consultation launch and encouraged to share details about the consultation with their communities and/or members.</p> <p>The Applicant asked SCDC to share a list of any specific residents' associations they would like to be contacted about the consultation: no suggestions were received.</p> <p>The Applicant advised SCDC that specific Scheme information such as distances, heights and potential impacts were detailed within the consultation materials.</p>
	Section 6.7	As outlined, stating "up to four consultation events" is not acceptable. Furthermore, the Council is	The draft SoCC stated there would be up to four consultation events, with three expected to take place during the week between 2pm and 8pm, and one Saturday

	<p>disappointed to see that this programme of events has not already been determined with dates, times, and locations confirmed.</p> <p>These details should now be known and included and are critical to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An even geographic spread across the development area; • Accessibility for rural communities; • Contingency planning, including alternatives if venues are unavailable or oversubscribed. <p>For a development of this size and scale - crossing multiple district boundaries and considering the consultation envelope - four events over a six-week period is inadequate. The Council suggests one event each week, comprising a mixture of online, in-person, and hybrid formats. The SoCC should also provide detail on accessibility criteria for each venue.</p> <p>The SoCC should outline how capacity requirements have been informed by earlier engagement and provide a plan for how events would be handled if changes are necessary.</p> <p>The number and geographic spread of</p>	<p>event over a four-hour period. The four suggested venues were detailed in the draft SoCC, and were confirmed in the final SoCC, including event dates and times, following completion of the venue risk assessments.</p> <p>The location of the in-person events were carefully considered, balancing the distance from different communities and how far they would need to travel, venue accessibility and feedback received during stage one consultation. The Applicant believes it was acceptable for communities close to the eastern connection corridor to attend any of the consultation events in Swaffham Prior, Balsham or West Wrattling. Three in-person events were held during the stage one consultation which were well attended by 444 people, and for the stage two consultation a fourth event was added, which the Applicant believes was proportionate to the size of the Scheme.</p> <p>There were multiple ways the Applicant made consultation materials accessible during the stage two consultation. If someone was unable to attend an in-person event, a virtual consultation room was made available through the consultation website which closely replicated the experience of attending an in-person event. Users could navigate the same information banners and consultation materials that were available at each of the four events.</p> <p>The virtual consultation room provided another interactive way for people to engage with the project, and provide an online ‘event experience’ should someone have been unable to attend in-person.</p> <p>An online information presentation was also uploaded to the Scheme website on 18 September 2025. This provided an overview of the proposals and was</p>
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	<p>consultation meetings should be clearly defined to avoid an unbalanced or ineffective consultation process.</p> <p>The Council also expects targeted consultation with schools so that children and young people have the opportunity to contribute.</p>	<p>available to watch at any time throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>The Applicant wrote to schools in the PCZ with a copy of the consultation newsletter, as well as emailed identified schools at the consultation launch with information about the Scheme.</p> <p>Amending the approach to consultation in the SoCC was therefore not required because of these measures.</p>
Section 6.7	<p>The Council is disappointed to see no mention of social media. This is a powerful tool to reach specific groups. Paid advertising targeted at defined locations could raise awareness of drop-in events, websites, and consultation materials.</p>	<p>Following further engagement with the local authorities, in addition to running paid digital and print adverts in Cambridge News and the Cambridge Independent during the consultation period, the Applicant updated its plan to include paid social media advertising through Cambridge News to target people living in the vicinity of the project. This was updated in the SoCC.</p>
n/a	<p>The Applicant has not provided details on who the hard-to-reach / seldom-heard groups are, nor how they will be effectively consulted. The current approach risks excluding these groups, particularly as they are often most dependent on effective public transport to access events.</p> <p>The Council advises that additional measures are introduced to support those who might struggle with written comments, to ensure their views can be captured.</p>	<p>Section 6.9 of the SoCC described how the Applicant would engage with seldom heard groups and make information accessible. Community groups and organisations identified in appendix 2 of the SoCC were written to at the consultation launch and encouraged to share information about the Scheme and consultation.</p> <p>A dedicated project phone number was available should an individual have any questions or concerns about providing written feedback. No such requests were received during the consultation period.</p>
n/a	<p>The Council has a number of immediate communication channels (e.g. weekly updates, district magazine, parish e-bulletins, and service-</p>	<p>The Applicant liaised with SCDC's communications team to arrange for details about the consultation to be advertised through the council's existing communications channels. During the consultation period, SCDC published</p>

		specific newsletters) that could be utilised to share information. Engagement with the Council's communications team prior to finalising the consultation document is therefore strongly encouraged.	information about the stage two consultation via its e-bulletin to parish and town councils throughout the district, and via an internal article shared through its staff intranet.
ECDC	n/a	In the interests of accessibility it is recommended that a minimum font size 12 is used, with a minimum 1pt spacing between lines (more if possible) and 1.5pt spacing between paragraphs.	The Applicant increased the font size and spacing in the SoCC to improve accessibility.
	Section 1.1	It would be helpful to have headlines as to what Kingsway are seeking input on in clear, succinct terms right at the start, so the audience knows exactly what the engagement includes and how they can be involved. Simple summaries such as scheme design, location, the impacts on the environment etc. The content of section 4.1/6.3 could be summarised here for example.	The SoCC was structured into logical sections and a contents page produced to help consultees navigate through the information. An additional paragraph was added to the introductory section of the SoCC, with a signpost to where people could find out more information about the statutory consultation within the document.
	Section 1.1	Whilst factual it could be made clearer that Kingsway are interested in the views of the local community, and how the SoCC endeavours to ensure this consultation is as successful as possible.	The SoCC was updated to confirm the document endeavoured to make the consultation as successful as possible, and the Applicant was seeking feedback from the community on all aspects of the Scheme.
	Section 1.2	The affected villages in East Cambridgeshire should also be listed. A map right at the beginning would aid understanding instead of words.	The final wording in this section was updated to be consistent with the Scheme description across the consultation materials. The Applicant advised a map had been provided in the Project Overview in Section 3 where the Scheme was covered in more detail.

	Section 1.2	Presumed all dates will be confirmed.	The dates for publishing the statutory notices were confirmed in the final SoCC.
	Section 3.3	[sentence confirming the scheme boundary map will be updated in the final SoCC with the latest proposals] Presuming this will be re-worded in the final SoCC.	The Applicant updated the SoCC to include the stage one and stage two consultation scheme boundaries.
	Section 3.3	Is this meant to be inter-array as the GCC is covered in the paragraph below?	The Applicant updated the wording in the SoCC.
	Section 3.3	[sentence confirming the scheme boundary will include one grid connection corridor option, which will be updated in the final SoCC] Presumed this will be updated in final SoCC	The Applicant updated the SoCC to include the stage two consultation scheme boundary, which showed one grid connection corridor option.
	Section 3.3	A clearer map/bigger text would be advisable for accessibility. Is this also the most recent scheme boundary?	The Applicant update the SoCC to provide a link to where a larger scale map of the stage one consultation scheme boundary could be found on the Scheme website. The Applicant updated the SoCC to include the stage one and stage two consultation scheme boundaries.
	Section 5.1	[table of stakeholder briefings held around stage one consultation] Whilst understood as being 2024 it would be clearer to include this for completeness and in case SoCC is revisited.	The Applicant updated the dates in the SoCC to confirm the year the stakeholder briefings were held.
	Section 5.1	[table of consultation events held during stage one consultation] 2024 as above	The Applicant updated the dates in the SoCC to confirm the year the stage one consultation events were held.
	Section 6.2	[sentence confirming the exact consultation dates would be confirmed in the final SoCC] Noted but the dates need to be confirmed	The Applicant updated the SoCC to confirm the stage two consultation period.

	Section 6.5	Using social media will ensure this is genuinely achieved. There is also concern that the potential impacts of the scheme could be felt in villages not immediately or intimately associated with the potential order limits, such as BESS impacts. Social media could therefore ensure a much wider reaching and accessible means of engagement for groups otherwise unaware of likely to realise the scheme may affect them. This includes seldom heard groups.	Following further engagement with the local authorities, in addition to running paid digital and print adverts in Cambridge News and the Cambridge Independent during the consultation period, the Applicant updated its plan to include paid social media advertising through Cambridge News to target people living in the vicinity of the project. This was updated in the SoCC.
	Section 6.5	Presumed tense will be updated in the final SoCC	The Applicant updated wording in the SoCC to be past tense.
	Section 6.5	[information points] Does this also not include libraries and other information points referenced within this draft SoCC?	The Applicant updated the proposals for all four information points to host physical copies of the PEIR, NTS and SoCC for reference, and physical copies of the consultation information booklet, feedback form and consultation newsletter to be taken away. This was updated in the SoCC.
	Section 6.5	[text describing hard copy materials were made available and in alternative formats] Noted and welcomed	The Applicant noted this comment.
	Section 6.6	The exact number, location and timings of events should be confirmed in the SoCC.	The Applicant confirmed the final consultation event dates in the SoCC.
	Section 6.6	There is concern that Burwell has been excluded from these locations, as it is central to the scheme with lots of renewable development on-going. Consultation should not simply be where the panels are located but the pylon infrastructure also, which appears almost entirely	The Applicant advised ECDC the location of the in-person events were carefully considered, balancing the distance from different communities and how far they would need to travel, venue accessibility and feedback received during stage one consultation. The Applicant believes it was acceptable for communities close to the eastern connection corridor to attend any of the consultation events in Swaffham Prior, Balsham or West Wratting. Three in-

	within the East Cambridgeshire district.	<p>person events were held during the stage one consultation which were well attended by 444 people, and for the stage two consultation a fourth event was added.</p> <p>There were multiple ways the Applicant made consultation materials accessible during the stage two consultation. If someone was unable to attend an in-person event, a virtual consultation room was made available through the consultation website which closely replicated the experience of attending an in-person event. Users could navigate the same information banners and consultation materials that were available at each of the four events.</p> <p>The virtual consultation room provided another interactive way for people to engage with the project, and provide an online 'event experience' should someone have been unable to attend in-person.</p> <p>With these measures in mind, the Applicant considered the locations provided were appropriate, and Burwell was not added as a location for events in the final SoCC.</p>
Section 6.7	It would be helpful to understand what this newsletter will include, particularly in the absence of confirmed details in this draft SoCC	The Applicant advised ECDC that details about the consultation newsletter was included in Table 5: List of statutory consultation documents.
Section 6.7	Presumed tense will be updated in final SoCC	The Applicant updated wording in the SoCC to be past tense.
Section 6.7	[media outlets] Any others beyond the three listed as this is quite limited	<p>The Applicant updated the SoCC and confirmed it issued a press release to the following local and regional publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge News / Cambridgeshire Live • Cambridge Independent • Cambs Times • Ely Standard • Saffron Walden Reporter

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffolk News/Free Press • Newmarket Journal • Haverhill Echo/Bury Free Press
Section 6.7	[issuing stakeholder emails] when?		The Applicant advised that stakeholders would be emailed at the launch of the consultation. This was updated in the SoCC.
Section 6.7	[adverts] when?		No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised ECDC that paid advertising would run for the first four weeks of the consultation period.
Section 6.7	[site notices] where?		No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised ECDC that the site notices would be placed in publicly accessible areas within the scheme boundary, roughly every 5km.
Section 6.7	These need to be confirmed with specifics and any back up options. Burwell is also central to the scheme and has been missed out from a locational perspective		The number and locations of events has been responded to in a previous comment above.
Section 6.7	[briefings with stakeholders] Clarification as to when these will take place		No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant advised ECDC that briefings were arranged prior to the consultation with members for all three host local authorities. Briefing invitations were issued to MPs, host parish councils and KSCA prior to the consultation launch, but the dates for the briefing meetings were not included in the SoCC as they were scheduled when responses were received.
Section 6.7	Have the risk assessments been undertaken? What are the fall-back options if not accessible? Mandeville Hall in Burwell is another accessible location and is relevant to the PCZ as the pylon route will connect into Burwell. This would be better presented in a table, clarifying where, when, start/finish times and dates of events planned.		The number and locations of events has been responded to in a previous comment above.

	Where and from what time - is this all venues or just one venue? One weekend in one location is not likely to be suitable for all, and we would expect greater outreach particularly as it is limited to only four hours.	
Section 6.8	And county council? Just ensure this paragraph is consistent with member, council, parish and MP commitments made elsewhere in the SoCC	The Applicant updated the wording in the SoCC.
Section 6.9	The LPA are aware of one traveller along Hightown Drove, Burwell. In liaison with our communities team, we are not aware of any others in the ECDC district that may be affected by the scheme.	No changes were made to the SoCC. The Applicant contacted SCDC's communications team to understand how it would usually engage with the traveller's site.
Section 6.9	There are also a number of community hubs in the district - Community Hubs East Cambridgeshire District Council There is one in Bottisham which would be relevant to the scheme. There are likely others in South Cambridgeshire. Highlighting community transport is another option for seldom heard groups: Community transport East Cambridgeshire District Council There may of course be other options in South Cambridgeshire	The Applicant added the suggested groups onto the consultation emailing list and were updated in appendix 2 of the SoCC.
Appendix 2	There needs to be a consistent approach as to which stakeholders are listed here. There is concern that this has also not been updated to reflect any preferred grid connection route, including	The Applicant added the suggested groups onto the consultation emailing list and were updated in appendix 2 of the SoCC.

		<p>impacts on horse related infrastructure and industries. The Jockey Club is also suggested as a representative of many horse related industries. Whilst they may be picked up in the PCZ other businesses such as The Barn Gym, Bottisham are listed, so for completeness other businesses such as The National Stud and Jockey Club and studs would also need to be included.</p>	
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4.3 Publicity under Section 47 of the Act

- 4.3.1 In compliance with the publicity requirements of s47(6) of the Act, the SoCC was published in local news publications in advance of the consultation launch. This notice provided information on how the Applicant intended to engage with stakeholders and local communities during the upcoming stage two consultation.
- 4.3.2 A Section 47 notice was published in Cambridge News on Wednesday 10 September and Wednesday 17 September 2025.
- 4.3.3 Hard copies of the SoCC were placed at the following information points for the duration of the stage two consultation period for reference:
 - Burwell Library, Village College, The Causeway, Burwell, CB25 0DU
 - Cambridge Central Library, Lion Yard, Cambridge, CB2 3QD
 - Linton Library, The Cathodeon Centre, Horseheath Road, Linton, CB21 4LU
 - The Black Bull, 27 High Street, Balsham, CB21 4DJ
- 4.3.4 The SoCC was also made available in hard copy at each of the consultation events held during the consultation period, and a digital version was available on the Scheme website from the day the consultation was launched.

4.4 Compliance with the SoCC

- 4.4.1 Table 6 below shows how the stage two consultation was undertaken in compliance with the SoCC, as per the requirements of Section 47(7) of the Act.
- 4.4.2 The Consultation Report and its supporting appendices will provide comprehensive evidence of compliance with the SoCC consultation process, including details of how all feedback was taken into account.

Table 6: Compliance of the stage two consultation with the SoCC

Section of the SoCC	SoCC Commitment	Compliance
SoCC		
1.2	Consult with and have had regard to comments received from Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council (Greater Cambridge Shared Planning) and East Cambridgeshire District Council	A minimum 28-day consultation was held with local authorities on the SoCC between 1 August and 31 August 2025. All comments received were considered in producing the final version of the SoCC that was published at the launch of the stage two consultation.
1.2	Publish a notice in the London Gazette, The Guardian and Cambridge News providing details of where the SoCC can be inspected.	The SoCC publication schedule was published, in accordance with section 47 and 48 of the Act in the following publications: Section 47 and 48 notice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridge News (Wednesday 10 September and Wednesday 17 September 2025) Section 48 notice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guardian (Wednesday 17 September 2025) London Gazette (Wednesday 17 September 2025)
1.2	Neighbouring local planning authorities will receive the draft SoCC for information purposes.	The draft SoCC was shared with the following neighbouring local planning authorities for information purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Braintree District Council Cambridge City Council (Greater Cambridge Shared Planning) Central Bedfordshire Council Fenland District Council Huntingdonshire District Council King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council North Hertfordshire District Council Uttlesford District Council West Suffolk District Council
Consultation		
6.1	In line with any mailings to the PCZ, elected members of Parish, District, County and Local MP's offices will be notified and sent any mail pieces electronically.	An email was issued to elected members of Parish, District, County and Local MP offices on 17 September 2025 to confirm that the consultation period had opened and included a link to all consultation materials.

<p>6.1</p>	<p>The 7,660 addresses that were identified in the PCZ will be directly notified about the consultation.</p>	<p>Under Section 47 of the Act, the Applicant has a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the land that is required for the Application.</p> <p>All properties within PCZ were sent a copy of the newsletter via Royal Mail delivery service at the start of the stage two consultation period.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the PCZ increased from 7,584 addresses during the stage one consultation. This change reflects an extension to the connection corridor boundary north of the A1303, which was extended slightly further east.</p>
<p>6.2</p>	<p>Run the statutory consultation for six weeks from midday on Wednesday 17 September 2025 to Wednesday 29 October 2025.</p>	<p>The stage two consultation took place from 17 September until 29 October 2025. This is in excess of the statutory minimum period of 28-days required by the Act.</p>
<p>6.3</p>	<p>The Applicant will seek feedback on all aspects of the Scheme.</p>	<p>A comprehensive 12-page feedback form was developed to encourage comments on all key aspects of the Scheme. This included, but was not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General comments on the overall Scheme • The updated plans for the land parcel sites, including the indicative location of equipment and infrastructure within each • The connection corridor between the land parcels and connection at National Grid’s proposed Burwell South substation • The indicative alignment for the overhead line within the grid connection corridor • The measures proposed to reduce the impacts associated with the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme • Suggestions on how Meridian Solar can benefit the local community; and • Any other feedback or local issues and sensitivities of which the Applicant should be aware. <p>In addition to the feedback form, consultees could provide their feedback via any of the permitted feedback channels, including contacting the</p>

		project team via the dedicated email address, phone number of Freepost.
6.4	<p>Will consult with the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host local authorities, including members; • Neighbouring local authorities; • Host and neighbouring parish councils; • Statutory consultees; • Host and neighbouring members of Parliament; • Landowners with interest in the Scheme; • Residents and businesses; • Community groups; • Environmental groups in the vicinity of the Scheme; • Schools and colleges within the vicinity of the Scheme; • Seldom heard groups; and • Non-statutory consultees 	<p>All the community groups outlined in Appendix 2 of the SoCC were consulted. All statutory consultee groups were contained within the Section 42 consultation list and consulted. Further details will be included in the Consultation Report.</p>
6.5	<p>The Applicant will use a range of methods to ensure that the consultation is inclusive and accessible for a broad range of stakeholder audiences.</p> <p>Non-digital methods are being used alongside the digital medium to provide alternative means for consultees to engage with the Scheme.</p>	<p>Emails were sent to the following stakeholders on the day of the consultation launch to provide them of details about the consultation and a link to the consultation materials which were hosted on the Scheme website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 47 stakeholders, including local community groups and the Scheme mailing list • Section 42 stakeholders that we obtained email addresses for. This included local Parish, District and County councillors. • Section 44 stakeholders that we obtained email addresses for. <p>In addition to the website, hard copies of materials were also available upon request. Hard copies were also available to view at the in-person events and at local information points.</p>
6.5	<p>Upload an online information presentation to the Scheme website during the consultation period to provide an overview of the proposals and where to find out more information.</p>	<p>The online information presentation was uploaded to the Scheme website on 18 September 2025 and provided an overview of the proposals and where to find out more information.</p>

6.5	A Consultation Newsletter will be sent to all homes and businesses within the PCZ and is available on the consultation website, at our consultation events, information points, and on request by post.	<p>The Consultation Newsletter was sent via Royal Mail to all properties located within the PCZ. It was also attached to the emails that were issued to stakeholders on the day of the consultation launch.</p> <p>The newsletter was uploaded to the consultation website on the day of the consultation launch and hard copies were available at all in-person events and at each of the five information points. The Applicant carried out regular checks to ensure stock levels at the information points were high throughout the stage two consultation period.</p> <p>The newsletter was also available in hard copy to those that requested it. Hard copies were posted via Royal Mail.</p>
6.5	Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet are available at our consultation events, information points, and on request by post.	<p>Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet were available at all in-person events and at each of the five information points. Throughout the consultation period, weekly stock checks of the materials in information points were carried out and replenished where necessary.</p> <p>The Consultation Information Booklet was also available in hard copy to those who requested it. Hard copies were posted via Royal Mail.</p>
6.5	The Feedback Form can be completed online or downloaded if required and sent into the consultation via Freepost. Paper copies of the Feedback Form will be available at our consultation events, information points, and on request by post.	<p>Digital and hard copy versions of the Feedback Form were created for the consultation. The Scheme website included a link to the online Feedback Form, which could be completed and submitted directly. The website also included a link to a non-digital version of the Feedback Form that could be downloaded, printed, completed and then submitted via Freepost.</p> <p>Hard copies of the Feedback Form were available at all in-person events and at each of the five information points. The Applicant carried weekly checks to ensure stock levels at the information points were high throughout the consultation period. The feedback form was also available in hard copy to those</p>

		that requested it. Hard copies were posted via Royal Mail.
6.5	The PEIR and an NTS of the PEIR are available for download from the scheme website. A paper copy of the PEIR and NTS is available at our consultation events and information points for reference.	The PEIR and the NTS of the PEIR were both uploaded to the Scheme website, and available to download, on the day of the consultation launch. Hard copies of both were available to read at all in-person events, and were hosted at Burwell Library, Cambridge Central Library, Linton Library and the Black Bull in Balsham for the duration of the consultation period for anyone to view.
6.5	The SoCC document will be available online as part of the consultation and is available in paper format at our consultation events and in one local information point.	The SoCC was uploaded to the Scheme website, and available to download, on the day of the consultation launch. Hard copies of the SoCC were available to read at all in-person events, and was hosted at Burwell Library, Cambridge Central Library, Linton Library and the Black Bull in Balsham for the duration of the consultation period for anyone to view.
6.5	At the start of the consultation period, hard copies of consultation materials were deposited in local information points located in the vicinity of the Scheme.	Hard copies of the consultation materials were deposited at local information points on the day of the consultation and remained there until the close of the consultation period. The location of the information points were as follows: Burwell Library , Village College, The Causeway, Burwell, CB25 0DU Materials to take away: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage two consultation information booklet • Feedback form; and • Consultation newsletter. Materials for reference only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR • NTS; and • SoCC. Cambridge Central Library , Lion Yard, Cambridge, CB2 3QD Materials to take away: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage two consultation information booklet • Feedback form; and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation newsletter. <p>Materials for reference only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR • NTS; and • SoCC. <p>Linton Library, The Cathodeon Centre, Horseheath Road, Linton, CB21 4LU</p> <p>Materials to take away:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage two consultation information booklet • Feedback form; and • Consultation newsletter. <p>Materials for reference only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR • NTS; and • SoCC. <p>The Black Bull, 27 High Street, Balsham, CB21 4DJ</p> <p>Materials to take away:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage two consultation information booklet • Feedback form; and • Consultation newsletter. <p>Materials for reference only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR • NTS; and • SoCC. <p>Bottisham Community Library, Bottisham Village College, Lode Road, Bottisham, CB25 9DL</p> <p>Materials to takeaway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage two consultation information booklet • Feedback form; and • Consultation newsletter.
6.5	<p>The consultation materials are available in hard copy for individuals at no extra charge (except the PEIR and NTS, hard copies of which can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs). If you require this information in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print or alternative languages, please contact us using the details in this SoCC.</p>	<p>Requests for hard copy materials were received and managed on a case-by-case basis. There were no requests for materials to be printed in an alternative format.</p>

<p>6.6</p>	<p>The public will be able to participate in, and respond to, the consultation through various methods.</p>	<p>The public could take part in the stage two consultation in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By attending one of the four in-person events hosted in an exhibition format at locations across the PCZ • By watching the online information presentation, to learn about the Scheme and consultation materials • By visiting the Scheme website and accessing the materials • By using the interactive Scheme map, which was hosted on the website for users to engage with elements of the Scheme by zooming, dragging and clicking to reveal more information • By visiting one of the five information points at community venues to host copies of consultation materials and signposting to feedback channels • Providing feedback via any of the feedback channels provided, including via an online feedback form, posting a hard copy feedback form or by email • Contacting the project team, including via a dedicated email address, phone number or Freepost.
<p>Promoting the consultation</p>		
<p>6.7</p>	<p>A local media press release will provide wider notification to local stakeholders of the consultation events, reaching stakeholders outside the consultation mailing zone. The press release would be briefed into local and regional media outlets.</p>	<p>A press release was issued to the following publications ahead of the stage two consultation launch, for publication on the day the consultation commenced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge News / Cambridgeshire Live • Cambridge Independent • Cambs Times • Ely Standard • Saffron Walden Reporter • Suffolk News/Free Press • Newmarket Journal • Haverhill Echo/Bury Free Press. <p>The publications covered the PCZ and beyond to secure a wider coverage. It included information about the consultation including details of the in-person events and how people could</p>

		view the materials and provide their feedback.
6.7	Emails will be sent to stakeholders informing them of the statutory consultation launch, upcoming events, how to request further information, and how to feed back.	<p>Emails were sent to the following stakeholders on the day of the consultation launch to provide notification that the stage two consultation had formally launched, provide details about the events, how to provide feedback and how to get in touch with the project team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 47 stakeholders, including local community groups and those on the Scheme mailing list • Section 42 statutory consultees that we obtained email addresses for. This included local Parish, District and County councillors; and • Section 44 land interests where an email address could be identified.
6.7	Statutory notices to publicise the consultation and the SoCC will be published in local and national news publications.	<p>Statutory notices were published in the following publications, in accordance with Section 47 and 48 of the PA2008, to confirm details of the stage two consultation and the SoCC:</p> <p>Section 47 and 48 notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge News (10 September 2025 and 17 September 2025) <p>Section 48 notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian (17 September 2025) • London Gazette (17 September 2025)
6.7	The Applicant will run paid digital and print adverts in the local media during the consultation period. This includes social media advertising. The adverts are designed in a clear, accessible format, clearly communicating what the consultation is about, when it is running and how to take part.	<p>Newspaper adverts were published in Cambridge News and the Cambridge Independent on the day of the stage two consultation launch and throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>The adverts provided an overview of the consultation including the location of the in-person events, details of how to provide feedback and a QR code linking to the Scheme website.</p> <p>Paid social media advertising was delivered through Cambridge News to target people living in the vicinity of the Scheme.</p>
6.7	Briefings for key stakeholders were issued in advance of the consultation launch.	Prior to the launch of stage two consultation, stakeholder briefings were offered to the Members of Parliament for South Cambridgeshire, and Ely and East

		<p>Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council officers and members, Kingsway Solar Community Action group, and Parish Councillors of the following Parish Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balsham • West Wratting • Weston Colville • Calton-cum-Willingham • Brinkley • Westley Waterless • Dullingham • Burrough Green • Swaffham Bulbeck • Swaffham Prior • Reach • Burwell • Great Wilbraham • Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom; and • Bottisham. <p>The briefings were offered to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss the Scheme with the project team.</p>
6.7	<p>Four in-person public consultation events are being held in the local area within the PCZ. Week-day events will be open for six hours and run until 8pm to allow people to attend outside of normal working hours. One four-hour event will be held on a Saturday.</p>	<p>In person events took place at the following venues, located within the PCZ and in areas near the land parcels and along the grid connection corridor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balsham Pavilion, Church Lane, Balsham, CB21 4DS, Wednesday 1 October 2025, 14:00 – 20:00 • The Reading Room, 46 Chapel Road, Weston Colville, Weston Green, CB21 5NX, Thursday 2 October 2025, 14:00 – 20:00 • West Wratting Village Hall, 79 High Street, West Wratting, CB21 5LU, Friday 10 October 2025, 14:00 – 20:00 • Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD, Saturday 11 October 2025, 10:30 – 14:30
6.7	<p>Upload an online information presentation to the Scheme website during the consultation period to provide an overview of the proposals</p>	<p>The online information presentation was uploaded to the Scheme website on 18 September 2025 and provided an</p>

	and where to find out more information.	overview of the proposals and where to find out more information.
6.7	People will be able to find out about the consultation, ask questions and request documents through the Scheme Freephone number and email address which have remained the same from the stage one consultation.	<p>A dedicated contact centre was created prior to the stage one consultation which remained open throughout the stage two consultation and beyond. People were able to contact the project team through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling the Freephone line 0800 012 9881 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday) • Emailing enquiries@kingswaysolar.co.uk; and • Writing to the Scheme: FREEPOST DOWNING KINGSWAY (no stamp required).
Wider engagement		
6.8	Ongoing engagement has been undertaken ahead of the launch of the consultation with relevant stakeholders including local authorities and MPs, technical stakeholders such as Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency, along with local interest groups, residents, and landowners who get in touch.	<p>All relevant local parish councils, elected members and the MPs were contacted at the launch of the stage two consultation and were kept informed about the Scheme.</p> <p>As part of this engagement, the Applicant encouraged stakeholders to contact the project team to arrange briefing meetings to discuss the Scheme. The Applicant subsequently met with the following stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP for South Cambridgeshire • MP for Ely and East Cambridgeshire • Cambridgeshire County Council (officers and members) • South Cambridgeshire District Council (officers and members) • East Cambridgeshire District Council (officers and members) • Balsham • West Wrating • Weston Colville • Calton-cum-Willingham • Brinkley • Westley Waterless • Dullingham • Burrough Green • Swaffham Prior • Reach • Burwell • Great Wilbraham

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom; and • Kingsway Solar Community Action group. <p>Stakeholders were also encouraged to share information about the consultation with members of their constituencies or local communities.</p> <p>Technical stakeholders were kept informed ahead of the stage two consultation as part of regular ongoing engagement.</p>
6.9	<p>To ensure that seldom heard groups are encouraged to get involved in the consultation, the materials are prepared to be accessible and clear.</p>	<p>The Applicant carried out the following activities to ensure engagement with seldom heard groups was as accessible as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held events at a variety of times, including evenings and a weekend, to enable participation from people with different time commitments • Made provision for people who do not have access to the internet or are isolated by sending a community newsletter to every address within the PCZ and making key materials such as the consultation information booklet and feedback form available at information points • Chose accessible venues for local information points and in person events, where possible, side rooms at venues were also available allow communication in a quiet environment • Providing materials in alternative formats such as Braille or alternative languages, on request • Contacted local community and voluntary organisations including parish councils and schools with Scheme information and encouraging them to promote the consultation through their own existing communication channels; and • Provided a variety of communication channels including a Freephone number, email address and Freepost address for those seeking information.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR to provide a simplified and clear explanation of the Scheme. <p>In addition to properties within the PCZ, seldom heard groups that were contacted are listed in Appendix 2 of the SoCC.</p>
Feedback		
6.10	Feedback to the consultation should be submitted in writing or online by 11:59pm on Wednesday 29 October 2025.	<p>Consultation feedback could be submitted to the Scheme using the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing a feedback form online at www.kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk Completing a feedback form, and returning it free of charge to FREEPOST DOWNING KINGSWAY (no stamp required) Submitting completed feedback form by email to enquiries@kingswaysolar.co.uk <p>Providing free form comments by email or post.</p>
6.11	The Applicant will have regard to all feedback received during the consultation period.	<p>Following the close of the consultation at 11:59pm on Wednesday 29 October 2025, the Applicant reviewed all comments and suggestions received during the stage two consultation period. All feedback received after the closing date of the stage two consultation will be considered alongside feedback submitted before the deadline. The Applicant took time to consider and have regard to all feedback when making further refinements to the proposed design and developing the planned mitigation measures.</p>
6.11	A Consultation Report will be produced as part of our application for development consent, which will be submitted as part of the Application.	<p>The Applicant will set out a summary of the feedback responses in a Consultation Report, which will detail how the Applicant has had regard to all feedback and how the feedback has influenced the proposals.</p> <p>This report will form part of the application for development consent.</p>

5. Response to stage two consultation

5.1 Feedback analysis

- 5.1.1 The Applicant has reviewed and will have regard to responses received as part of the stage two consultation. A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the DCO Application in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Act.
- 5.1.2 All feedback received during the consultation period has been processed into a secure database and then reviewed and analysed. For the purposes of the Consultation Report, thematically similar comments will be identified and grouped together into 'issues', and responded to by the Applicant.
- 5.1.3 The Applicant is considering the matters raised in consultation as part of the ongoing design and application preparation process, including to assess how potential impacts of the Scheme can be avoided, managed or mitigated, and how this mitigation should be secured through requirements in the Application that is submitted, while taking on board suggestions where possible and appropriate.
- 5.1.4 The Consultation Report will set out how the feedback from the consultation has influenced the proposals. All feedback submitted during the stage two consultation will be summarised and responded to within the Consultation Report and included within the document with all personal details redacted. The Applicant will take care to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Policy.

5.2 Response from host local councils

- 5.2.1 The Applicant is currently reviewing the responses from host and neighbouring councils, and a full response will be provided to points raised within the Consultation Report, relevant sections of the Environmental Statement and Statements of Common Ground. The Applicant is also engaging with the local authorities on the feedback received prior to submitting the DCO Application.

6. Targeted consultation

- 6.1.1 Following the stage two consultation, informed by ongoing surveys and assessments, design development and feedback received, the Applicant identified a number of localised changes to the Scheme.
- 6.1.2 These changes include new fields within the existing solar development area boundary that are proposed to host solar panels, and enlarged footprints for the 132kV on-site substations and 400kV on-site substation and BESS compound. The focus of the targeted consultation is on these changes, which are numbered one to six.

6.2 Approach to consultation

- 6.2.1 In determining how to consult on the proposed changes, the Applicant had regard to paragraph 20 of the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024), which states:

“For any material change to a 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 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.”

- 6.2.2 The Applicant also had regard to Section 7 of the SoCC, which states:

“If, following the statutory consultation, we consider it is necessary to undertake further localised, targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.”

- 6.2.3 The Applicant considers that the proposed changes do not constitute fundamental alterations to the Scheme. Furthermore, the changes do not affect the conclusions of the assessments set out in the PEIR, nor do they alter the likely significant environmental effects reported at that stage.
- 6.2.4 Accordingly, the Applicant determined that a targeted 28-day consultation, directed towards those considered most likely to be affected by or to have a direct interest in the proposed changes, was appropriate.

6.3 Undertaking targeted consultation

- 6.3.1 At the time of writing, this consultation is being undertaken in accordance with these principles. The Applicant has ensured that the following stakeholder groups were informed of the consultation and the changes being proposed:
- Land interests, identified under Section 44 of the Act
 - Properties within a mailing zone identified by the Applicant around the solar development areas where the changes are located, proportionate to the likely environmental effects
 - Statutory consultees previously identified and consulted under Section 42 of the Act, including host local authorities, parish councils, and technical stakeholders; and
 - Non-statutory consultees identified as those most likely to have a direct interest in the proposals due to local environmental, heritage, community, or recreational considerations.
- 6.3.2 To support the targeted consultation, the Applicant produced a targeted consultation information booklet, which detailed the changes and included individual ‘change maps’.

- 6.3.3 The Applicant updated the website on 7 January 2026 to confirm the targeted consultation was live. The targeted consultation information booklet was uploaded and made available to view and download on the 'Documents' page.
- 6.3.4 Individual targeted consultation maps were created in a standalone file and also made available on the Documents page, so the changes could be viewed at a larger scale.
- 6.3.5 The Applicant also recorded a targeted consultation information video, where project team members talked through the consultation and changes being consulted on.
- 6.3.6 The Applicant will have regard to all feedback received and will summarise responses in the Consultation Report, submitted with the Application.

7. Next steps

- 7.1.1 The Applicant is continuing to engage with key statutory bodies and host local authorities on any outstanding issues raised during or following the stage two consultation. Issues trackers will be progressed with key statutory stakeholders which will set out the issues under discussion between these parties and the Applicant. These iterative documents will eventually inform the Statements of Common Ground that the Applicant intends to submit either at the point of submission or during the early stages of the examination. This dialogue will continue as the Application is developed, finalised and submitted at the end of March 2026.
- 7.1.2 The Applicant will keep stakeholders and communities informed of the next steps once the Application has been submitted and accepted, including how to take part in Examination. The Applicant will also publish an update on its website to explain the next steps.
- 7.1.3 All feedback submitted during the stage two consultation will be summarised and responded to within the Consultation Report. The Applicant will comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Policy.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A: Local Authority feedback to the SoCC – Cambridgeshire County Council

▸ Kingsway Solar: Comments on the applicant's approach to the Statement of Community Consultation

This document sets out the comments by Cambridgeshire County Council (**the Council**) regarding the approach to the Statement of Community Consultation for the Kingsway Solar Statutory Consultation proposals.

The following table contains comments from relevant stakeholders.

Section	Reference	Comments
Section 1.2/ P.5	Stakeholders	The neighbouring planning authorities listed to receive the SoCC are all district planning authorities. County Councils (Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, and Northamptonshire) as well as unitary authorities (Peterborough and Bedford Borough) need to be added.
Section 6.4/ P.15	Who is being consulted	<i>'host and neighbouring parish councils'</i> have been noted to be consulted. We would request that all Parish Councils that are wholly or partly in the PCZ are consulted. CAPALC (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils) can be utilised to reach all relevant Parish Councils. Home – CAPALC
Section 6.5/ P.17	How are we consulting	P.17: <i>'A paper copy of the PEIR and NTS will be available at our consultation events, and the information point, The Black Bull, for reference.'</i> Point of clarity required on the local information points. Is this only the Black Bull, or does this include the two libraries listed below? It would be preferred that all identified local information points, as well as the Black Bull, had physical copies of: non-technical summaries, SoCC, and full PIER, to improve access and availability. See comment below about adding Linton Library as an information point. Location of information points: it is suggested to also add Linton Library and the mobile library services. Clarification is required for if there are any charges for braille, large print, or alternative language.

Section	Reference	Comments
Section 6.6/ P.17	How the public will be able to participate and respond	It is noted 'up to four' community drop in events will be hosted. These events need to be confirmed. The note 'up to four' is referenced a few other times on P.18. In the event that one or more of these venues is not available, we would expect an alternative to be found (see request for a fifth venue below).
Section 6.7/ P.18	Promoting the consultation	Press release row: 'A local media press release'. Please identify the news outlets. In addition the following local village magazines have been brought to our attention and we would encourage to use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottisham Cresset bottishamcresset@gmail.com (Bottisham) • Bulbeck Beacon editor@bulbeckbeacon.org (Swaffham Bulbeck) • Lode Star lodestar.mag@gmail.com (Lode) • Village Voice villagevoicemailsletter@btinternet.com (Brinkley; Burrough Green; Carlton; Westley Waterless), Trish Bull (editor) • Stetchworth News stetchworthnews@gmail.com (Dullingham; Stetchworth), Catherine Hartness (editor) <p>Emails row: 'this will allow stakeholders' – please define the type of stakeholder – e.g. statutory consultees e.g. all in appendix 2 e.g. all responders to informal consultation.</p> <p>Information point row: 'hard copies of the consultation materials' - Need to state this is limited to Newsletter, booklet and feedback form, and that paper copies of the PEIR and NTS will be available at consultation events, and the information point (The Black Bull). Our preference (see comment for section 6.6) is for all information points to have all material.</p> <p>Stakeholder briefings & previews row: 'briefings with key political stakeholders will be arranged' – dates will be required here in the published version.</p>
Section 6.7.1/ P.18 - 19	Community consultation events	Ensure all consultation venues are confirmed and have had the necessary completion of risk assessments. The location of the proposed events are in the proximity of the solar sites and the western cable route. Effort should be made to find a 5 th event near to the communities potentially impacted by the eastern cable route. Adding an event in Brinkley, or possibly better Bottisham would be of benefit.

Section	Reference	Comments
Section 6.9/ P.19-20	Seldom heard groups	<p>It would be beneficial if the information points could reflect the number and areas of the consultation venues – at least four.</p> <p>The following groups and venues have been raised with us to help reach the seldom heard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old people’s homes/ Day Centres • Bottisham Airfield Museum • Veteran groups • Cambridgeshire ACRE’s Community hubs. • Three social enterprises who have co-workers living with learning disabilities are in the zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Red2Green are based in Swaffham Bulbeck/Bottisham ▪ Snakehall farm in Reach. Part of Prospects Trust ▪ Burwell Print • Parent Connect Burwell will hold an in-person event on September 17th at 10:00 am, offering support and a cuppa for parent carers. • How Are You East Cambs and How Are You South Cambs will list more groups, activities and Support organisations How Are You East Cambs? Home// How Are You South Cambs? Home
Appendices 2. P.22-25	Community stakeholders	<p>In addition to the venues and stakeholders listed, the following have been brought to our attention, and we would encourage engagement with them:</p> <p>Local Businesses Penny Farm The Red Lion, (pub Brinkley) New England Stud Six Mile Bottom Estate Willingham Green Stud</p> <p>Business Groups The Jockey Club</p> <p>Schools Bottisham Village College</p>

Section	Reference	Comments
		<p>Community Climate Leaders Climate Leaders group – https://camemergency.org/contact/ East Cambs Climate Action Network - the most active network in the East Cambs district and has their own newsletter. Contact [REDACTED] https://eastcambscan.org/contact-us/ Linton has a Eco group - linton-roots@outlook.com</p>
	Document wording and structure	See comments added direct into the document, as attached.

8.2 Appendix B: Local Authority feedback to the SoCC – South Cambridgeshire District Council

South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridge,
CB23 6EA
www.scambs.gov.uk



29th August 2025

Electronic submission only

Dear Sir/Madam

Response of South Cambridgeshire District Council to the draft Statement of Community Consultation for the proposed Kingsway Solar Project (PINS Ref: EN010165)

In accordance with Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (“the Act”)¹, a draft *Approach to Community Consultation* document for the proposed Kingsway Solar Development Consent Order (DCO) was submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council (herein referred to as ‘SCDC’ or ‘the Council’) on 1 August 2025 for review and comment.

The aim of the document is to outline how Kingsway Solar Farm Limited, part of Downing Renewable Developments (‘the Applicant’), proposes to consult the local community before submitting its Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), which will then determine acceptance on behalf of the Secretary of State.

In line with consultation timeframes set out by the Applicant, and in accordance with Section 47(3) of the Act, the Council hereby provides its formal comments on the draft *Statement of Community Consultation – August 2025*.

Compliance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008.

Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how it intends to consult the local community, and to carry out consultation in accordance with that statement (subsection 7).

The Council is also required, in due course, to provide an Adequacy of Consultation Representation (AoC) under Section 55 of the Act, confirming whether it considers that the Applicant has complied with its statutory consultation duties.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/47>



Following our review of the draft SoCC, and further to our meeting on 14 August 2025, the Council has identified a number of concerns which prevent us from meaningfully assessing its adequacy.

The draft document, as received does not confirm the consultation start date. Whilst it refers to 'September', this is caveated with the wording: *"The exact dates will be confirmed in the final SoCC."* In the absence of a consultation start date, no specific dates have been proposed for community engagement.

Furthermore, four potential venues are listed, but all are stated to be "subject to change pending their availability, as well as the completion of risk assessments to determine their suitability for a consultation event." The Applicant has also stated that it will hold "up to 4" events, leaving open the possibility of fewer.

We have sought legal advice which confirms that the document, as submitted, does not meet the requirements of Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008.

The legal advice received confirms that the SoCC must include specific and clear details, including:

- Dates, times, and venues for consultation meetings;
- Information on the publication of consultation documents;
- Details of online information provision; and
- The parameters of the scheme (noting that paragraph 3.2 of the draft states: "The parameters of the scheme are not yet finalised.").

All of these details should be included in the draft SoCC that the Council is being consulted upon.

The Council's concerns can be summarised as follows:

- **Absence of a consultation start date** – the draft states only that dates will be confirmed in the final SoCC. As the Council is not afforded an opportunity to comment on the final SoCC, this omission limits our ability to review the proposals.
- **Uncertain venues** – while four venues are listed, they are subject to change, and the draft indicates that "up to 4" events will be held, meaning the total number could be reduced.
- **Lack of clarity on community engagement** – the absence of firm dates and confirmed venues means there is no clear framework against which compliance with Section 47(7) can later be assessed.

If these issues remain unresolved in the final SoCC, the Council may have to conclude in its AoC representation to PINS that the consultation does not meet Section 47 requirements, which could affect acceptance of the DCO application.



The Council therefore requests that a final draft SoCC be provided for review prior to the commencement of the statutory consultation, and that it includes:

- A clear timetable, including proposed start and end dates for the statutory consultation;
- Confirmation of the venues to be used for community consultation events, along with contingency arrangements should those venues be unavailable;
- Sufficient detail on how the Applicant intends to engage the local community, to allow assessment of compliance with Section 47(7).

We request that this final draft be shared with the Council for a 28-day review period in accordance with Section 47(3).

The Council would welcome further engagement at the earliest opportunity to resolve the above matters.

Notwithstanding the above, the Council would like to raise the following points on the draft:

1. Statutory Consultees
The Council requests that the document identify the relevant statutory consultees. For the avoidance of doubt, these should be listed and added to Appendix 2. If all statutory consultees are the same as those listed in Table 2 of the draft SoCC, then this information can be easily transferred.
2. Consulting the Community
The Council recommends that Parish Councils, Action Groups and Residents' Associations are appropriately included as part of the engagement process, as they are often overlooked in strategic consultations. Parishes play a key role in promoting engagement and are often acutely aware of issues and concerns that require consideration. Increasing dialogue and engagement with parishes and residents' associations would greatly benefit the process.
It is also recommended that all Parish Councils are provided with information on the consultation and how people can get involved. This would ensure local newsletters can be used, particularly outside the consultation zone where no information postcards will be delivered.
Although Parish Councils and local residents may be familiar with the site and surrounding area, it is important to show all relevant constraints for clarity. Specific details such as distances, heights, and potential impacts should be provided in the consultation material.



3. Consultation Events

As outlined, stating “up to four consultation events” is not acceptable. Furthermore, the Council is disappointed to see that this programme of events has not already been determined with dates, times, and locations confirmed.

These details should now be known and included and are critical to ensure:

- An even geographic spread across the development area;
- Accessibility for rural communities;
- Contingency planning, including alternatives if venues are unavailable or oversubscribed.

For a development of this size and scale - crossing multiple district boundaries and considering the consultation envelope - four events over a six-week period is inadequate. The Council suggests one event each week, comprising a mixture of online, in-person, and hybrid formats. The SoCC should also provide detail on accessibility criteria for each venue.

The SoCC should outline how capacity requirements have been informed by earlier engagement and provide a plan for how events would be handled if changes are necessary.

The number and geographic spread of consultation meetings should be clearly defined to avoid an unbalanced or ineffective consultation process. The Council also expects targeted consultation with schools so that children and young people have the opportunity to contribute.

4. Social media

The Council is disappointed to see no mention of social media. This is a powerful tool to reach specific groups. Paid advertising targeted at defined locations could raise awareness of drop-in events, websites, and consultation materials.

5. Hard to Reach / Seldom Heard Groups

The Applicant has not provided details on who the hard-to-reach / seldom-heard groups are, nor how they will be effectively consulted. The current approach risks excluding these groups, particularly as they are often most dependent on effective public transport to access events.

The Council advises that additional measures are introduced to support those who might struggle with written comments, to ensure their views can be captured.



6. Communications

The Council has a number of immediate communication channels (e.g. weekly updates, district magazine, parish e-bulletins, and service-specific newsletters) that could be utilised to share information. Engagement with the Council's communications team prior to finalising the consultation document is therefore strongly encouraged.

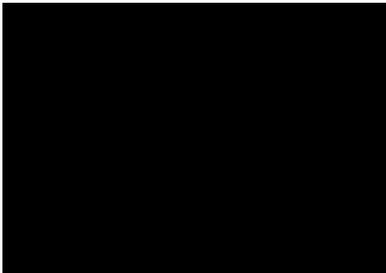
The [GCSP Statement of Community Involvement \(SCI\) \(adopted March 2024\)](#) contains information that may be useful in guiding the content of the Community Consultation document.

In addition, it is recommended that the developer establish a dedicated "community engagement" team at an early stage, which should remain in place throughout the project until completion, including during the construction phases. This would help foster strong community relations.

Finally, in the interests of clarity, transparency, and public confidence, the Council requests to be kept fully informed of project progress, as well as the feedback and outcomes from engagement activities.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours faithfully



Director of Planning & Economic Development

On behalf of: South Cambridgeshire District Council

8.3 Appendix C: Local Authority feedback to the SoCC – East Cambridgeshire District Council

Statement of Community Consultation

August 2025

Commented [HD1]: Whole Document: In the interests of accessibility it is recommended that a minimum font size 12 is used, with a minimum of 1pt spacing between lines (more if possible) and 1.5pt spacing between paragraphs.

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC"), sets out how Kingsway Solar "the Applicant", plans to consult with the local community on its proposals for the Kingsway Solar Farm (hereinafter referred to as the "Scheme").

1.2. Why are we publishing this document?

The Applicant is preparing a Development Consent Order (DCO) application under the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and an approximate 15 km overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Burwell South substation (due to be located to the south of Burwell, the exact location to be determined by National Grid). The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located ("the Application").

Commented [HD2]: It would be helpful to have headlines as to what Kingsway are seeking input on in clear, succinct terms right at the start, so the audience knows exactly what the engagement includes and how they can be involved. Simple summaries such as scheme design, location, the impacts on the environment etc.

The content of section 4.1/6.3 could be summarised here for example.

Commented [HD3]: Whilst factual it could be made clearer that Kingsway are interested in the views of the local community, and how the SoCC endeavours to ensure this consultation is as successful as possible.

The Scheme is proposed to be located on land around the areas of Balsham, West Wrattling, Weston Colville, and Weston Green in Cambridgeshire, and is within the administrative boundaries of Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council. The Scheme would have capacity to generate up to 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity and connect to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).

Commented [HD4]: The affected villages in East Cambridgeshire should also be listed. A map right at the beginning would aid understanding instead of words.

The Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). An NSIP is a major development proposal considered by the UK Government to be of such importance that the permission to build and operate it needs to be confirmed at the national level. For energy NSIPs, this would be by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero via a DCO.

Newspaper outlet	Notice	1 st publication date	2 nd publication date
Cambridge News	S47 and S48	TBC	TBC
The Guardian	S48	TBC	N/A
London Gazette	S48	TBC	N/A

Table 1: Schedule for statutory notices

Commented [HD5]: Presumed all dates will be confirmed.

3.3. Scheme boundary

The boundary for the Scheme, as shown on Figure 1 below, is within the administrative boundaries of Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council. Figure 1 depicts the Scheme boundary for the stage one consultation. This will be updated to reflect the draft Scheme boundary for statutory consultation within the final version of the SoCC.

Commented [HD6]: Presuming this will be re-worded in the final SoCC.

We are proposing three development areas comprising approximately 1,500 hectares (3,707 acres):

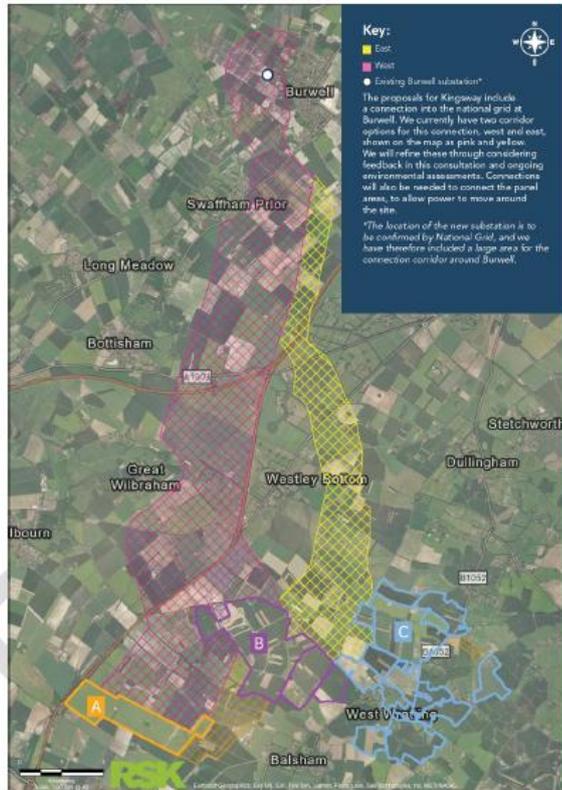
- Parcel A, West
- Parcel B, Central
- Parcel C, East

The land in the development areas would encompass the development of the solar panels and related infrastructure, including the grid connection, and areas reserved for potential environmental mitigation and enhancement zones, recreational areas and community benefit initiatives.

Commented [HD7]: Is this meant to be inter-array as the GCC is covered in the paragraph below?

The stage one Scheme boundary showed two corridor options (eastern and western) for the potential connection corridor. These options have been refined through considering stage one consultation feedback and ongoing environmental and technical assessments. The Scheme boundary for the statutory consultation will include one corridor option, and will be shown in the final version of the SoCC.

Commented [HD8]: Presumed this will be updated in final SoCC



Commented [HD9]: A clearer map/bigger text would be advisable for accessibility. Is this also the most recent scheme boundary?

Figure 1: Stage one consultation Scheme boundary

Stakeholder category	Briefing attendees	Date	Time	Format
Local Authority	Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council	Tuesday 29 October	3pm - 4pm	Online
Local Authority	Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council	Monday 4 November	12:30pm - 1:30pm	Online

Commented [HD10]: Whilst understood as being 2024 it would be clearer to include this for completeness and in case SoCC is revisited.

Date	Time	Location	Attendance
Friday 15 November	14:00 - 20:00	Balsham Pavilion, Balsham, Cambridge CB21 4DS	183
Saturday 16 November	10:00 - 14:00	West Wratting Village Hall, 79 High Street, West Wratting, CB21 5LU	154
Monday 25 November	14:00 - 20:00	Great Wilbraham Memorial Hall, Angle End, Great Wilbraham, Cambridge CB21 5JG	107
Monday 2 December	18:00 - 19:00	Webinar - held online on Livestorm	51

Commented [HD11]: 2024 as above

Table 3: Summary of stage one consultation events

6.2. Consultation timings

Our statutory consultation is scheduled to take place for six weeks, opening in September 2025. The exact dates will be confirmed in the final SoCC. This is a six-week period, in excess of the statutory minimum period of 28 days required by the Act.

Commented [HD12]: Noted but the dates need to be confirmed

6.5. How are we consulting?

During statutory consultation, we will use a range of methods to ensure that the consultation is inclusive and accessible for a broad range of stakeholder audiences.

We will upload an online information presentation to the Scheme website during the consultation period to provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information.

In line with our hybrid approach, non-digital methods will be used alongside the digital medium to provide alternative means for stakeholders and consultees to engage with the Scheme. In-person consultation events are also planned to be held within the vicinity of the Scheme during statutory consultation.

Commented [HD13]: Using social media will ensure this is genuinely achieved. There is also concern that the potential impacts of the scheme could be felt in villages not immediately or intimately associated with the potential order limits, such as BESS impacts. Social media could therefore ensure a much wider reaching and accessible means of engagement for groups otherwise unaware of likely to realise the scheme may affect them. This includes seldom heard groups.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-	The PEIR will contain a description of the Scheme, a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects, and the initial strategies to mitigate these effects. The PEIR will be based on information available at that time, but the assessments will be
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Commented [HD14]: Presumed tense will be updated in the final SoCC

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	The SoCC document will be made available online as part of the consultation, and in paper format at our consultation events and the information point, The Black Bull, for reference.
--	---

Table 5: List of statutory consultation documents

Commented [HD15]: Does this also not include libraries and other information points referenced within this draft SoCC?

At the start of the consultation period, copies of consultation information booklets, feedback forms and newsletters will be deposited in local information points located in the vicinity of the Scheme. Our SoCC, NTS and full PEIR will be available in printed format for inspection the local information point, The Black Bull.

The locations of the local information points are as follows:

- Burwell Library, Village College, The Causeway, Burwell, CB25 0DU
- Bottisham Community Library, Bottisham Village College, Lode Road, Bottisham, CB25 9DL
- The Black Bull, 27 High Street, Balsham, CB21 4DJ

The consultation materials are available in hard copy for individuals at no extra charge (except the PEIR and NTS, hard copies of which can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs). If you require this information in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print or alternative languages, please contact us using the details in this SoCC.

Commented [HD16]: Noted and welcomed

6.6. How the public will be able to participate and respond

The public will be able to participate in, and respond to, the consultation through:

- Up to four community drop-in events hosted in an exhibition format at locations across the consultation zone;
- online information presentation, to learn about the Scheme and consultation materials;
- a dedicated consultation website;
- an interactive Scheme map, which is a digital map hosted on the website for users to engage with elements of the Scheme by zooming, dragging and clicking to reveal more information;
- information points at community venues to host copies of consultation materials and signposting to feedback mechanisms; and
- a project contact centre, including a dedicated email address, phone number and Freepost.

Commented [HD17]: The exact number, location and timings of events should be confirmed in the SoCC.

Commented [HD18]: There is concern that Burwell has been excluded from these locations, as it is central to the scheme with lots of renewable development on-going. Consultation should not simply be where the panels are located but the pylon infrastructure also, which appears almost entirely within the East Cambridgeshire district.

6.7. Promoting the consultation

The Applicant will use a variety of methods to make people aware of the Scheme and advertise the consultation.

Method	Detail
Consultation newsletter	All residents, local businesses, and communities within the PCZ will be notified of the start of statutory consultation through a consultation newsletter. The newsletter will also be issued by email to wider

Commented [HD19]: It would be helpful to understand what this newsletter will include, particularly in the absence of confirmed details in this draft SoCC

	consultees, including community groups and seldom heard groups (see Appendix 2).
Press release	A local media press release <u>would provide wider notification to local stakeholders of the consultation events, reaching stakeholders outside the consultation mailing zone. The press release would be briefed into local and regional media outlets.</u>
Emails	<u>Emails will be sent to stakeholders informing them of the statutory consultation, upcoming events, how to request further information, and how to feedback.</u> This will allow stakeholders to engage with the consultation and to share the consultation information among their networks, such as with local constituents or group members.
Scheme website	The Scheme website will be updated on the launch of the statutory consultation. This update will include details of consultation events, consultation materials, and information on how to feed back on the Scheme proposals. This will allow stakeholders to engage fully with the consultation, either in-person or online.
Statutory notices and adverts	Statutory notices to publicise the consultation and the SoCC will be published in local and national news publications. We will run adverts in the local media <u>during the consultation period</u> . The adverts will be designed in a clear, accessible format, clearly communicating what the consultation is about, when it is running and how to take part.
Information point	Hard copies of the consultation materials will be available to takeaway or view for reference in local information points, as outlined in Section 6.5.
Site notices	<u>Notices will be placed in publicly accessible locations within the Scheme boundary to notify of the consultation.</u>
In-person consultation events and online information presentation	<u>We are holding up to four in-person for anyone with an interest in the Scheme to attend, learn about our proposals and provide their initial feedback. In-person events are being held at venues within the PCZ and publicised alongside online events in the Scheme launch newsletter, site notices, adverts and press releases. We will also upload an online information presentation to the Scheme website during the consultation period to provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information.</u>
Stakeholder briefings & previews	<u>Briefings with key political stakeholders will be arranged prior to public consultation events to provide an opportunity for early feedback and input. Briefings will be conducted either in-person or remotely online.</u> The briefings will be offered to key affected stakeholders including Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, the host Members of the UK Parliament, host ward councillors, portfolio holders and host parish councils.

Table 6: Overview of promotional activity

Commented [HD20]: Presumed tense will be updated in final SoCC

Commented [HD21]: Any others beyond the three listed as this is quite limited

Commented [HD22]: When?

Commented [HD23]: When?

Commented [HD24]: Where?

Commented [HD25]: These need to be confirmed with specifics and any back up options. Burwell is also central to the scheme and has been missed out from a locational perspective

Commented [HD26]: Clarification as to when these will take place

We will also upload an online information presentation to the Scheme website during the consultation period to provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information.

To ensure a balanced split of locations, up to four events are planned to be held at the following suggested venues:

- Balsham Pavilion, Church Lane, Balsham, CB21 4DS
- West Wratting Village Hall, 79 High Street, West Wratting, CB21 5LU
- The Reading Room, 46 Chapel Road, Weston Colville, Weston Green, CB21 5NX
- Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD

All venues are subject to change pending their availability, as well as the completion of risk assessments to determine their suitability for a consultation event. Week-day events will be open for six hours and run until 8pm to allow people to attend outside of normal working hours. We will also hold one four-hour event on a Saturday.

6.7.2. Scheme contact channels

In addition to the methods described above, people will be able to find out about the consultation, ask questions and request documents through the Scheme Freephone number and email address which have remained the same from the stage one consultation. People will also be able to submit feedback to the project email address and Freepost address.

Contact channels for the project are as follows:

- Calling 0800 012 9881 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday).
- Emailing enquiries@kingswaysolar.co.uk; and
- Writing to the project team at Freepost DOWNING KINGSWAY (no stamp required).

6.8. Wider engagement

Ongoing engagement will be undertaken ahead of the launch of the consultation with relevant stakeholders including local authorities and MPs, technical stakeholders such as Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency, along with local interest groups, residents, and landowners who get in touch.

All relevant local and parish councils, elected members for the county, and MPs will be contacted at the launch of the consultation and will be kept informed about the proposals. They will also be encouraged to share information about the consultation with members of their constituencies or local communities.

- people with hearing impairments;
- people with limited mobility;
- those with English as a second language;
- gypsy and traveller communities; and
- geographically isolated individuals or communities.

We will seek to engage with seldom heard groups by:

- holding events at a variety of times, including evenings and a weekend, to enable participation from people with different time commitments;
- making provision for people who do not have access to the internet or are isolated by sending a community newsletter to every address in the PCZ and making key materials such as the consultation information booklet and feedback form available at information points;
- choosing accessible venues for public information points and in-person events, where possible, side rooms at venues will be utilised to allow communication in a quiet environment;
- providing materials in alternative formats such as Braille on request;
- contacting local community and voluntary organisations including parish councils and schools with Scheme information and encouraging them to promote the consultation through their own existing communication channels; and
- providing a variety of communication channels including a Freephone number, email address and Freepost address for those seeking information.

6.10. How to respond to the consultation

Feedback to the consultation should be submitted in writing or online to the by 11:59pm by the end of the consultation period.

Commented [HD27]: Have the risk assessments been undertaken? What are the fall-back options if not accessible? Mandeville Hall in Burwell is another accessible location and is relevant to the PCZ as the pylon route will connect into Burwell.

Commented [HD28]: This would be better presented in a table, clarifying where, when, start/finish times and dates of events planned.

Commented [HD29]: Where and from what time - is this all venues or just one venue? One weekend in one location is not likely to be suitable for all, and we would expect greater outreach particularly as it is limited to only four hours.

Commented [HD30]: And county council? Just ensure this paragraph is consistent with member, council, parish and MP commitments made elsewhere in the SoCC

Commented [HD31]: The LPA are aware of one traveller along Hightown Drive, Burwell. In liaison with our communities team, we are not aware of any others in the ECDC district that may be affected by the scheme.

Commented [HD32]: There are also a number of community hubs in the district - [Community Hubs | East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)
There is one in Bottisham which would be relevant to the scheme. There are likely others in South Cambridgeshire

Commented [HD33]: Highlighting community transport is another option for seldom heard groups: [Community transport | East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)
There may of course be other options in South Cambridgeshire

2. **Community stakeholders**

Organisation
Action Group
Kingsway Solar Community Action Group (KSCA)
Environmental groups
Cambridge Carbon Footprint
Cambridge Friends of the Earth
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Ramblers
Greenpeace - Cambridge
Living Sport
National Farmers' Union
British Horse Society - East of England
Carbon Neutral Cambridge
Cycling UK - CTC Cambridge
Balsham Horticultural Society
Walk Cambridge
Cambridgeshire Bird Club
Wilbraham Environment Group

Commented [HD34]: There needs to be a consistent approach as to which stakeholders are listed here.

There is concern that this has also not been updated to reflect any preferred grid connection route, including impacts on horse related infrastructure and industries.

Commented [HD35]: The Jockey Club is also suggested as a representative of many horse related industries.

Whilst they may be picked up in the PCZ other businesses such as The Barn Gym, Bottisham are listed, so for completeness other businesses such as The National Stud and Jockey Club and studs would also need to be included.

8.4 Appendix D: Table of Statutory Consultees

Consultee	Consultee	Consultee
Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd	Great Bradley Parish Council	North Hertfordshire District Council
Aidien Ltd	Great Thurlow Parish Council	North Northamptonshire Council
Anglian Water	Great Wilbraham Parish Council	Northern Gas Networks Limited
Aurora Utilities Ltd	Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd	Norfolk County Council
Balsham Parish Council	GTC Pipelines Limited	Old West Internal Drainage Board
Babraham Parish Council	Haddenham Level Drainage Commissioners	Optimal Power Networks Limited
Bedford Borough Council	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited	Peterborough City Council
Borough Green Parish Council	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
Bottisham Parish Council	Hertfordshire County Council	Reach Parish Council
Braintree District Council	Hildersham Parish Council	Royal Mail Group
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Historic England	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
Brinkley Parish Council	Homes England	Ministry of Defence
Burwell Parish Council	Horseheath Parish Council	SMS Energy Limited
Cadent Gas Ltd	Huntingdonshire District Council	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambridge City Council	Independent Pipelines Limited	South Eastern Power Networks Plc
Cambridge Water	Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd	Southern Gas Networks Plc
Cambridgeshire County Council	Independent Power Networks Limited	Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters	Indigo Pipelines Limited	Stark Work
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner	Indigo Power Limited	Stow Cum Quarry Parish Council
Canal & Rivers Trust	Inovyn Enterprises Ltd	Stetchworth Parish Council
Carlton Cum Willingham Parish Council	Last Mile Gas Electricity Ltd	Suffolk County Council

Cawdle Fen Internal Drainage Board	Last Mile Gas Ltd	Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner
Central Bedfordshire Council	Leep Electricity Networks Limited	Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service
Civil Aviation Authority	Leep Gas Networks Limited	Sunnica Limited
CNG Services Ltd	Lincolnshire County Council	Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	Linton Parish Council	Swaffham Internal Drainage Board
Department for Transport	Little Abington Parish Council	Swaffham Prior Parish Council
Dullingham Parish Council	Little Thurlow Parish Council	Teversham Parish Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council	Little Wilbraham Parish Council	The Crown Estate Commissioners
East of England Ambulance Service	Littleport and Downham Internal Drainage Board	The Electricity Network Company Limited
Eclipse Power Networks Limited	Lode Parish Council	The Forestry Commission
Energy Assets Networks Limited	Middle Fen and Mere Internal Drainage Board	The Health and Safety Executive
Environment Agency	Mua Gas Limited	UK Power Distribution Limited
ES Pipelines Ltd	NATS En-Route Safeguarding	UK Power Networks Limited
ESP Connections Ltd	National Gas	Uttlesford District Council
ESP Electricity Limited	National Grid Electricity Transmission	Utility Assets Limited
ESP Networks Ltd	National Grid Electricity System Operation Limited	Vattenfall Networks Limited
ESP Pipelines Ltd	National Highways	Waterbeach Parish Council
Essex County Council	National Highways Historical Railways Estate	Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board
Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner	Natural England	West Suffolk District Council
Essex Fire and Rescue Service	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	West Wickam Parish Council
Exning Parish Council	Newmarket Parish Council	West Wratting Parish Council
Fenland District Council	NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board	Westley Waterless Parish Council
Fordham Parish Council	NHS England	Weston Colville Parish Council
Fulbourn Parish Council	NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board	Wicken Parish Council

Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited	NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board	Withersfield Parish Council
Fulcrum Pipelines Limited	NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board	x306 identified landowners and occupiers

8.5 Appendix E: Table of non-statutory consultees

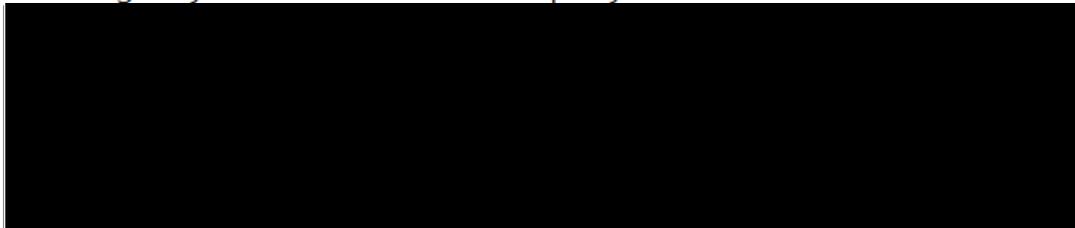
Consultee	Consultee	Consultee
Age UK – Cambridge	Cambridge Joint Services and Veterans Club	Parish Church of St. Mary, Linton
Ash Pavilion	Cambridge Past, Present & Future	Penny Farm Stud
Balsham Baby and Toddler Group	Cambridge Social Ventures	Ramblers Association Cambridge Group
Balsham Bellringers	Cambridge Young Farmers	Red2Green
Balsham Bowls Club	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	Royal British Legion (Cambridgeshire Branch)
Balsham Community Café	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Ramblers	Royal British Legion (Cambridgeshire Branch)
Balsham Cricket Club	Cambridgeshire Bird Club	Six Mile Bottom Estate
Balsham Good Neighbour Scheme	Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency	Six Mile Bottom Shoot
Balsham Horticultural Society	Cambridgeshire Community Foundation	Snakehall Farm
Balsham Post Office	Cambridgeshire Older People Visiting Support Service	SSAFA Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire
Balsham Rubbish Friends	Cambs Youth Panel	St Andrew's Church West Wrating
Balsham Scout Group	Camsight	St Andrew's Parochial Church Council, Balsham
Balsham Singers	Carbon Neutral Cambridge	St George's Church, Six Mile Bottom
Balsham Village Hall	C-EENRG	St John the Evangelist, Little Wilbraham
Balsham Womens' Institute	Chestnut Tree (West Wrating)	St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck
Barchester - Hilton Park Care Home	Church of Cyriac & Julitta, Swaffham Prior	St Mary's Church, Weston Colville
Barn Owl Trust	Church of St Nicholas, Great Wilbraham	Stetchworth Ellesmere Centre
Beacon Youth Trust	Confederation of British Industry	Support Cambridgeshire
Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club	Confederation of British Industry	Swaffham Bulbeck Church of England Primary School
Bottisham Airfield Museum	Cycling UK - CTC Cambridge	Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School

Bottisham Bowling Club	Di Doo Dog Walking	Swaffham Prior Village Hall
Bottisham Community Room	East Cambs Climate Action Network	Symonds House Nursing Home
Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club	Ellesmere Garden Club	The Barn Gym, Bottisham
Bottisham Football Club	Encompass Network Cambridge	The Bell Inn, Balsham
Bottisham Library	Exonate Ltd	The Bell, (Bottisham)
Bottisham Pharmacy	Five Bells Burwell	The Black Bull Inn, Balsham
Bottisham Post Office	Fordham Victoria Hall	The Black Horse Inn, (Swaffham Bulbeck)
Bottisham Primary School	Fulbourn Village History Society	The Carpenters Arms (Great Wilbraham)
Bottisham Sports Centre	Gardiner Memorial Hall	The Church of the Holy Trinity, Balsham
Bottisham Village College	Great Wilbraham Church of England Primary School	The Community ARC
Brinkley Hall Farms	Great Wilbraham Post Office	The Hole in the Wall (Little Wilbraham)
British Horse Society - East of England	Greenpeace - Cambridge	The Jockey Club
Brocks Wheel & Tyre	Haddenham Bowls Club	The Memorial Hall Great Wilbraham Cambridgeshire
Burwell Cycling Club	Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham	The National Stud
Burwell Grow and Share	Kingsway Solar Community Action Group	The Old Butchers Coffee + Shop, Balsham
Burwell Print	Linton Free Church	The Red Lion (Brinkley)
Burwell Running Club	Little Thetford Village Hall	The Red Lion, (Swaffham Prior)
Burwell Village College Primary School	Living Sport	The Spring Montessori, Burwell
Cambridge and District Trades Council	Mandeville Hall, Village Hall, Burwell	Walk Cambridge
Cambridge Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club	Meadow Primary School	West Wickham and District Local History Club
Cambridge Business and Professional Club	Mepal Village Hall	West Wrattling Community Cafe
Cambridge Carbon Footprint	National Farmers' Union	West Wrattling Over-60s Club
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce	National Horseracing Museum	West Wrattling Tennis Club

Cambridge Conservation Volunteers	National Venue Agency	Wilbraham Environment Group
Cambridge Deaf Association	New England Stud	Wild Burwell Group
Cambridge Friends of the Earth	Papworth Trust	YHF Enterprises
Host and neighbouring Members of Parliament	Host and neighbouring ward councillors	Host and neighbouring parish councils

8.6 Appendix F: Cambridgeshire County Council – Response to AoCM

RE: Kingsway Solar Farm - Draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone ...



Good afternoon,

Thank-you for sending across the Draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report. Cambridgeshire County Council have some points of clarity that we wish to raise in response to the report. Please note, these comments do not prejudice our response to the Planning Inspectorate when it comes to the Adequacy of Consultation.

- P12.: *'The PEIR was based on information available at the time'* – Whilst the PEIR was based on information available at the time, sourcing the information within the PEIR is the responsibility of the applicant, and the PEIR would have been stronger in content had the applicant carried out further data and survey work, as raised by officers in the consultation response.
- P55: *'Issue trackers are being progressed with key statutory stakeholders'* – This comment needs to reflect that the council has not yet been engaged with on the noted issue trackers.
- P55. *'finalised and submitted at the end of March 2026'* – The deadline for submission is ambitious given the current amount of work that is required prior to submission for the DCO application.
- P55: *'The applicant will take care to comply with the requirements of the data protection act 2018'* – Please change to 'the applicant will comply...' to ensure clarity on compliance with the Data Protection Act.

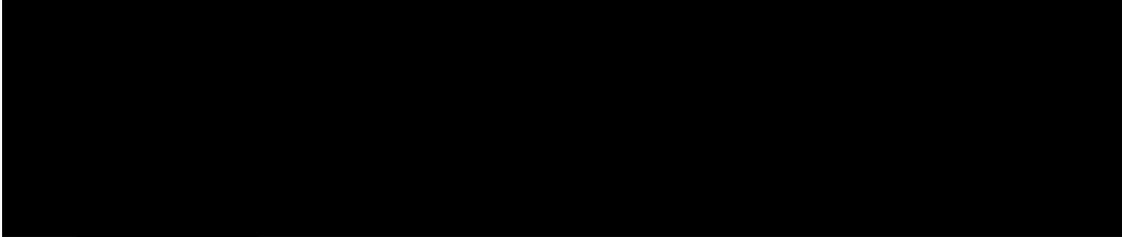
Kind regards,



Consents Team
Place and Sustainability

8.7 Appendix G: East Cambridgeshire District Council – Response to AoCM

RE: Kingsway Solar Farm - Draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone...



Dear [Redacted]

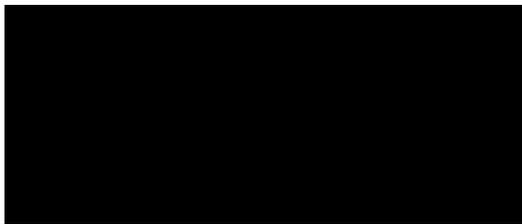
Thank you for sending the draft.

Within the narrow timescales I can only reiterate the points raised by CCC below, to which ECDC agrees. I note however that ECDC made more extensive feedback (Appendix C) and I would like to retrieve this information to ensure nothing else needs to be communicated at this stage.

I will try my best to cover the topic on the 5th, but there may be some delay as I have two appeals with deadlines for the 16th.

I wish you all the very best in the year to come!

Best wishes,



East Cambridgeshire
District Council



www.eastcambs.gov.uk



eastcambsgov



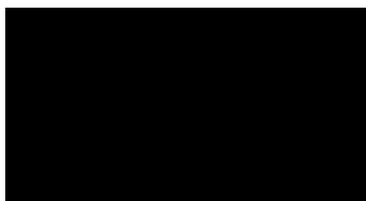
@EastCambs



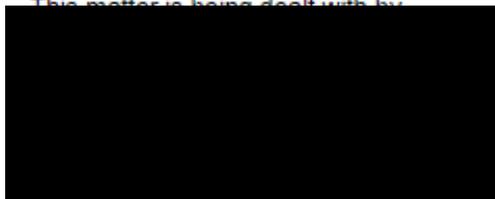


East Cambridgeshire
District Council

www.eastcambs.gov.uk
ContactUs@eastcambs.gov.uk
01353 665555



This matter is being dealt with by



Date 19 January 2026

If you require this letter in large
format, please email
ContactUs@eastcambs.gov.uk.

Dear



Re: Draft Adequacy of Consultation Report – Kingsway NSIP

Thank you for your request for feedback on the draft 'Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report' dated December 2025, received by the Council on 12 December 2025, and which we understand is intended to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 23 January 2026.

East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) acknowledges that comments previously provided on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) have been considered, and that the final version of that document offers greater clarity regarding where and when consultation activities would take place or where materials would be made available. However, there remains a lack of clarity as to how certain specific matters raised in response to the draft SoCC have been addressed, including, for example, engagement with Gypsy and Traveller communities. While some wider matters appear to have been resolved, such as the inclusion of Burwell Parish Council, the Council's concerns remain significant.

The principal issue for the Council continues to be the quality and effectiveness of engagement undertaken to date. In ECDC's view, this concern should be explicitly acknowledged by the Applicant, alongside a material change in approach. In particular, the Council considers that submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application should be postponed until at least summer or late summer 2026. The draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report does not allow for, nor reflect, such an approach and should therefore be amended if the Applicant is genuinely committed to meaningful engagement with host authorities and local communities.

In its Response to Statutory Consultation dated 29 October 2025, the Council highlighted that the baseline position for the grid corridor – predominantly affecting East Cambridgeshire – had not been established across a wide range of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) topics. Officers therefore concluded that the Council's ability to provide substantive and informed comments at Stage Two statutory consultation was significantly constrained.

While the Council recognises that scheme design may benefit from ongoing officer input as it evolves, the baseline evidence to support that design should have been in place for both this and earlier consultation stages. It remains unclear whether this has been the Applicant's intention, particularly given the limited timescales proposed for preparing information, receiving feedback, and incorporating that feedback prior to the anticipated finalisation of the DCO in March 2026.

The draft report does not clearly explain how design milestones could realistically be achieved within this period (for example in Section 6 – Next steps), nor how officer feedback could be meaningfully embedded. In the Council's view, this approach is not feasible for a project of this scale, even when consideration is limited solely to the proposed grid corridor/ pylon route.

ECDC notes that sharing of relevant information has not materially improved to date. Surveys and technical studies remain ongoing into January 2026, a fact which is not clearly reflected in the report, which would help illustrate the level of engagement achieved so far. Consequently, the report gives the impression that extensive and meaningful engagement has taken place since an early stage, when officers have had little or no substantive information on which to provide feedback, notwithstanding attendance at meetings when requested.

The report states that the PEIR was based on information available at the time which, whilst correct in reality means that the information underpinning the PEIR was incomplete. Baseline surveys are understood to be ongoing as of January 2026, and the scheme is continuing to evolve in response to identified impacts on sensitive receptors, with further targeted consultation anticipated. In these circumstances, it is not correct for the report to suggest that the ECDC has been effectively consulted on an emerging and sufficiently robust evidence base. As a result, the Council remains unable to reach informed positions on the scale of impacts or the adequacy of proposed mitigation.

The report further asserts in paragraph 5.1.1 that the Applicant has had regard to responses received as part of the Stage Two consultation. This statement is not accurate, considering baseline data and clarifications requested in the Council's statutory consultation response have not all been provided for technical review or discussion through the relevant Technical Working Groups to date.

Only very recently has basic information – such as landscape and visual assessment viewpoints – been shared with technical officers within the host authorities. While this is welcomed, it represents the commencement, rather than the culmination, of effective engagement. It is therefore a matter of concern that the Applicant continues to pursue formal submission of the DCO in March 2026, which would afford officers little more than one month to review material, provide feedback, and allow the Applicant to take that feedback into account. The Council does not consider this timescale to be reasonable or sufficient.

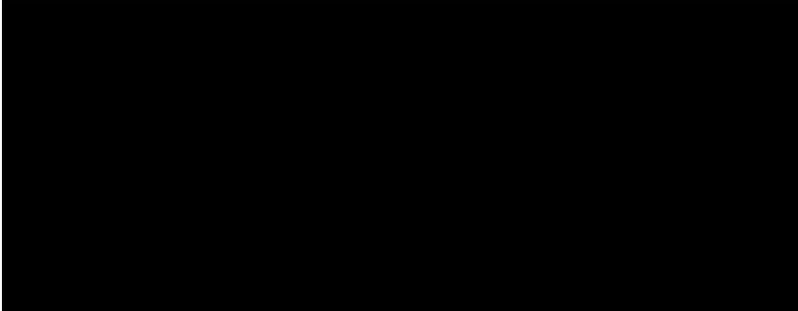
The use of issues trackers, as referenced in paragraph 6.1.1 of the draft report, would be a valuable mechanism for informing Statements of Common Ground. However, ECDC has not received such a tracker to date. While the Council welcomes the Applicant's stated willingness to continue dialogue with host authorities, the proposed submission timetable remains unrealistic given the requirements for effective information sharing, technical review, and meaningful discussion.

The Council will provide its formal view to the Planning Inspectorate at the acceptance stage in accordance with the relevant legislation. At this time, officers are of the view that ECDC's adequacy of consultation representation response to the Secretary of State needs to highlight the bottlenecks for effective engagement of the Council as local authority consultee.

Notwithstanding the above, the Council reiterates its willingness to continue constructive engagement with the Applicant and its team on the matters raised in this and previous correspondence, highlighting that with appropriate changes to approach and programme, the current position could be materially improved.

ECDC reserves the right to make further and more detailed representations regarding consultation compliance, including compliance with section 47(7) of the Planning Act 2008, once the DCO application has been submitted and the full Consultation Report is available for review.

Yours faithfully,



8.8 Appendix H: Applicant’s response to East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding the AoCM



Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your feedback and we note your comments.

We are committed to meaningful engagement and did make amendments to the draft SoCC in response to comments as appropriate. These changes and the reasons why other suggestions were not incorporated were advised to the local authorities prior to the SoCC being published. With regard to the comment: *“There remains a lack of clarity as to how certain specific matters raised in response to the draft SoCC have been addressed, including, for example, engagement with Gypsy and Traveller communities.”* Page 40 in the Draft AoCM confirms that, following ECDC’s comment *“we are aware of one traveller along Hightown Drive, Burwell”* we contacted the LPAs communities’ team to understand how it would usually engage. The communities’ team did not engage with us on this, and it was not raised at all during the consultation period. Table 1 in the Draft AoCM details a variety of engagement methods to advertise and encourage participation in the stage two consultation.

The regulatory requirement for the content of Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) is set out within Regulation 12 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This provides that PEI must include that information reasonably required to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development. The *Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)* further explains that this should include *“any relevant existing environmental assessments or survey information”*. It goes on to note that the PEI should identify and acknowledge any *“areas of uncertainty such as in data collection”*. There is no requirement in the Regulations or Guidance for all baseline survey information to be complete prior to the preparation of the PEI. In fact, the above guidance indicates that PINS anticipates PEI will be based on the *“existing”* survey information held at the time, and will flag any areas of uncertainty, such as where surveys/data collection is not yet complete.

This is the approach which Kingsway adopted in its PEI Report (PEIR), in line with the standard and best practice of other NSIPs. To account for those areas of the Scheme where survey information remained outstanding, the PEIR applied a precautionary approach to the assessment of likely significant effects. This ensured local authorities like ECDC and other key stakeholders were appropriately *“warned”* of potential significant effects which may arise should high value features be identified in surveys. The final ES being produced for the application updates the PEI assessments with the survey information that has since been collected. At the current time, no new significant effects have been identified due to that survey information and this will be kept under review as the assessments are finalised for the ES. As such, the Kingsway Solar is confident that the PEI provided a sufficient explanation of the likely significant environmental effects as required under Regulation 12.

We have updated the Draft AoCM in response to the comments received from local authorities, as appropriate, and have added these comments to the AoCM as appendices.

We are committed to ongoing engagement with stakeholders, and have already organised a series of technical working groups and regular local authority meetings. We look forward to continuing working with the authority in the run up to our submission in March.

Kind regards,

8.9 Appendix I: South Cambridgeshire District Council – Response to AoCM

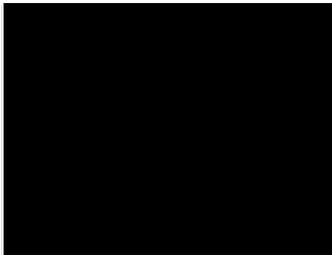
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridge,
CB23 6EA
www.scamb.gov.uk



Reference: EN010165



5 January 2026



Electronic submission only

Dear [Redacted]

Response of South Cambridgeshire District Council to the draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report for Kingsway Solar Farm

Thank you for sharing with South Cambridgeshire District Council ("the Council") the draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report ("the draft Report") dated December 2025, received via email on 12 December 2025. You have asked for comments to be returned no later than 5 January 2026.

Officers understand that the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report is due to be formally submitted to PINS around 22 January 2026.

Having reviewed the draft Report, the Council considers that the report's conclusion that effective consultation has been undertaken has been overstated and is inaccurate. The Council is not currently able to agree with the draft Report's overall conclusion that the consultation process, as described, demonstrates compliance with the relevant statutory requirements under the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008").

In the Council's view, there are three headline issues with the draft Report.

First, the draft Report fails to acknowledge the Council's consistently expressed concerns regarding the quality of engagement to date (both within its response dated 29 October 2025 and in other correspondence).

Secondly, the draft Report fails to accurately reflect the limited engagement on technical matters with the Council. In the Council's view, that engagement has been so poor as to not amount to proper consultation. The draft Report is silent on the limited and partial nature of engagement with the Council yet nevertheless presents conclusions which imply that matters have been addressed or progressed. In the Council's view, this creates a misleading impression of the extent and



effectiveness of engagement, which in practice has been constrained by limited and incomplete information. This includes the absence of baseline data and information upon which the Council is able to make an informed assessment.

For example:

1. The Report states that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was *"based on information available at the time."* The information underpinning the PEIR was incomplete. It is understood that baseline surveys remain ongoing as of January 2026 and the scheme is being amended and prepared for further targeted consultation in response to identified harmful impacts on sensitive receptors. As such, the Council believes it is not correct for the report to suggest that the Council has been effectively consulted on the emerging evidence base. As a result, the Council remains unable to reach informed positions on scale of impact or appropriate mitigation.
2. The Report asserts that the Applicant *"has had regard to responses received as part of the stage two consultation"* (see paragraph 5.1.1 of the draft Report). This statement is incorrect. The baseline data and clarifications requested in the Council's statutory consultation response have not been provided for technical review or discussion through the relevant Technical Working Groups ("TWG"). As an example, at the focussed TWG meeting held on 4 December 2025 in respect of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ("LVIA") and Public Rights of Ways, no materials were provided for review in advance of the meeting, no agenda was provided, and despite both verbal and written assurances from the Applicant's planning agent (dated 5 December 2025, 10 December 2025 and 18 December 2025) that the LVIA viewpoints would be shared, these have still not been received to date. As a result, the Council has no clarity as to how the LVIA is informing the design of the site and panel layouts. There is also a risk that progressing the scheme without agreed viewpoints will lead to abortive or additional work if it is deemed necessary.
3. At the time of writing, contrary to the statement in the draft report suggesting otherwise, the Council has not been provided with issue trackers or a draft Preliminary Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement. The draft report is therefore erroneous in its assertion that issue trackers are being progressed with key statutory stakeholders (Para 6.1.1).
4. In relation to the development of the Statement of Community Consultation, the Report characterises the Council's concerns as matters of detail. The Council's position, as set out in its formal response of 29 August 2025, was that the absence of confirmed consultation dates, venues and event numbers prevented the Council from properly assessing the adequacy of the proposed consultation framework under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. The Council has not seen evidence which alters that position.

These examples are not exhaustive but seek to illustrate why the Council does not consider that the Report provides a reliable or complete account of consultation adequacy from the Council's perspective. We will of course expect to respond to the final report in greater detail when requested by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55 PA 2008.

Thirdly, the draft Report is incomplete. The draft Report does not comply with section 37(7)(c) PA 2008 because it does not explain the meaningful account taken of the relevant responses (from the Council as well as others – see paragraph 5.2.1 of the draft Report which confirms non-compliance with this requirement).

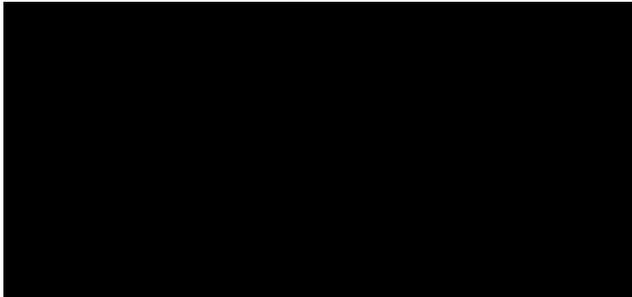
In conclusion, the Council should have been afforded more time (especially bearing in mind the Christmas period) to consider and respond to this Report. Given the inadequate time afforded, and for the avoidance of doubt, this response does not represent the Council's final position on



the Adequacy of Consultation. The Council therefore reserves the right to make further and more detailed representations on consultation compliance, including compliance with section 47(7) PA 2008, once the Development Consent Order application has been submitted and the full Consultation Report is available for review.

The Council will provide its formal view to the Planning Inspectorate at the acceptance stage in accordance with section 55 PA 2008. At present the officers consider it will be necessary for the Council to make an adequacy of consultation representation to the Secretary of State pursuant to section 55(4)(b) PA 2008 explaining why inadequate consultation in breach of the PA 2008 has been carried out by your client. We would however re-iterate our continued willingness to engage with you and the team on the range of matters that we have raised in this and earlier correspondence with you. With such further engagement the position could be materially improved.

Yours sincerely,



8.10 Appendix J: Applicant’s response to South Cambridgeshire District Council regarding the AoCM

South Cambridgeshire District Council	
Comment	Applicant’s response
<p>First, the draft Report fails to acknowledge the Council’s consistently expressed concerns regarding the quality of engagement to date (both within its response dated 29 October 2025 and in other correspondence).</p> <p>Secondly, the draft Report fails to accurately reflect the limited engagement on technical matters with the Council. In the Council’s view, that engagement has been so poor as to not amount to proper consultation. The draft Report is silent on the limited and partial nature of engagement with the Council yet nevertheless presents conclusions which imply that matters have been addressed or progressed. In the Council’s view, this creates a misleading impression of the extent and effectiveness of engagement, which in practice has been constrained by limited and incomplete information. This includes the absence of baseline data and information upon which the Council is able to make an informed assessment.</p>	<p>The adequacy of consultation milestone provides the Applicant with an opportunity to outline the stages of consultation that have taken place to date and demonstrate compliance with the Statement of Community Consultation (‘SoCC’). The adequacy of consultation milestone report has done this.</p> <p>The Applicant holds fortnightly meetings with the three host authorities to provide a regular update on progress.</p> <p>The Applicant has held a number of Technical Working Groups and other meetings with specialists from the host authorities covering SUDS, Biodiversity and BNG, LVIA, heritage, economic growth, climate and carbon, health and mitigation. The Applicant has shared information that was available at the time the meetings were held.</p> <p>The Applicant is confident it has met the regulatory requirements for consultation. The responses below outline in respect of the Council’s specific concerns the basis on which these requirements have been met.</p>
<p>1. The Report states that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was “<i>based on information available at the time.</i>” The information underpinning the PEIR was incomplete. It is understood that baseline surveys remain ongoing as of January 2026 and the scheme is being amended and prepared for further targeted consultation in response to identified harmful impacts on sensitive receptors. As such, the Council believes it is not correct for the report to suggest that the Council has been effectively consulted on the emerging evidence base. As a result, the Council remains unable to reach informed positions on scale of impact or appropriate mitigation.</p>	<p>As outlined in the Applicant’s response to East Cambridgeshire District Council (Appendix H of the AoCM), the regulatory requirement for the content of Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) is set out within the Regulation 12 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This provides that PEI must include information reasonably required to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development. The <i>Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)</i> further explains that this should include “<i>any relevant existing environmental assessments or survey information</i>”. It goes on to note that the PEI should identify and</p>
	<p>acknowledge any “<i>area of uncertainty such as in data collection</i>”. There is no requirement in the Regulations or Guidance for all baseline survey information to be complete prior to the preparation of the PEI. In fact, the above guidance indicates that the Planning Inspectorate anticipates PEI will be based on the “existing” survey information held at the time, and will flag any areas of uncertainty, such as where surveys/data collection is not yet complete.</p> <p>This is the approach which Kingsway adopted in its PEI Report (PEIR), in line with the standard and best practice of other NSIPs. To account for those areas of the Scheme where survey information remained outstanding, the PEIR applied a precautionary approach to the assessment of likely significant effects. This ensured local authorities like SCDC and other key stakeholders were appropriately informed of potential significant effects which may arise should high value features be identified in surveys. As such, Kingsway Solar is confident that the PEI being based on the information available at the time satisfied Regulation 12 in providing a sufficient explanation of the likely significant environmental effects. The final ES being produced for the application updates the PEI assessments with the survey information that has since been collected.</p>
<p>2. The Report asserts that the Applicant “<i>has had regard to responses received as part of the stage two consultation</i>” (see paragraph 5.1.1 of the draft Report). This statement is incorrect. The baseline data and clarifications requested in the Council’s statutory consultation response have not been provided for technical review or discussion through the relevant Technical Working Groups (“TWG”). As an example, at the focussed TWG meeting held on 4 December 2025 in respect of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (“LVIA”) and Public Rights of Ways, no materials were provided for review in advance of the meeting, no agenda was provided, and despite both verbal and written assurances from the Applicant’s planning agent (dated 5</p>	<p>The Applicant updated this text to confirm the Applicant has reviewed and will have regard to responses received as part of the stage two consultation. A Consultation Report will be produced as part of the DCO Application in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>Since the time of the response from South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Applicant has engaged with host authorities at a further two TWGs for LVIA (January 15 and February 3) with a robust review of all viewpoints and substantial revisions to accommodate feedback from host authority officers, including additional viewpoints and</p>

<p>December 2025, 10 December 2025 and 18 December 2025) that the LVIA viewpoints would be shared, these have still not been received to date. As a result, the Council has no clarity as to how the LVIA is informing the design of the site and panel layouts. There is also a risk that progressing the scheme without agreed viewpoints will lead to abortive or additional work if it is deemed necessary.</p>	<p>visualisations. These additional TWGs have provided greater clarity as to how the LVIA is informing the design of the Scheme.</p>
<p>3. At the time of writing, contrary to the statement in the draft report suggesting otherwise, the Council has not been provided with issue trackers or a draft Preliminary Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement. The draft report is therefore erroneous in its assertion that issue trackers are being progressed with key statutory stakeholders (Para 6.1.1).</p>	<p>The Applicant updated this text to confirm issues trackers will be progressed with key statutory stakeholders, which will set out the issues under discussion between these parties and the Applicant.</p>
<p>4. In relation to the development of the Statement of Community Consultation, the Report characterises the Council’s concerns as matters of detail. The Council’s position, as set out in its formal response of 29 August 2025, was that the absence of confirmed consultation dates, venues and event numbers prevented the Council from properly assessing the adequacy of the proposed consultation framework under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. The Council has not seen evidence which alters that position.</p> <p>These examples are not exhaustive but seek to illustrate why the Council does not consider that the Report provides a reliable or complete account of consultation adequacy from the Council’s perspective. We will of course expect to respond to the final report in greater detail when requested by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55 PA 2008.</p>	<p>As explained within paragraphs 4.2.2 to 4.2.12 in the AoCM, the Applicant confirms it does not consider there to have been any non-compliance with its duty under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, and referenced the specific test within Section 47(2) which requires: <i>“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.”</i></p> <p>This requirement was clearly met as it undertook two rounds of engagement on the draft SoCC with the relevant local authorities, including SCDC (as detailed in Section 4.2 of the AoCM). The Applicant also held three meetings with SCDC on 24 July, 14 August and 28 August 2025.</p> <p>There is no requirement within Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 to provide a specific level of detail for consultation or to provide a draft SoCC for review. Instead, the requirement is to consult on <i>“what is to be in the statement”</i>. The drafts provided clearly outlined the nature and content of what was to be in the final SoCC and note the local authorities were still able to comment on all relevant matters, including</p>
	<p>where details were yet to be confirmed in the draft SoCC, or matters they considered were gaps in the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant considers the multiple meetings and opportunities for written responses provided SCDC appropriate opportunity to request any clarifications or further details it needed to finalise its feedback, prior to the deadline for comments on the draft SoCC on 31 August 2025. While no such requests were received, the Councils were still able to comment on matters they considered not to have sufficient information on.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed it did not consider there to be sufficient justification to delay the SoCC or statutory consultation for additional rounds of feedback, and it would be taking into account the feedback received on the draft SoCC, alongside the other local authorities, in finalising the document.</p>
<p>Thirdly, the draft Report is incomplete. The draft Report does not comply with section 37(7)(c) PA 2008 because it does not explain the meaningful account taken of the relevant responses (from the Council as well as others – see paragraph 5.2.1 of the draft Report which confirms non-compliance with this requirement).</p>	<p>As explained in Chapter 5 of the AoCM, the Applicant will have regard to responses received as part of the stage two consultation in the Consultation Report, which will be produced as part of the DCO Application in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the of the Planning Act 2008. This will include the Applicant’s response to feedback provided by SCDC and others, and how it has been considered.</p>
<p>In conclusion, the Council should have been afforded more time (especially bearing in mind the Christmas period) to consider and respond to this Report. Given the inadequate time afforded, and for the avoidance of doubt, this response does not represent the Council’s final position on the Adequacy of Consultation.</p> <p>The Council therefore reserves the right to make further and more detailed representations on consultation compliance, including compliance with section 47(7) PA 2008, once the Development Consent Order application has been submitted and the full Consultation Report is available for review.</p>	<p>The Applicant issued the AoCM to host local authorities on Friday 12 December and provided until Monday 5 January to provide a response. The Applicant considers that its consultation so far has been robust and remains committed to ongoing engagement with stakeholders. A series of technical working groups and regular local authority meetings are already established, and the Applicant is continuing to work with SCDC in the run up to submission of the DCO Application.</p>

<p>The Council will provide its formal view to the Planning Inspectorate at the acceptance stage in accordance with section 55 PA 2008. At present the officers consider it will be necessary for the Council to make an adequacy of consultation representation to the Secretary of State pursuant to section 55(4)(b) PA 2008 explaining why inadequate consultation in breach of the PA 2008 has been carried out by your client. We would however re-iterate our continued willingness to engage with you and the team on the range of matters that we have raised in this and earlier correspondence with you. With such further engagement the position could be materially improved.</p>	
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