



Lime Down

Solar Park

Consultation Report

September 2025

Revision 1

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List of Contents

1	Executive Summary.....	1
1.1	Glossary.....	1
1.2	Background.....	2
1.3	Pre-application consultation overview	3
1.4	Level of response.....	4
1.5	Consideration of feedback received	5
2	Introduction.....	7
2.1	Purpose of this document	7
2.2	Overview of the Scheme	8
2.3	Approach to consultation.....	9
2.4	Pre-application consultation overview	10
2.5	Summary of consultation activity.....	16
2.6	Covering Letter and Completed Section 55 Checklist	17
3	Legislation, guidance and advice.....	18
3.1	Background.....	18
3.2	Relevant legislation and guidance	19
3.3	Planning Act 2008 Section 50: Guidance about pre-application procedure	20
4	Non-statutory consultation and engagement (October 2023 – October 2024).....	21
4.1	Overview	21
4.2	Early engagement with Local Planning Authorities	21
4.3	Pre-consultation engagement	23
4.4	Approach to consultation.....	24
4.5	Non-statutory consultation (14 March to 26 April 2024)	25
4.6	Ongoing technical engagement	32
4.7	Account of the outcomes from non-statutory engagement.....	32
4.8	Ongoing engagement.....	39
4.9	Conclusion	41
5	Consultation under EIA Regulations	42
5.1	Overview	42
5.2	EIA Scoping	42
5.3	Pre-application consultation under the EIA Regulations.....	43
5.4	Non-statutory engagement for EIA.....	44
5.5	Conclusion	44

6	Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025)	45
6.1	Overview	45
6.2	Developing the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	46
6.3	Consultation on the SoCC with the Relevant Local Authority	49
6.4	Publicity under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008	80
6.5	Adherence to the Contents of the SoCC	82
6.6	Conclusion	108
7	Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008	109
7.1	Overview	109
7.2	Summary of Section 47 statutory consultation	109
7.3	Section 47 consultation activity (29 January to 19 March 2025)	111
7.4	Publicising the Section 47 consultation	118
7.5	Conclusion	122
8	Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008	123
8.1	Introduction	123
8.2	Statutory requirements and guidance	123
8.3	Preliminary environmental information Report	124
8.4	Identifying Section 42 consultees	124
8.5	Identifying Section 43 Consultees	124
8.6	Identifying Section 44 Consultees	127
8.7	Duty to Notify the Planning Inspectorate of the Proposed Application Under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008	128
8.8	Undertaking Section 42 Consultation	129
8.9	Statement of Compliance with Formal Consultation Under Section 42	129
9	Statutory Consultation under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008	131
9.1	Overview	131
9.2	Statutory Requirements and Guidance	131
9.3	Publication of Section 48 Notice	131
9.4	Statement of compliance with formal consultation under Section 48	132
10	Account of Feedback and the Applicant's Response to the Statutory Consultation	133
10.1	Overview	133
10.2	Feedback Analysis Methodology	133

10.3	Section 42 Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made	136
10.4	Section 47 Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made	143
10.5	Quantitative Analysis of Responses Received	143
10.6	Qualitative Analysis of Responses Received	147
10.7	Conclusion	154
11	Targeted Consultation on a Series of Proposed Boundary Changes	155
11.1	Introduction	155
11.2	Preparing for Further Targeted Consultation	155
11.3	Targeted Consultation Period (June 2025).....	161
12	Ongoing Activities and Statements of Common Ground (SOCG)	168
12.1	Introduction	168
12.2	Ongoing Community Engagement	169
12.3	Ongoing Landowner Negotiations	169
12.4	Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement and Statements of Common Ground	169
13	Conclusion	171
13.1	Concluding Remarks.....	171
14	References.....	172
15	Appendices	174
15.1	List of Appendices	174

List of Tables

Table 1-1 Table of terms and acronyms	1
Table 1-2 Overview of changes to the Scheme in response to feedback received	5
Table 2-1 Structure and explanation of Consultation Report sections	7
Table 2-2 Pre-application stages of consultation activities undertaken	10
Table 2-3 Summary of pre-application consultation activity	16
Table 4-1 Engagement meetings held by the Applicant as a result of pre-consultation outreach	22
Table 4-2 Stage One consultation briefing meetings held by the Applicant	23
Table 4-3 Stage One consultation community information events	31
Table 4-4 Post-Stage One consultation briefing meetings held by the Applicant	40
Table 6-1 Applicant consideration of feedback received to informal comments (on early working draft SoCC) and to formal comments (on the draft SoCC) from Wiltshire Council	51
Table 6-2 Section 47 Notice newspaper publication schedule	80
Table 6-3 List of parish councils issued with final SoCC and Section 47 Notice on 14 January 2025	81
Table 7-1 Community Access Points	113
Table 7-2 Community information events held in person during statutory Section 47 consultation	115
Table 7-3 List of media outlets to which press releases were issued	118
Table 7-4 List of adverts placed	120
Table 8-1 Relevant local authorities under Section 43 of Planning Act 2008	125
Table 9-1 Publication schedule of Section 48 notice	132
Table 10-1 Methods of response during the statutory consultation	133
Table 10-2 Responses received in respect of the Planning Act 2008 defined consultee categories	134
Table 10-3 Summary of Section 42 consultation feedback, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback	136
Table 10-4 Summary of quantitative data from Stage Two Consultation	143
Table 10-5 Summary of qualitative data from the Section 47 consultation, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback	147
Table 11-1 The Applicant's consideration of feedback received from South Gloucestershire Council on their approach to targeted consultation	156
Table 11-2 The Applicant's consideration of feedback received from Wiltshire Council on their approach to targeted consultation	158
Table 11-3 Summary of targeted consultation feedback, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback	164
Table 12-1 Ongoing meetings with stakeholders undertaken between 19 March and Application submission	168

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Glossary

Table 1-1 Table of terms and acronyms

Term or Acronym	Definition
AC	Alternating Current
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
APFP Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
Baseline conditions	The conditions against which potential effects arising from the Scheme are identified and evaluated
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BMV	Best and Most Versatile
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CAP	Community Access Point
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CCZ	Core Consultation Zone
CDM	Construction Design Management
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DC	Direct Current
DCO	Development Consent Order
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DESNZ	Department of Energy Security and Net Zero
DRP	Decommissioning and Restoration Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
FSMP	Fire Safety Management Plan
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GOV	Government
GW	Gigawatt
ha	Hectares
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle

Term or Acronym	Definition
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
IGP	Island Green Power
LEMP	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
LGV	Light Goods Vehicles
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Assessment
MP	Member of Parliament
MW	Megawatts
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
NZS	Net Zero Strategy
ODS	Outline Decommissioning Strategy
OEMP	Outline Environmental Management Plan
Planning Act 2008	Planning Act 2008
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PV	Solar Photovoltaic
RLB	Red Line Boundary
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State
The Applicant	Lime Down Solar Park Ltd
The Scheme	Lime Down Solar Park

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Lime Down Solar Park (the Scheme) comprises the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) panel array electricity generating station, with associated infrastructure, and landscaping, heritage, sustainable drainage and biodiversity mitigation areas. The Scheme comprises five land parcels (referred to as the 'Solar PV Sites'), a Cable Route Corridor and works to the existing National Grid Melksham Substation.

1.2.2 The Order limits comprise approximately 1,237 ha of land located largely within the administrative area of Wiltshire Council, with small areas of

existing highway within the administrative area of South Gloucestershire Council as shown on the **Location Plan [EN010168/APP/2.1]**.

1.2.3 A full description of the Scheme is provided in **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.

1.2.4 With a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), the Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. The Scheme therefore requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State.

1.2.5 Lime Down Solar Park Ltd (the Applicant) has endeavoured to undertake an open and meaningful pre-application consultation process with a wide range of consultees. This Consultation Report describes and evidences the comprehensive consultation and engagement that has taken place throughout the pre-application period and how this has complied with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008 to influence the final design of the Scheme.

1.3 Pre-application consultation overview

1.3.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with s37(7)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1). This report demonstrates how the Applicant has complied with s42, s44, s47, s48 and s49 of Planning Act 2008 and associated legislation and guidance. This report also sets out the extensive non-statutory community involvement and consultation undertaken for the Scheme.

1.3.2 The Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on the Scheme with the following consultees:

- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with s42(1)(a)), including with local authorities in accordance with s42(1)(b) and as set out in s43(1);
- Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with s42(1)(d) and as set out in s44);
- Community and other organisations in the “vicinity” of the Scheme who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Scheme (in accordance with s47); and
- Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Scheme proposals (in accordance with s48).

1.3.3 The Applicant undertook a multi-phased community consultation to enable the iterative development of proposals in response to the ongoing consideration of feedback received. The pre-application community consultation comprised of:

- A non-statutory Stage One consultation on early-stage proposals, held for just over six weeks between 14 March to 26 April 2024;

- Post-Stage One communications including publishing a Consultation Summary Report;
- Publication of the Applicant's Statement of Community Consultation on 14 January 2025;
- Notification to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under s46 of Planning Act 2008 on 27 January 2025 that it was intending to commence consultation under s42 of Planning Act 2008;
- A statutory Stage Two consultation on more detailed proposals – including a Preliminary Environmental Information Report – in accordance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, held for seven weeks between 29 January and 19 March 2025;
- Submitting a written statement on the adequacy of pre-application consultation undertaken to the Planning Inspectorate in June 2025. As host local authorities, Wiltshire Council and South Gloucestershire Council, were provided opportunities to comment on this statement; and
- A targeted consultation on specific changes to the Scheme following the Stage Two consultation, held for just over five weeks between 03 June and 11 July 2025.

1.4 Level of response

- 1.4.1 The Applicant received 1,326 submissions of feedback in response to the Stage One community consultation. This included 752 Feedback Form submissions (paper forms and online submissions) and 574 submissions of feedback via the Scheme's communication channels (email and Freepost). During this period, the Applicant also welcomed 960 attendees across a series of six in-person and two online community information events (webinars).
- 1.4.2 The Applicant received 1,638 feedback responses from members of the community to the Stage Two consultation (statutory under s47 of the Planning Act 2008). During this period, the Applicant also welcomed 1,061 attendees across a series of two online and eight in-person community information events. The comments received are summarised in **Chapter 10** of this report and presented in detail in **Appendix F-7: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**, together with how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback when finalising the DCO application.
- 1.4.3 The Applicant received 46 responses from s42 consultees during this consultation period. An overview of the s42 feedback and Applicant's response is provided in **Chapter 10** of this report, with a more detailed record of s42 feedback provided in and **Appendix G-5: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

- 1.4.4 The Applicant received 139 feedback responses from members of the community and local organisations to the targeted consultation (considered as s47 feedback). During this period, the Applicant also welcomed 25 attendees to an online community information event. The comments received are summarised in **Chapter 11** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's consideration of feedback received in **Appendix I-5: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 1.4.5 The Applicant received 65 responses from s42 consultees, including 19 from s44 consultees, during the targeted consultation. A summary of s42 and s44 feedback is provided in **Chapter 11** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's consideration of feedback in **Appendix I-5: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

1.5 Consideration of feedback received

- 1.5.1 Throughout the pre-application period, the Applicant has carefully considered comments received during all phases of consultation.
- 1.5.2 This has informed a series of positive refinements to the proposals, as described in **Table 1-2**.

Table 1-2 Overview of changes to the Scheme in response to feedback received

Key Topic	Summary of changes to the Scheme
Site selection and removal of panels	As outlined in ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010168/APP/6.1], since the PEIR stage, fields C2, C3, and C4 have been entirely removed from the Order Limits, and panels have been removed from part of field C6 (the field closest to Alderton). Field parcels C1, C6, C8, and C10 have either been removed entirely or had Solar PV Panels taken out, meaning the Scheme is now set further back from Alderton to reduce impacts on the setting of the Cotswolds National Landscape. Additionally, Solar PV Panels in part of Field A1 and all of Field A11, near Sherston, have been removed. These areas will now be used for ecological mitigation and enhancement.
Landscape and visual	The visual impact of the Scheme is fully assessed in the LVIA – ES Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [EN010168/APP/6.1]. The overall scale of development within the red line boundary has been significantly reduced from the PEIR layout, following an iterative design process and consultation feedback. Panels near the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape and along the Fosse Way have been removed. The LVIA has assessed all relevant landscape and visual receptors and identified where significant effects occur. The Scheme has been notably reduced in line with the mitigation hierarchy to avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse impacts.

Flood risk and hydrology	The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [EN010168/APP/6.3], as set out in ES Volume 1, Chapter 11: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010168/APP/6.1], have been developed in line with national policy, best practice, and in consultation with the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority to ensure robust and proportionate mitigation. As a result, no increase in flood risk is expected on or off site, including for nearby communities and downstream areas. Embedded mitigation and design measures will be secured through the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12] and finalised at detailed design.
Ecology and biodiversity	The management of retained and newly created habitats is set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Outline LEMP) [EN010168/APP/7.18], which includes a comprehensive ecological monitoring programme to ensure habitats establish as intended, with remedial actions if needed. Implementation is secured by Requirement, and failure to comply is a criminal offence. A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment and completed DEFRA Metric have been submitted with the DCO application in Volume 7: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.8] and Appendix Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation [EN010168/APP/7.9], providing a standardised, quantifiable approach to demonstrate the Scheme will deliver a net gain for biodiversity.
Cultural heritage	ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [EN010168/APP/6.1], with supporting appendices in Volume 3 (12.1 to 12.7 [EN010168/APP/6.3]), assesses the potential impacts of the Scheme on archaeological and built heritage assets. The design includes setbacks and removal of panels from fields next to the Fosse Way. Palisade fencing will only be used where necessary for health and safety around high voltage equipment (e.g. Substation and BESS); elsewhere, deer stock fencing will be used around PV areas. High-security fencing is therefore not proposed on both sides of the Fosse Way.
Public amenity and community benefit	The Applicant recognises that any adverse effects of the Scheme are likely to be felt more locally, while the benefits are broader in scale. The Scheme is expected to deliver local benefits, including new permissive paths to improve countryside access, enhanced landscape planting through strengthened hedgerows and new trees, and biodiversity net gains through habitat improvements. In addition, the Applicant is committed to establishing a Community Benefit Fund to support community-led initiatives unrelated to the Scheme itself, as a way of recognising and contributing to local needs affected by the Scheme.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this document

- 2.1.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared by the Applicant. It forms part of the application (the Application) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) that has been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero for the Scheme. The Application is required under s31 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1).
- 2.1.2 The Applicant recognises the importance of consulting on the Scheme from an early stage and the benefits this can bring in respect of delivering an improved Scheme.
- 2.1.3 Pre-application consultation forms an important part of the planning and development process, and the Planning Act 2008 requires developers to publicise their proposals widely. It also requires developers to consult with local communities, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by a proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
- 2.1.4 This report has been prepared by the Applicant in accordance with s37(3)(c) and s37(7) of the Planning Act 2008. It details the consultation undertaken under s42, s47, and s48 of the Planning Act 2008 and how this consultation has been informed by associated legislation and guidance. This includes guidance on the Pre-application stage under s50 of the Planning Act 2008. It also details how responses to consultation have been taken into account in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008. **Chapter 3** of this report sets this out in more detail.
- 2.1.5 **Table 2-1** presents the structure of this Consultation Report. The document has been structured through consideration of the chronological order of consultation activities and the relevant sections of the Planning Act 2008.

Table 2-1 Structure and explanation of Consultation Report sections

Report chapter	Overview
Executive Summary	Summarises the purpose of the Consultation Report, the context for the Scheme, how communities and stakeholders were engaged throughout the pre-application process, the level of response and key areas where feedback has informed the development of the Scheme's design.
Introduction	Introduces the Scheme, provides an overview of the pre-application consultation undertaken, and sets out the structure and information presented in the Consultation Report.
Legislation, guidance and advice	Sets out the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and accompanying guidance, which the Applicant's consultation has complied with.

Report chapter	Overview
Non-statutory consultation and engagement (March to October 2024)	A summary of how the Applicant undertook non-statutory engagement, including a non-statutory phase of consultation on early-stage proposals. This includes an overview of the consultation responses received.
Consultation under EIA Regulations	Describes how the Applicant has consulted according to the EIA Regulations.
Preparation for Statutory Consultation (Oct 2024 to Jan 2025)	Sets out how the Applicant prepared for statutory s47 consultation including the development and publication of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
Statutory Consultation under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (January to March 2025)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted with the community in accordance with s47 of the Planning Act 2008 and the SoCC.
Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (January to March 2025)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) with prescribed consultees, Local Planning Authorities and those with an interest in the land in accordance with s42, s43 and s44 of the Planning Act 2008.
Statutory Consultation under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (January to March 2025)	Describes the development and publication of the s48 notice and s48 consultation.
Account of feedback and the Applicant's response to the Statutory Consultation under Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008	A summary of the responses received to the s47 community consultation and s42 consultation, presented by theme or EIA topic. The Applicant details how it has had regard to those responses in accordance with s49 of the Planning Act 2008.
Targeted Consultation (June to July 2025)	Describes targeted consultation undertaken on fifteen specific proposed changes to the Scheme boundary.
Ongoing consultation activities and Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)	Describes ongoing engagement with stakeholders beyond the close of statutory and targeted consultation, including details on discussions, meetings and SoCGs reached.
Conclusion	The Applicant's concluding remarks on the pre-application consultation undertaken.

2.2 Overview of the Scheme

2.2.1 The Scheme will comprise the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) panel array electricity generating station, with associated infrastructure, and landscaping, heritage, sustainable drainage and biodiversity mitigation areas.

- 2.2.2 The Scheme comprises five land parcels, Lime Down A, B, C, D and E (hereafter collectively referred to as the ‘Solar PV Sites’), a Cable Route Corridor and works to the existing National Grid Melksham Substation. The Solar PV Sites will comprise land for solar PV and battery storage, associated infrastructure, and landscaping, heritage, sustainable drainage and biodiversity mitigation areas.
- 2.2.3 The Cable Route Corridor comprises a 400 kV underground corridor of approximately 22 km in length from Lime Down D to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) and connecting to the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation, as well as connecting each of the Solar PV Sites.
- 2.2.4 The landscape within and surrounding the Solar PV Sites comprises predominantly agricultural fields and rural villages and hamlets, including Sherston (approximately 300 m north of Lime Down A), Luckington (approximately 830 m west of Lime Down C), Corston (approximately 480 m east of Lime Down D), Hullavington (approximately 700 m south of Lime Down D), and Rodbourne (approximately 150 m southeast of Lime Down E). The town of Malmesbury is located approximately 3 km northeast of Lime Down B.
- 2.2.5 A full description of the Scheme is provided in **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.
- 2.2.6 The Scheme would be contained within the Order Limits (also referred to as the Site) which contains all elements of the Scheme which comprises a Solar PV Sites, the Cable Route Corridor and Highway Improvement Areas (shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 1-2: The Order Limits [EN010168/APP/6.2]** and described further in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Order Limits [EN010168/APP/6.1]**).
- 2.2.7 The Scheme meets the criteria to be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. The Scheme is a ‘generating station’ NSIP under s15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 as it is an onshore generating station in England that does not generate electricity from wind and would have a total generating capacity that exceeds 50MW.
- 2.2.8 The Order Limits comprise 1,237 ha of land located largely within the administrative area of Wiltshire Council, with small areas of existing highway within the administrative area of South Gloucestershire Council as shown on the **Location Plan [EN010168/APP/2.1]**.

2.3 Approach to consultation

- 2.3.1 The Applicant recognises that consultation is a vital tool in the development of project design. It is committed to continuing to provide opportunities for interested parties to learn about the Scheme and share their views. The Applicant intends to work collaboratively with local people and organisations to deliver the Scheme sensitively and in cohesion with the local environment.
- 2.3.2 Throughout the pre-application process, the Applicant has welcomed feedback on the Scheme from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers. The outcome of this consultation

and engagement is presented in this Consultation Report. The consideration of all feedback received is explained in **Chapter 10** of this report.

2.4 Pre-application consultation overview

2.4.1 The Applicant has undertaken statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements set by the Planning Act 2008.

2.4.2 In accordance with s42, s47 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has undertaken pre-application consultation on the Scheme ahead of submission of the Application to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:

- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with s42(1)(a));
- Local authorities (in accordance with s42(1)(b) and as set out in s43(1));
- Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with s42(1)(d) and as set out in s44);
- Community and other organisations in the “vicinity” of the Scheme who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Scheme (in accordance with s47); and
- Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Scheme (in accordance with s48).

2.4.3 The key stages of pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant are set out in **Table 2-2**.

Table 2-2 Pre-application stages of consultation activities undertaken

Date	Consultation undertaken
10 October 2023	Scheme introduction with Wiltshire Council. Between October 2023 and March 2024, the Applicant contacted officers and political leaders from the local authority, Wiltshire Council, based on the administrative boundaries for the Scheme. This engagement was organised to introduce the Scheme. This also included holding the following meetings: • Wiltshire Council Director of Planning and Head of Development Management – Virtual – 08/11/2023 • Wiltshire Council Director of Planning – Virtual – 13/11/2023 • Wiltshire Council Director of Planning – 01/12/2023 • Wiltshire Council Full Cabinet – In person – 15/01/2024
05 March 2024	Scheme introduction and ongoing engagement and consultation with local authorities and political stakeholders. Prior to the start of non-statutory Stage One consultation in March 2024, the Applicant contacted consultees including Wiltshire Council,

Date	Consultation undertaken
	MPs and Parish clerks. Engagement with these bodies has been ongoing throughout the pre-application period. The Applicant also commenced engagement with locally elected members and representatives including ward and parish councillors and Members of Parliament (MPs) through briefing meetings. For example, the Applicant introduced the proposals to parish councils and elected ward members by issuing digital communications to them on 05 March 2025 describing the Scheme and providing advance notice of the upcoming consultation. This also included holding the following meetings: • Wiltshire Council Communications Officer – Virtual – 05/04/24 • Cllr Martin Smith (Sherston) – Virtual – 12/03/24 • Cllr Phil Alford (Melksham Without North & Shurngold) – Virtual – 14/03/24 • Cllr John Buckley (Luckington & Alderton PC) – Virtual – 14/03/24 • Melksham Without PC - In person – 18/03/24 • Hullavington PC – In-person – 10/04/24 • Corsham TC – In-person – 24/05/24 • Cllr Phil Alford (Melksham Without North & Shurngold) - Virtual – 31/05/24 • Melksham Without PC – In-person – 12/06/24 • Chair [REDACTED] & Cllr Alice Beer (Little Somerford PC) - Virtual – 01/07/24 • [REDACTED] (Sopworth Parish Meeting) - Virtual – 17/07/24 • Luckington & Alderton PC – In-person – 17/07/24 • Cllr John Buckley (Luckington & Alderton PC) - In-person – 06/11/24 • Wiltshire Council Planning Officer – In-person – 06/11/24 • Wiltshire Council Officers Scheme and Statutory Consultation Briefing – In-person – 13/01/25 • Wiltshire Council Cllrs Scheme and Statutory Consultation Briefing – Virtual – 20/01/25 • Sherston Parish Council – Virtual – 03/02/25 • Malmesbury Town Council – Virtual – 28/02/25 • Cllr John Buckley (Luckington & Alderton PC) - Virtual – 12/03/25 • Corsham Town Council – Virtual – 12/03/2025 The Applicant approached MPs by email on 05 March 2024 to offer a briefing. The team met with MPs throughout the pre-application process to date as follows: • MP Michelle Donelan – In person – 13/04/24 • MP Roz Savage – In person – 13/06/24 • MP Brian Mathew – In person – 26/09/24

Date	Consultation undertaken
	• MP Brian Mathew – Virtual – 15/01/25 • MP Roz Savage – Phone call – 06/02/25 • MP Sarah Gibson – In person – 27/02/25 • MP Sarah Gibson – Virtual – 29/04/25 • MP Roz Savage – In person – 09/05/25
14 March – 26 April 2024	Stage One community consultation (non-statutory) The Applicant held its Stage One non-statutory consultation for just over six weeks (43 days) from 14 March to 26 April 2024. The aim of this initial consultation was to introduce the Scheme, present early-stage proposals for the Scheme and give individuals and interested parties the opportunity to share their views. During this non-statutory consultation period, the Applicant held six in-person information events and two online webinars, as follows: • Friday 22 March 2024 – 15:30 to 19:30 – Sherston Village Hall, High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LQ • Saturday 23 March 2024 – 11:00 to 15:00 – Hullavington Village Hall, Hill Hayes Lane, Hullavington, Chippenham, SN14 6EB • Monday 25 March 2024 – Grittleton Village Hall, The Street, Grittleton, Chippenham, SN14 6AW • Wednesday 27 March 2024 – Virtual webinar (Zoom) • Thursday 09 April 2024 – 15:30 to 19:30 – Goss Croft Hall, Startley Road, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 5HD • Wednesday 10 April 2024 – 15:30 to 19:30 – Corsham Town Council Hall, Town Hall, 65 High St, Corsham, SN13 0EZ • Thursday 11 April 2024 – 14:00 to 18:00 – Corsham Town Council Hall, Town Hall, 65 High St, Corsham, SN13 0EZ • Wednesday 17 April 2024 – 17:30 to 19:00 – Virtual webinar (Zoom) The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by: • Distributing a consultation postcard to over 11,400 local homes and businesses; • Advertising the events across local media; • Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display; • Providing details of the events on the Scheme website; • Wider publicity via a press release, which was sent to more than fifteen local publications; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.
16 July 2024	Scoping Report submitted The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 16 July 2024.

Date	Consultation undertaken
	Through this report, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate that it intended to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Scheme pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations.
22 August 2024	Scoping Opinion A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 22 August 2024 and included the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations.
22 October – 28 October	Feedback sought on early working draft of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC with Wiltshire Council on 22 October 2024, prior to issuing the draft SoCC for formal consultation on 30 October 2024. At the same time feedback was also sought by the Applicant from Wiltshire Council on a draft list of gateway organisations and local groups for inclusion in the SoCC.
24 October 2024	Stage One Consultation Summary Report The Applicant published a Stage One Consultation Summary Report to summarise the feedback received during the Stage One consultation and how this feedback was being considered to inform the Scheme. The Stage One Consultation Summary Report was: • Shared by email and/or post with key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors, parish councils) and individuals who had registered to be kept informed; • Uploaded to the Scheme website; and • Wider publicity via a press release, which was sent to 33 email addresses covering at least nineteen local publications and members of Wiltshire Council's Communications team.
30 October – 06 December 2024	Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with local authority under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 The Applicant consulted with the s43(1) local authority on the draft SoCC between 30 October and 06 December 2024.
14 January 2025	Publication of SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008
27 January 2025	Notification to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008
29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025	Stage Two Consultation (statutory under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008) and Publication of PEIR and Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR The Applicant published a PEIR on 29 January 2025 to be consulted upon as part of a statutory consultation under s42, s47 and s48 of

Date	Consultation undertaken
	the Planning Act 2008 with prescribed consultees and the community (Stage Two consultation). The Applicant undertook consultation on the PEIR from 29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025 (providing a 49-day consultation response period and therefore exceeding the 28-day requirement). s42 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of statutory consultation on or before 29 January 2025 by written letter and/or email. The consultation documents provided to s42 consultees comprised of: • A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials; and • A copy of the notice publicising the application under s48 of the Planning Act 2008 (including details of the community information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge). • Notices were published in accordance with s48 of the Planning Act 2008. The PEIR and PEIR Non-technical Summary (NTS) were made available to s42 consultees and the community as part of the Stage Two Consultation via: • The Scheme website; • In hard copy form at the community information events; and • In hard copy form at the Community Access Point (CAPs), which included: ○ Corsham Library, Springfield Community Campus, Beechfield Road, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 9DN; ○ Melksham Library, Melksham Community, Campus Market Place Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6ES; ○ Malmesbury Library, 24 Cross Hayes Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BG; and ○ Chippenham Library, Timber Street, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3EJ. Details of how to access the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided via: • The Scheme website; • The community consultation leaflet; • The s42 letter; and • The s48 notice. Details of how to obtain hard copies of the consultation documents, including requests for materials in an alternative format such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments or in an alternative language for those who do not speak English as their first language, were also provided. During Stage Two consultation the Applicant held eight in-person information events, and two online webinars as follows:

Date	Consultation undertaken
	• Wednesday 05 February 2025 – 18:30 to 20:00 – Online webinar (via Zoom) • Friday 07 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Sherston Village Hall, High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LQ • Saturday 08 February 2025 – 11:00 to 15:00 – Hullavington Village Hall, Hill Hayes Lane, Hullavington, Chippenham, SN14 6EB • Wednesday 12 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Grittleton Village Hall, The Street, Grittleton, Chippenham, SN14 6AW • Thursday 13 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Corsham Town Council Hall, Town Hall, 65 High Street, Corsham, SN13 0EZ • Friday 14 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, SN16 9BZ • Saturday 15 February 2025 – 11:00 to 15:00 – Luckington Village Hall, Bristol Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6NP • Tuesday 25 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Goss Croft Hall, Startley Road, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, SN15 5HD • Wednesday 26 February 2025 – 17:30 to 20:30 – Shaw CofE Primary School, Corsham Road, Shaw, Melksham, SN12 8EQ • Thursday 27 February 2025 – 18:30 to 20:30 – Online webinar (via Zoom) The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by: • Distributing a community consultation leaflet to over 14,180 local homes and business; • Distributing a press release containing details of the consultation to over 30 regional media publications (as listed in the SoCC, such as BBC Points West and Melksham Independent News); • Distributing posters to over 60 identified local information points for them to display (as listed in the SoCC, including village halls, churches and community centres); • Distributing hard copies of consultation documents to the four CAPs (i.e. the libraries listed above); • Providing details of the community information events on the Scheme website; and • Contacting identified key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors and parish councils) and individuals who had registered to be kept informed. The Applicant invited feedback from the community via a paper Feedback Form, an online Feedback Form, and feedback to the Scheme communication channels over a stated 49-day response period.
03 June to 11 July 2025	Targeted consultation on a series of localised changes to the Scheme boundary The Applicant carried out a further round of targeted consultation for the Scheme, focusing on fifteen specific changes which resulted in small increases to the development boundary area compared to the

Date	Consultation undertaken
	boundary presented in the PEIR for Stage Two Statutory Consultation. The Applicant published an Information Change Note and accompanying maps and plans to inform this consultation. These materials were made available from the Scheme website, by request, and in hard copy from six CAPs: • Corsham Library; • Melksham Library; • Malmesbury Library; • Chippenham Library; • Chipping Sodbury Community Library; and • Yate Library. The Applicant notified s42 consultees by letter. The Applicant publicised the targeted consultation by a Community Newsletter distributed to the Core Consultation Zone (as presented in the SoCC), writing to properties within 200m of the proposed changes, erecting site notices, and through media publicity.

2.5 Summary of consultation activity

2.5.1 Pre-application consultation activity included five main elements of engagement: non-statutory consultation, developing the Statement of Community Consultation, statutory consultation, targeted consultation and further ongoing engagement. **Table 2-3** provides a summary of activity undertaken over the course of pre-application consultation in each of these stages.

Table 2-3 Summary of pre-application consultation activity

Consultation activity	Date	Chapter of report
Non-statutory consultation		
Initial early engagement with local authorities, statutory consultees, community representatives and elected members, site near neighbours and regional media. (Chapter 4, section 4.2 and 4.3)	October 2023 to March 2024	Chapter 4
Stage One - non-statutory public consultation (Chapter 4, section 4.4)	14 March to 26 April 2024	
Developing the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)		
Informal engagement with host local authority	22 October to 28 October 2024	Chapter 6

Consultation activity	Date	Chapter of report
Statutory consultation of host local authorities on the SoCC pursuant to s47(2) and (3) of the Planning Act 2008	30 October to 6 December 2024	
Notice of availability of SoCC in the vicinity of the proposals as prescribed by s47(6) of the Planning Act 2008	14 January 2025	
SoCC made available in vicinity of the proposal and online as prescribed by s47(6) of the Planning Act 2008	14 January to 19 March 2025	
SoCC Errata made available in vicinity of the proposal and online as prescribed by s47(6) of the Planning Act 2008	27 January to 19 March 2025	
Statutory Consultation		
Proposed application publicised as prescribed by s48 of the Planning Act 2008 (for Prescribed Consultees only) (Chapter 9, section 9.3)	16 January to 24 January 2025	Chapter 9
Notification of the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application as prescribed by s46 of the Planning Act 2008 (Chapter 8, section 8.5)	27 January 2025	Chapter 8
Consultation in accordance with the SoCC as prescribed under s47(7) of the Planning Act 2008	29 January to 19 March 2025	Chapter 7
Consultation as prescribed under s42 of the Planning Act 2008	29 January to 19 March 2025	Chapter 8
Further engagement after Statutory Consultation		
Targeted consultation on changes to the proposed development boundary of the Scheme (now the Order Limits)	3 June to 11 July 2025	Chapter 11
Further engagement throughout preparation of the application		
Ongoing non-statutory engagement prior to submission of DCO application	April 2024 to Sep 2025	Chapter 12

2.6 Covering Letter and Completed Section 55 Checklist

2.6.1 As well as preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has set out how it has complied with guidance and advice on consultation in the Cover letter and Schedule of Compliance with s55 [EN010168/APP/1.1] that is also part of the DCO application documents.

3 Legislation, guidance and advice

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 This Consultation Report is submitted with the Application in accordance with s37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008.
- 3.1.2 Relevant responses are defined in s49(3) of Planning Act 2008 as responses received to the consultation under s42, s47 and s48 of Planning Act 2008 by the deadline published. The Applicant has also taken account of late responses received after the consultation period ended.
- 3.1.3 Pre-application consultation under s42 of the Planning Act 2008 has taken place with:
- Prescribed bodies (statutory consultees), being those listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP 2009) (Ref 2) and those specified by the Planning Inspectorate in the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 3);
 - Additional bodies in line with updated guidance from the Planning Inspectorate and the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024, published May 2024 (Ref 4);
 - Non-statutory bodies treated as prescribed by the Applicant, including local representative groups, representatives of community-based groups and member organisations;
 - Local authorities, in accordance with s42(1)(b) and s43(1) of the Planning Act 2008; and
 - Persons with an interest in land or persons who would or might be eligible to make a relevant claim, in accordance with s42(1)(d) and s44 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 3.1.4 Pre-application consultation under s47 has taken place with:
- The local community i.e. those living within the vicinity of the Scheme. Any interested members of the community were welcome to take part in consultation activities. To proactively promote consultation opportunities, the Applicant defined a Core Consultation Zone (as described in **Chapter 7** of this report);
 - Local elected representatives including parish councils and members of Wiltshire Council and South Gloucestershire Council; and
 - Members of Parliament (MPs) for Chippenham, Melksham and Devizes, South Cotswolds, and Thornbury and Yate.

- 3.1.5 Pre-application consultation has also taken place in accordance with s48 of the Planning Act 2008 through publicity of the Scheme, as described in **Chapter 9** of this report.

3.2 Relevant legislation and guidance

- 3.2.1 The Applicant has considered and complied with the following legislation and guidance when undertaking the pre-application consultation and when compiling the Consultation Report:

- The Planning Act 2008;
- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) Regulations 2017;
- The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP 2009);
- The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024;
- Department for Communities and Local Government Planning Act 2008; Guidance on the pre-application process (2015) (DCLG Guidance) (Ref 5);
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (updated May 2025) (Ref 6);
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (updated March 2025) (Ref 7);
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (January 2024) (Ref 8);
- The Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning Guidance (April 2024) (Ref 9);
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 1 (the Guidance) (published 30 April 2024) (Ref 10); and
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus (updated May 2025) (Ref 11).

- 3.2.2 A table setting out how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance is presented in **Appendix A: Statement of Compliance [EN010168/APP/5.2]** of this Consultation Report.

3.3 Planning Act 2008 Section 50: Guidance about pre-application procedure

- 3.3.1 The Applicant is cognisant of updated guidance issued in April 2024 under s50 of the Planning Act 2008, and that pre-application consultation for the Scheme had already commenced ahead of this.
- 3.3.2 Specifically, the Applicant notes that the Stage One (non-statutory) consultation for the Scheme was designed, and activities undertaken prior to the current s50 guidance coming into force. This non-statutory consultation was instead undertaken consistent with the former s50 guidance: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 Guidance on the pre-application process (2015).
- 3.3.3 The Government's general guidance "Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning Guidance" (April 2024) includes transitional arrangements to provide for where guidance is revised and applicants have commenced their pre-application consultation. The "Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning Guidance" (April 2024) confirms that *"it is not the intention for revisions to guidance to compromise the preparation or progress of applications which are already well underway."*
- 3.3.4 The Applicant's approach has therefore been to adopt the current s50 guidance following its publication in April 2024, but not to revisit non-statutory consultation already undertaken under the former s50 guidance.
- 3.3.5 The Applicant notes the overarching consistency between the former and current s50 guidance and has incorporated additional requirements – such as the submission of an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document – into the pre-application programme for the Scheme.
- 3.3.6 **Appendix A: Statement of Compliance [EN010168/APP/5.2]** sets out how the Applicant carried out its consultation under the former s50 guidance (the DCLG Guidance) for the time it was in force, and how it has since reviewed the updated s50 Guidance and ensured compliance with its requirements throughout all subsequent periods of consultation.
- 3.3.7 For example, the Applicant prepared and issued a written statement regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone under the Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning Guidance (April 2024) Guidance.
- 3.3.8 The Applicant considers its approach is satisfactory and robustly outlines how the Applicant has managed both former and current Section 50 guidance whilst these were, respectively, in force.

4 Non-statutory consultation and engagement (October 2023 – October 2024)

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This chapter summarises non-statutory consultation carried out by the Applicant in relation to the Scheme. This includes early engagement from October 2023 to March 2024, how the approach to consultation was developed, a period of non-statutory consultation held for just over six weeks (43 days) from 14 March to 26 April 2024, and engagement carried out by the Applicant following the non-statutory consultation and prior to statutory consultation. It is supported by **Appendix C: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

4.1.2 Non-statutory consultation activities comprised:

- Pre-consultation engagement with political stakeholders and relevant local authorities. This engagement was designed to help inform the consultation process; and
- Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation period involving:
 - Communities and stakeholder organisations in the vicinity of the Scheme who may be affected directly or indirectly;
 - Wider communities and stakeholders; and
 - Local Councils, Parish Councils and Elected Ward Members.

4.1.3 The Stage One non-statutory consultation period was held from 14 March to 26 April 2024.

4.2 Early engagement with Local Planning Authorities

4.2.1 Between October 2023 and March 2024, the Applicant contacted officers and political leaders from the local authority, Wiltshire Council, based on the administrative boundaries for the Scheme.

4.2.2 The Applicant contacted the Director of Planning at Wiltshire Council on Tuesday 10 October 2023. The purpose of this initial contact was to introduce the Scheme (the elements of which have changed since this initial correspondence) and arrange and hold an introductory meeting between them and the Applicant.

4.2.3 The Applicant issued a follow up communication to the Director of Planning at Wiltshire Council on Friday 01 December 2023 to arrange and hold a meeting between them and the Applicant in which the Applicant could provide updated details on the Scheme.

4.2.4 The Applicant further contacted the Director of Planning at Wiltshire Council on Thursday 14 December 2023. The purpose of this contact was to discuss the upcoming January 2024 Wiltshire Council Full Cabinet briefing and

provide an opportunity for the Director of Planning to advise on key points and considerations the Applicant should address in the briefing.

- 4.2.5 Following these communications, a series of early engagement meetings were arranged and held by the Applicant. **Table 4-1** provides a summary of the early engagement meetings held between November 2023 and March 2024.

Table 4-1 Engagement meetings held by the Applicant as a result of pre-consultation outreach

Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Format	Overview
Wiltshire Council Director of Planning and Head of Development Management	Wednesday 08 November 2023	Virtual	Online presentation by the Applicant to introduce the Scheme and provide details of key milestones and upcoming consultation and engagement, followed by a question-and-answer discussion with attendees.
Wiltshire Council Director of Planning	Monday 13 November 2023	Virtual	Update meeting to discuss arranging briefings by the Applicant to the Wiltshire Council Senior Leadership team.
Wiltshire Council Director of Planning	Friday 01 December 2023	Virtual	Meeting to further discuss arrangements for briefings to the Wiltshire Council Senior Leadership team.
Wiltshire Council Full Cabinet	Monday 15 January 2024	In-person	Presentation by the Applicant to introduce the Scheme and provide details of key milestones, followed by a question-and-answer discussion with attendees.

4.3 Pre-consultation engagement

- 4.3.1 The Applicant identified key stakeholders potentially interested in the Scheme owing to their constituencies or areas represented falling within a zone of likely effects (either permanent or temporary). Pre-consultation engagement was undertaken with these stakeholders to help inform the approach to consultation. This included:
- Members of Parliament (MPs) who represent constituencies within the proposed development boundary for the Scheme and neighbouring constituencies, wards and parishes; and
 - Lead Officers, elected members and parish councils representing the immediate and neighbouring wards and parishes to the proposed development boundary for the Scheme.
- 4.3.2 Letters and emails were issued to James Gray MP (North Wiltshire (now South Cotswolds)) and Michelle Donelan MP (Chippenham) on 05 March 2025 to introduce the Scheme and offer an in-person or virtual meeting prior to the Stage One consultation commencing on 14 March 2024. An example of the letter and email sent is provided in **Appendix C-1: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.3.3 Letters and/or emails were also sent to officers and elected members at relevant local authorities, parish councils and other key stakeholders, offering to discuss the proposals further. An example of the letter and email sent is provided in **Appendix C-1: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.3.4 **Table 4-2** includes the Stage One consultation briefing meetings that were held following this communication. The purpose of these briefing meetings was to introduce the Scheme, explore the emerging plans and discuss the approach to consultation.

Table 4-2 Stage One consultation briefing meetings held by the Applicant

Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Format of meeting
Wiltshire Council Communications Officer	05 April 2024	Virtual
Cllr Martin Smith (Sherston)	12 March 2024	Virtual
Cllr Phil Alford (Melksham Without North & Shurngold)	14 March 2024	Virtual
Cllr John Buckley (Luckington & Alderton Parish Council)	14 March 2024	Virtual
Melksham Without Parish Council	18 March 2024	In-person

Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Format of meeting
Hullavington Parish Council	10 April 2024	In-person
Michelle Donelan MP	13 April 2024	In-person

4.4 Approach to consultation

- 4.4.1 The Applicant's priority for the consultation was to be accessible to all who may have an interest in the Scheme.
- 4.4.2 This was enabled by a hybrid approach, with content, engagement tools and opportunities to provide feedback and comments made available both online and in-person/offline.
- 4.4.3 A Scheme website was published and became publicly accessible on 8 March 2024; copies of a selection of the webpages are provided in **Appendix C-4: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.4.4 The Scheme website has remained live and accessible from this date and continues to be updated with relevant information as appropriate.
- 4.4.5 Six in-person events were held to ensure those who preferred to avoid an online approach or with limited access to the internet were able to meet the Applicant team and discuss concerns and issues directly. Photographs taken during each event are provided in **Appendix C-5: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.4.6 Two live webinars took place and were recorded and available on the Scheme website alongside the presentation slides allowing those who could not attend any of the six in-person community events to participate fully in the process. A copy of the online community information event (webinar) presentation slides is provided in **Appendix C-3: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**. A copy of webinar joining instructions were available on the Scheme website and are provided in **Appendix C-5: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.4.7 Webinars included a live question and answer (Q&A) session where attendees could ask questions directly to relevant members of the Applicant team. Answers to questions that were not addressed live were uploaded to the Scheme website after the event and are provided in **Appendix C-5: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.4.8 The Applicant established a range of free-to-use communications channels for community enquiries and feedback regarding the Scheme. The Scheme communication channels include a Freephone number (0808 175 6656), a Freepost address FREEPOST LIME DOWN SOLAR, and an email address (info@limedownsolar.co.uk). The communication channels have been operational on Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays), 09:00 to 17:00, throughout the pre-application period.
- 4.4.9 Hard copy Information Leaflets and Feedback Forms were available to collect at in-person information events or upon request by contacting the

Applicant's community relations team by any of the free-to-use communication channels.

- 4.4.10 Consultation documents were available in large text or an alternative format upon request. The Scheme website, Information Leaflet, and Feedback Form included instructions to contact the community relations team to make such requests.
- 4.4.11 Anyone with an interest in the Scheme could register to receive updates and information about future consultation opportunities by providing their details in the 'About you' section of either the digital or paper Feedback Forms and opting to receive updates by post and/or email. Alternatively, they could register via the Scheme website, request updates by contacting the community relations team through free-to-use communication channels, or provide their contact details at an in-person event.

4.5 Non-statutory consultation (14 March to 26 April 2024)

Purpose

- 4.5.1 The aim of the Stage One consultation was to introduce the Applicant and present the emerging proposals for the Scheme; giving people living and working in the area and/or interested people and stakeholders the opportunity to share their views and local knowledge to help inform and influence the proposals from an early stage in the development process.
- 4.5.2 The Applicant sought to identify any wider potential local impacts of the Scheme and any opportunities for supporting local initiatives or projects to benefit communities closest to the Scheme.
- 4.5.3 The Applicant set out clear intention that communities living and working in proximity of the Scheme had the chance to inform and influence the development of the proposals.
- 4.5.4 Engagement was sought at this early non-statutory stage of consultation to inform people about the Applicant's proposals ahead of statutory consultation.
- 4.5.5 During the Stage One non-statutory consultation, the Applicant presented information including:
- Scheme location and site selection considerations;
 - The principle components of the solar park;
 - Three cable route search corridors an electrical connection could follow between the Solar PV Sites and Existing National Grid Melksham Substation;
 - An annotated Scheme location map;
 - The development process and indicative timeline;
 - The EIA process, work done so far, and assessments to be carried out;

- Community benefits;
- Biodiversity net gain (BNG); and
- Next steps in the development process.

4.5.6 The Applicant asked for views and invited feedback on:

- How respondents viewed the proposals at the early stage in the development process;
- What aspects of the proposals are most important to respondents, such as ecology and biodiversity or landscape and visual;
- The sites being considered for the location of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) which would be incorporated in the Scheme;
- Additional issues respondents would like to be considered as proposals develop;
- The broad route corridors in which underground cable could be routed to connect the Scheme to the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation;
- Suggestions or initiatives respondents would like to be explored to help facilitate or directly deliver wider benefits to the community and/or meet local needs; and
- The Stage One consultation and any suggestions respondents would like to be considered for future stages of consultation.

4.5.7 The Applicant also collected the following data to help understand any issues raised in more detail and to aid analysis:

- Contact details;
- If the respondent was responding on behalf of an organisation and, if so, the name of the organisation;
- Address and postcode;
- Age range;
- Description of the respondent's interest in the proposals, such as being a local resident, local representative, landowner, local business owner, regular visitor, local interest group member or statutory organisation;
- If respondents, as a principle, agreed with the need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK; and
- If respondents were supportive, neutral, did not support or needed further information to form an opinion, of the proposals at the early stage in the development process.

- 4.5.8 The Applicant also sought information and feedback on the Stage One consultation, to help refine their approach ahead of the Stage Two statutory consultation and development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), including:
- How respondents found out about the consultation;
 - Whether respondents attended a community information event; and
 - How informative respondents found the information events held and / or the consultation materials produced.
- 4.5.9 The Applicant also asked respondents if they would like to receive updates about the Scheme and future consultation opportunities by email and/or post.
- 4.5.10 The Applicant set out that respondents did not have to supply personal details; however, it would help to work together to meet the needs of the public during the consultation period and contact respondents regarding the Scheme, and that personal details were stored in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by Counter Context, acting on behalf of the Applicant team, and were not shared with any third parties.

Notification and publicity

- 4.5.11 To publicise the consultation and encourage responses, the Applicant distributed a consultation postcard to over 11,400 local homes and businesses within the vicinity of the Scheme. These properties were identified by being within a zone defined as a minimum of 2 kilometres (km) from the proposed solar development areas, and a minimum of 1 km from the cable route search corridors (as presented at the time of consultation). This zone was further extended to include additional properties where proportionate and reasonable based on existing boundaries in order to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities. The postcard was printed and distributed to arrive at properties before the consultation launched on 14 March 2024. A copy of the postcard is provided in **Appendix C-1: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.5.12 The Stage One Consultation Information Leaflet presented information on the Scheme at an early stage in the design process and publicised how to find out more information and respond to the consultation. A copy of the leaflet is included in **Appendix C-3: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.5.13 Information regarding the Scheme was published on the Applicant's dedicated Scheme website (www.limedownsolar.co.uk) on 14 March 2024; copies of a selection of the webpages are provided in **Appendix C-4: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**. This included details of the Scheme and Stage One consultation through text, images, documents, and maps and plans, to view and download from an online documents library.
- 4.5.14 Information regarding the Scheme, Stage One consultation opportunities, and the availability of the Scheme website and Scheme communication

channels was publicised through advertisement in local and regional newspapers, including:

- The Wiltshire Times, published on 15 March 2024;
- The Wiltshire Gazette and Herald, published on 14 March and 21 March 2024;
- The Swindon Advertiser, published on 14 March 2024 ; and
- The Melksham Independent News, published on 14 March and 28 March 2024 .

4.5.15 Copies of these newspaper advertisements and the front page of the newspaper on the day of publication are provided in **Appendix C-2: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

4.5.16 For wider publicity, a press release was also issued on 14 March 2024 to local publications, including:

- BBC Points West;
- BBC Radio Bristol;
- BBC Radio Wiltshire;
- BBC Wiltshire;
- Fosseway News;
- Salisbury Journal;
- Swindon Advertiser;
- Swindon Link;
- This is Wiltshire;
- Warminster Journal;
- West and North Wiltshire Star;
- Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard;
- Wiltshire Gazette and Herald;
- Wiltshire Life;
- Wiltshire Star; and
- Wiltshire Times.

4.5.17 A copy of this press release is provided in **Appendix C-2: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

4.5.18 Subsequent coverage included articles in the following publications:

- South West Farmer (19 March 2024);

- Daily Mail (22 March 2024);
- GB News (22 March 2024);
- Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard (26 March 2024);
- Swindon Advertiser (27 March 2024);
- Telegraph (01 April 2024);
- Daily Mail (02 April 2024);
- BBC News (03 April 2024);
- Shropshire Star (03 April 2024);
- Daily Express (03 April 2024);
- BBC News (05 April 2024);
- ITV News (04 April 2024);
- Master Investor (05 April 2024);
- South West Farmer (08 April 2024);
- ITV News (08 April 2024);
- Times (15 April 2024);
- Farmers Guardian (16 April 2024);
- BBC Points West (18 April 2024);
- ITV News – Westcountry and London (18 April 2024);
- Times (21 April 2024);
- Wiltshire Times (23 April 2024);
- Gazette and Herald (23 April 2024);
- Swindon Advertiser (23 April 2024);
- Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard (23 April 2024);
- South West Farmer (24 April 2024);
- BBC Radio Wiltshire (25 April 2024);
- BBC Points West (26 April 2024); and
- BBC News (26 April 2024).

4.5.19 A poster advertising the public consultation dates, including the event details and Scheme communication channels, was distributed to venues where in-person information events were taking place, the clerks of parish

councils for display on local parish notice boards, and other community venues and local information points. A copy of this poster is provided in **Appendix C-3: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

- 4.5.20 A Stage One community consultation Feedback Form was published to encourage responses. The form was available online, by request to the Scheme communications channels, and to complete or take away from the Applicant's series of in-person information events. The Feedback Form could be submitted to the Applicant by a Freepost address (FREEPOST Lime Down Solar), by email, or by attending an in-person information event. The same questions could be responded to online via an online Feedback Form linked to the Scheme website. A copy of the feedback form is provided in **Appendix C-3: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.5.21 The online Feedback Form included an end-page which confirmed that it had been completed and provided information on next steps. The end-page is provided in **Appendix C-6: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.5.22 An email auto-response confirmed receipt and directed recipients to view and download materials and information on the Stage One proposals. A copy of the auto-response is provided in **Appendix C-6: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.5.23 Written feedback received by Freepost or submitted during an in-person event and which included contact details was acknowledged in a letter posted to respondents on 05 May 2024. A copy of this letter is provided in **Appendix C-6: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.5.24 Consultation materials were uploaded to the document library section of the Scheme website. The following materials were uploaded on the first day of the consultation period (14 March 2024):
- Consultation Information Leaflet;
 - Feedback form;
 - Poster;
 - Consultation Postcard;
 - Advert; and
 - Event Display Panels.
- 4.5.25 The following maps and plans were also uploaded on the first day of the consultation period:
- Indicative Masterplan;
 - Lime Down A;
 - Lime Down B;
 - Lime Down C;

- Lime Down D;
- Lime Down E;
- Cable Corridor Search Area 1a;
- Cable Corridor Search Area 1b;
- Solar PV Sites; and
- Land at Melksham Substation.

4.5.26 Copies of these materials, maps and plans are provided in **Appendix C-3: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

4.5.27 During the Stage One consultation period, the Applicant held six in-person community information events and two online community webinars. These events provided an opportunity to discuss the Scheme with the Applicant and members of their team.

4.5.28 Large scale maps and a series of information boards were displayed at the in-person events. Copies of the Event Display Pannels are provided in **Appendix C-3: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**. Copies of the consultation leaflet and Feedback Form were available in hard copy to view and take away. Details of these events are provided in **Table 4-3** below.

Table 4-3 Stage One consultation community information events

Venue	Date and Time	No. attendees (approximate)
Community Information Events		
Sherston Village Hall, High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LQ	Friday 22 March, 15:30 – 19:30	263
Hullavington Village Hall, Hill Hayes Lane, Hullavington, Chippenham, SN14 6EB	Saturday 23 March, 11:00 – 15:00	153
Grittleton Village Hall, The Street, Grittleton, Chippenham, SN14 6AW	Monday 25 March, 13:30 - 17:30	82
Goss Croft Hall, Startley Road, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 5HD	Tuesday 09 April, 15:30 – 19:30	167
Corsham Town Council Hall, Town Hall, 65 High St, Corsham, SN13 0EZ	Wednesday 10 April, 15:30 – 19:30	107
Shaw Village Hall, The Beeches, Shaw, Melksham, SN12 8EW	Thursday 11 April, 14:00 – 18:00	191

Online Community Webinars		
Zoom (online webinar)	Wednesday 27 March, 17:30 – 19:00	64
Zoom (online webinar)	Wednesday 17 April, 17:30 – 19:00	40

4.6 Ongoing technical engagement

4.6.1 Technical engagement was undertaken with a range of stakeholders, principally regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), particularly on Scoping. Please see **Chapter 5** for information about consultation under EIA regulations and **Chapter 12** for more information about ongoing consultation activities.

4.7 Account of the outcomes from non-statutory engagement

Stage One consultation feedback

4.7.1 The Applicant invited feedback to be submitted in writing or online via the free-to-use Scheme communications channels.

4.7.2 In total, the Applicant received 1,331 submissions of feedback in response to the Stage One community consultation between 14 March and 26 April 2024. This included:

- 757 paper and online Feedback Forms;
- 539 emails; and
- 35 letters.

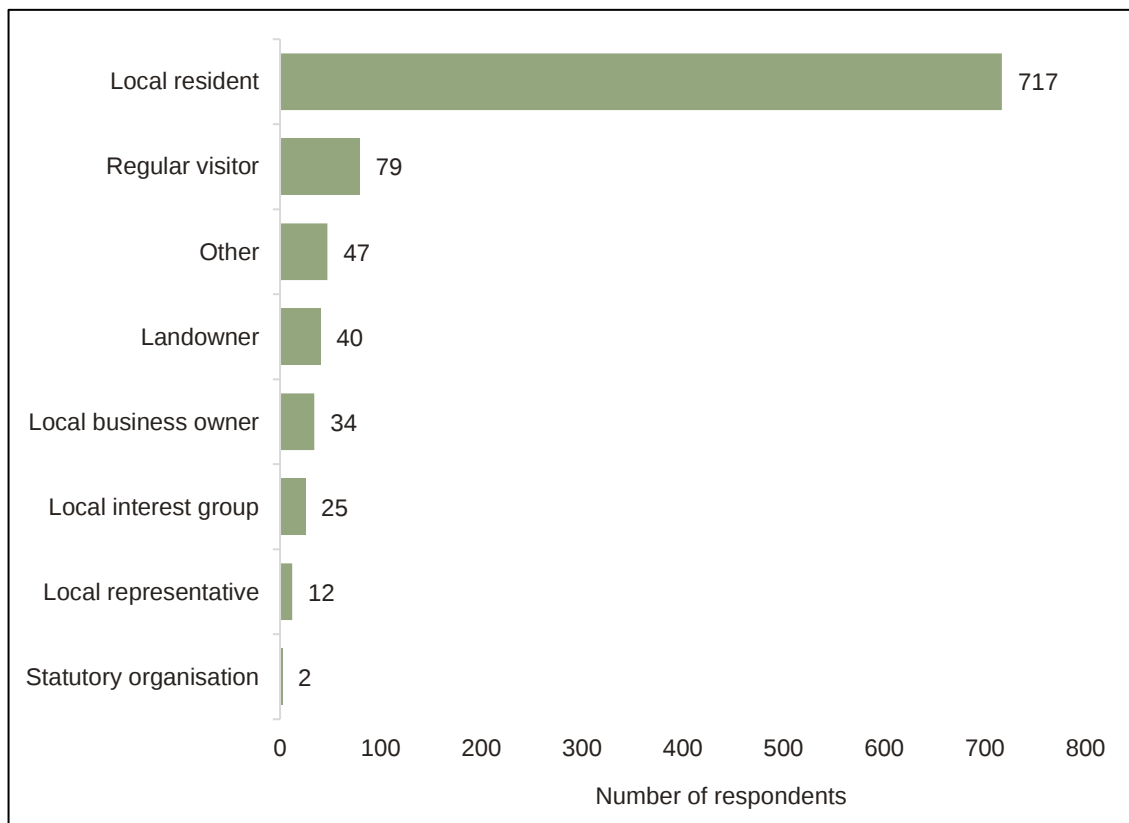
4.7.3 The Stage One consultation Feedback Form (both the paper copy and digital version) included a combination of closed and open-ended questions to encourage responses regarding the respondent's interest in the Scheme, the proposals, community benefits, and the consultation process.

4.7.4 Responses provided through the Feedback Form (online and paper) therefore included responses to closed (multiple choice) questions and open-ended responses.

4.7.5 The Applicant also recorded data where relevant information was specified in written submissions received by email or Freepost.

4.7.6 The quantitative data from the Stage One consultation Feedback Form closed questions and as specified in other written submissions was considered by the Applicant and is presented in the following figures.

Figure 4-1: Responses to Stage One consultation Feedback Form question “How would you describe your interest in Lime Down Solar Park?”

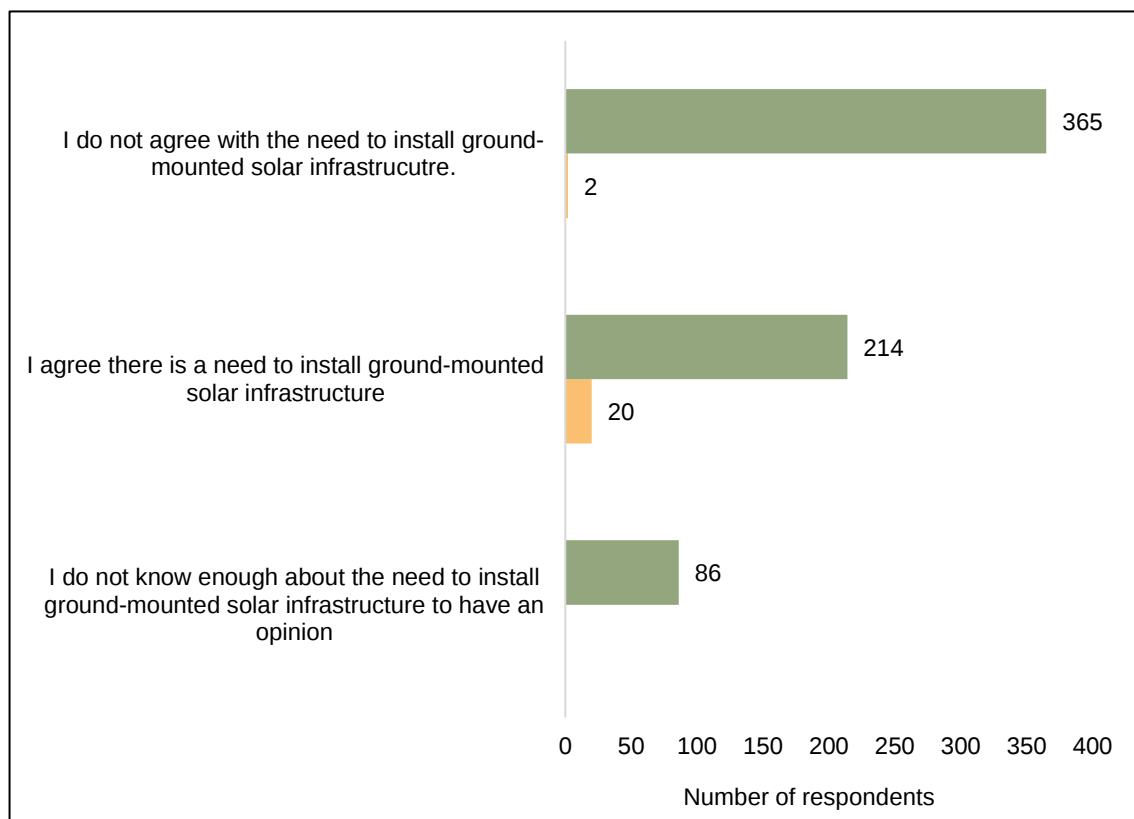


4.7.7 Community input is key to the development process, and the majority (79%) of feedback we received during Stage One consultation came from individuals who identified themselves as local residents, as indicated in **Figure 4-1**.

4.7.8 681 out of 752 people answered this question via digital Feedback Forms and hard copy Feedback Forms. 226 people voluntarily provided this information via Freepost or by email to the project inbox. These 226 responses have been provided in addition to the Feedback Forms. For example, 79% of respondents cited they were local residents. 4% said they were local business owners, but some respondents may have ticked both boxes.

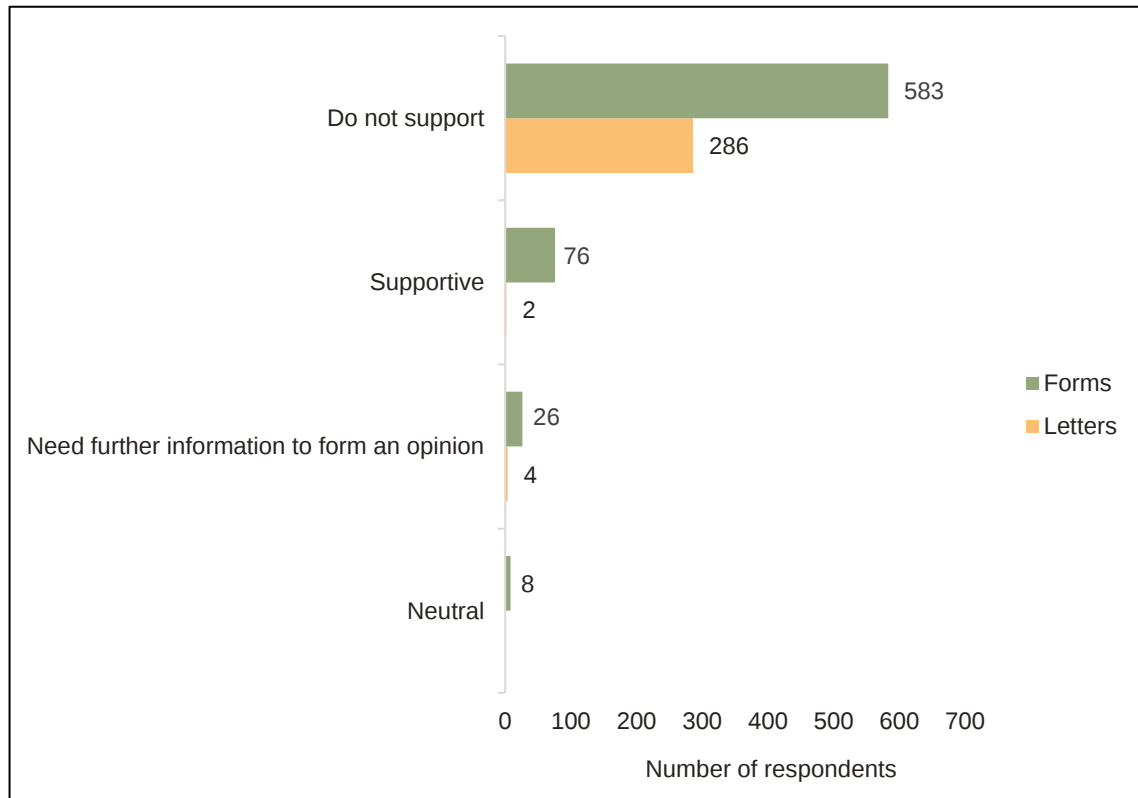
4.7.9 The Applicant also aimed to understand how members of the local community felt about solar energy in general, as well as about the early-stage proposals for the Scheme. As shown in **Figure 4-2** and **Figure 4-3**, most respondents (53%) did not agree with the need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure, and 88% did not support the Scheme proposals at this initial stage in the development process.

Figure 4-2: Responses to Stage One consultation Feedback Form question “As a principle do you agree there is a need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?”



- 4.7.10 665 out of 752 people answered this question via digital Feedback Forms and hard copy Feedback Forms. 22 people voluntarily provided this information via Freepost or by email to the project inbox. These 22 responses have been provided separately in **Figure 4-2**.

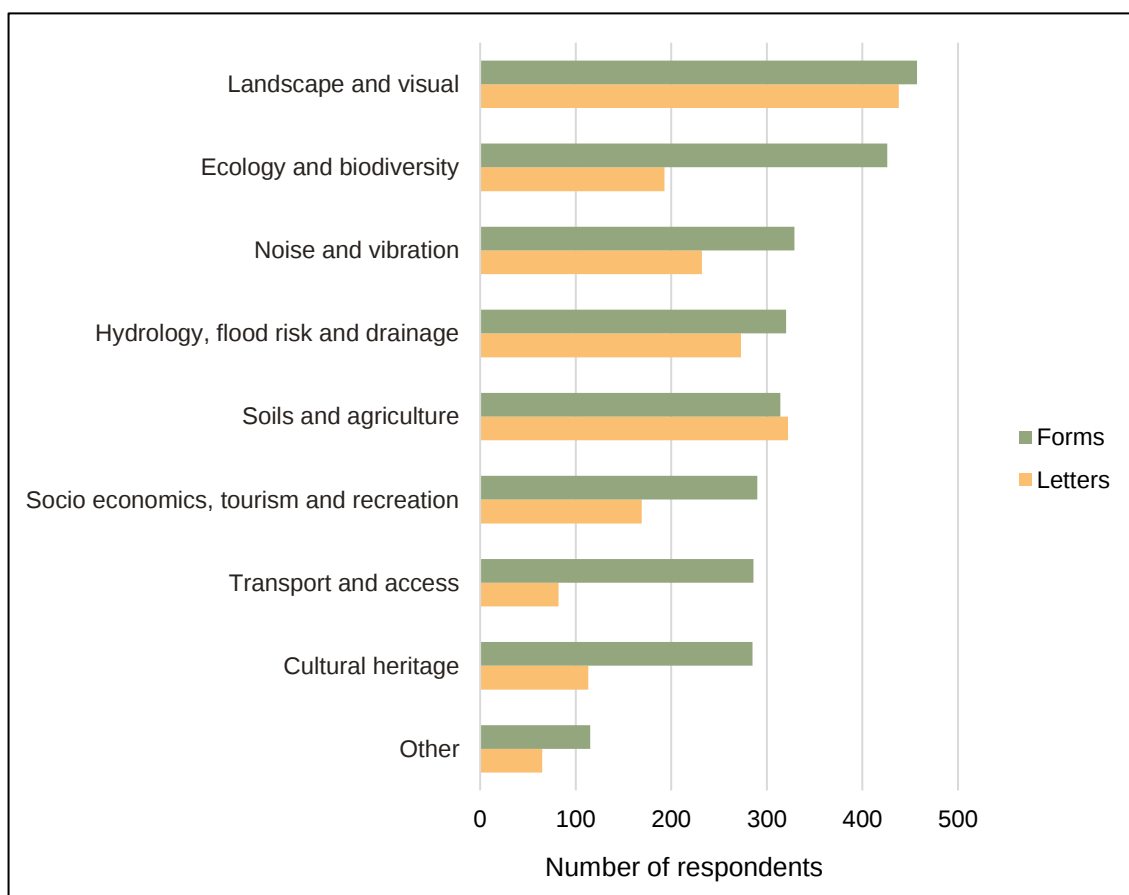
Figure 4-3: Responses to Stage One consultation Feedback Form question “What is your view of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park at this early stage in the development process?”



4.7.11 693 out of 752 people answered this question via digital Feedback Forms and hard copy Feedback Forms. 292 people voluntarily provided this information via Freepost or by email to the project inbox. These 292 responses have been provided separately in **Figure 4-3**.

- 4.7.12 The Applicant asked which aspects of the Scheme mattered to respondents most. The Applicant provided respondents the option to 'tick' from a list of key environmental themes which themes are most important to them. Respondents were also presented with an 'Other' box so they could speak to any other themes or areas of importance. The results are presented in **Figure 4-4**.

Figure 4-4: Responses to Stage One consultation Feedback Form question "Which aspects of the proposed project are most important to you?"



- 4.7.13 603 out of 752 respondents answered this question via digital Feedback Forms and hard copy Feedback Forms. 510 people voluntarily provided this information via Freepost or by email to the project inbox. These 510 responses have been provided separately in **Figure 4-4**.

4.7.14 The qualitative data from the open-ended responses to the Stage One consultation has been considered alongside written feedback received through email and Freepost. Themes raised through this qualitative analysis include:

- Landscape and visual, including size, loss of visual amenity, and impact to the Cotswold National Landscape (formerly known as the Cotswold AONB). Particular concern was noted for the visual impact of the BESS on the villages of Whitley and Shaw;
- Soils and agriculture, including loss of agricultural land, impact to food security, and soil quality;
- Ecology and biodiversity, including ancient woodlands, hedgerows, watercourses, a range of species (bats, farmland birds, owls, small mammals, amphibians, pollinating invertebrates and rare plants), and the impact of security fencing on movement;
- Hydrology, flood risk and drainage, including runoff from panels and battery storage;
- Noise and vibration, in particular during construction and operation, with particular concern noted for properties in proximity to battery storage;
- Socio-economics, tourism and recreation, including job creation, impact to tenant farmers and rural businesses, impact to footpaths, Public Rights of Way (PRoW), cyclists and equestrians;
- Cultural heritage, including the historic landscape, character of villages and communities, Listed Buildings, archaeology, and the Fosse Way;
- Transport and access, including traffic during construction, concern for damage to local roads, noise and pollution;
- Glint and glare, including potential impact to residential dwellings and roads, and safety concerns;
- Light pollution, including concern for sensor-lighting being frequently triggered by people and wildlife;
- Battery safety, including fire risk and contamination of nearby watercourses in the event of a fire;
- Community impact, including sense of rural identity, community cohesion, livelihoods, concern for impact to physical and mental health and wellbeing; and
- Community benefits, including a range of suggestions.

Consultation Summary Report

4.7.15 Following the Stage One consultation, the Applicant prepared and published a Consultation Summary Report to summarise the feedback

received and how this feedback was being used to inform the Scheme ahead of Stage Two consultation.

- 4.7.16 The Stage One Consultation Summary Report was published on 24 October 2024 and included a summary the issues raised and the Applicant's response at that point in the development of the Scheme.
- 4.7.17 For wider publicity, a press release was issued on 25 October 2024 and is provided in **Appendix C: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.7.18 A copy of the Stage One Consultation Summary Report, including the Applicant's response to feedback received, is provided in **Appendix C-7: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.7.19 Pages 7 to 17 of the Consultation Summary Report contain summary tables, organised by relevant EIA (such as those topics listed in Section 4.6.14), detailing how the Applicant considered the feedback received prior to the Stage Two consultation.

4.8 Ongoing engagement

- 4.8.1 The Applicant's communication channels remained open following the close of the Stage One consultation period. Through these channels, the Applicant continued to receive and respond to enquiries regarding the Scheme. A copy of the email auto-response is provided in **Appendix C-6: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.8.2 The Scheme website continued to be available for any interested parties to access information, including the Stage One consultation materials. Copies of the Scheme website webpages updated on 27 April 2024 after the close of consultation are provided in **Appendix C-4: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.8.3 The Applicant sent communications by email and/or post to key stakeholders on 17 July 2024 to notify them of the submission of the EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate. The communications included information on the EIA Scoping Process, an additional 44 hectares of land made available to the design, further consultation opportunities, ongoing work and next steps. An example copy of the communication and the accompanying Scheme location map is provided in **Appendix B: EIA Scoping [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.8.4 For wider publicity, a press release was issued on 18 July 2024 and is provided in **Appendix B: EIA Scoping [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.8.5 The Scheme website was updated to reflect the submission of the EIA Scoping Report and inclusion of additional land on 17 July 2024. Copies of the pages are provided in **Appendix B: EIA Scoping [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 4.8.6 Following the review and consideration of feedback received, the Applicant prepared a Consultation Summary Report to share details of the level of engagement, themes of responses received, and updates regarding the Applicant's consideration of feedback and next steps for the Scheme. A

copy of the Stage One Consultation Summary Report is provided in **Appendix C-7: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

4.8.7 A newsletter announcing the publication of the Consultation Summary Report and introducing the Scheme design principles was circulated by email and/or post to key stakeholders on 24 October 2024, including:

- Local MPs:
 - Brian Mathew MP (Melksham and Devizes)
 - Roz Savage MP (South Cotswolds)
 - Sarah Gibson MP (Chippenham)
- Lead Officers, elected members and parish councils representing the immediate and neighbouring wards and parishes to the site and cable route search corridors; and
- Anyone who had registered to receive updates about the Scheme by email and/or post.

4.8.8 The newsletter included answers to a selection of Frequently Asked Questions that the Applicant identified through the Stage One consultation. These covered topics including net zero, the planning process, Scheme land obligations and the underground cable route. The newsletter also outlined the anticipated Scheme timeline and next steps.

4.8.9 Example copies of the newsletter sent by email and post is provided in **Appendix C-7: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

4.8.10 The Applicant held briefing meeting with the following key stakeholders after the close of the Stage One consultation to provide an overview of the consultation and/or next steps:

Table 4-4 Post-Stage One consultation briefing meetings held by the Applicant

Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Format of meeting
Corsham Town Council	24 May 2024	In person
Cllr Phil Alford (Melksham Without North & Shurngold)	31 May 2024	Virtual
Melksham Without Parish Council	12 June 2024	In-person
Roz Savage MP	13 June 2024	In person
Chair Pauline Cameron & Cllr Alice Beer (Little Somerford PC)	01 July 2024	Virtual
Nick Hare and Keith Seaton (Sopworth Parish Meeting)	17 July 2024	Virtual

Stakeholder	Date of meeting	Format of meeting
Luckington & Alderton Parish Council	17 July 2024	In-person

4.9 Conclusion

4.9.1 In summary, the Applicant undertook extensive non-statutory consultation on the Scheme. Non-statutory consultation activities comprised:

- Pre-consultation engagement with political stakeholders and relevant local authorities. This engagement was designed to help inform the consultation process.
- Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation period (14 March to Friday 26 April 2024) involving:
- Communities and stakeholder organisation in the vicinity of the Scheme who may be affected directly or indirectly;
- Wider communities and stakeholders;
- Local MPs, Local Councils and Parish Councils;
- Other relevant stakeholders; and
- Technical engagement with relevant stakeholders to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

5 Consultation under EIA Regulations

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process by which information about environmental effects of a proposed development is collected, assessed and used to inform decision making. The Scheme requires an EIA under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations), and as such is defined as ‘EIA development’.
- 5.1.2 Consultation is integral to the preparation of DCO applications and to the EIA process. The views of consultation bodies, the local community and other relevant stakeholders serve to inform the environmental studies as part of the EIA and to identify specific issues that require further investigation, as well as to inform aspects of the design of the Scheme.
- 5.1.3 Consultation is an ongoing process, which enables mitigation measures to be identified and, where appropriate, incorporated into the Scheme design thereby limiting adverse effects. Consultation also provides a platform for exploring and where possible incorporating environmental enhancements and benefits.
- 5.1.4 Guidance from the Planning Inspectorate set out in ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report’ (March 2025) states that:
- ‘Consultation undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 is separate to that required under the Planning Act. For example, statutory consultation on a scoping report following a scoping request to the Secretary of State is consultation under the EIA regulations. The Applicant may wish to draw attention to consultation responses received under the EIA process, but any reference to the EIA consultation should be addressed separately from the non-statutory and statutory consultation carried out under the Planning Act.’*
- 5.1.5 The submission of the findings of the EIA are presented in an Environmental Statement (ES). This allows the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero deciding the application to fully understand the environmental impact of a proposal when it makes its decision.
- 5.1.6 This chapter provides a brief summary of the EIA consultation that has taken place during the pre-application process. This is covered in more detail within the **ES [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.

5.2 EIA Scoping

- 5.2.1 The Applicant submitted a Scoping Request for the Scheme to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero on 16 July 2024, and in this request notified the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation

8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that the Applicant would provide an ES in respect of the Scheme.

- 5.2.2 The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, consulted with the relevant competent authorities and key statutory stakeholders to seek comments on the scope of the proposed EIA. A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 22 August 2024.
- 5.2.3 Appended to the Scoping Opinion, the Planning Inspectorate provided an updated list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.
- 5.2.4 The responses received to the Scoping Opinion and how the Applicant has responded are detailed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 1-2: Scoping Opinion Response Table [EN010168/APP/6.3]**.

5.3 Pre-application consultation under the EIA Regulations

- 5.3.1 The Applicant undertook statutory consultation from 29 January to 19 March 2025. More detail on this process is provided in **Chapter 7, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9** of this report.
- 5.3.2 In accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the notice under s48(1) of the Planning Act 2008 was sent to consultation bodies and other persons notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations on 29 January 2025. The consultation documents provided to all consultation bodies and other persons notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations are comprised of:
- A covering letter (provided in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**), which publicised the consultation opportunities, including a link to where these documents were available on the Scheme website and reference to the hard copies available at CAPs;
 - A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (provided in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**); and
 - A hard copy of the notice publicised in accordance with s48 of the Planning Act 2008 (including details of the community information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided in **Appendix H: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**).
- 5.3.3 In addition, and in line with Regulation 12(1)(b) and 12(2) of the EIA regulations, both the PEIR and non-technical summary (NTS), which included a summary of EIA matters, were available to all attendees at the

Stage Two (statutory) consultation information events, on the Scheme website, and at the designated CAPs as detailed in the SoCC.

5.4 Non-statutory engagement for EIA

- 5.4.1 In addition to the pre-application consultation under Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant undertook ongoing engagement (via a series of discussions and meetings) with technical consultees regarding the Scheme.
- 5.4.2 Ongoing non-statutory engagement with technical consultees enabled a continuous two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees on Scheme updates and enabled the Applicant to consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the proposals.
- 5.4.3 Following the adoption of the Scoping Opinion on 22 August 2024, the Applicant continued engagement with several technical consultees to discuss the Scoping Opinion, the surveys and assessments undertaken as part of the EIA and Scheme design ahead of the publication of the PEIR.
- 5.4.4 Relevant chapters of the ES **[EN010168/APP/6.1]** include a section on consultation, which details the engagement and meetings held with stakeholders and consultees throughout the pre-application and development of the EIA for the Scheme.

5.5 Conclusion

- 5.5.1 This section provides a brief summary of the EIA consultation that has taken place during the pre-application process, including EIA Scoping, statutory consultation, and non-statutory engagement. EIA consultation activities are covered in more detail within the ES **[EN010168/APP/6.1]**.

6 Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025)

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 This chapter details how the Applicant prepared to consult the local community on the Scheme as required by s47 of the Planning Act 2008.

6.1.2 S47 of the Planning Act 2008 sets out an Applicant's duty to consult the local community. It states:

(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.

(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.

(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.

(4) In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).

(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).

(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—

(za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,

(a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and

(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.

(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.

6.1.3 As required by the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant published an s47 Notice publicising the SoCC (**see Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**) and made the SoCC available for the public to view at CAPs (**see Table 7-1**) and on the Scheme website. Copies of the website pages are provided in **Appendix E:**

Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2].
Consultation activities were carried out in line with the SoCC.

- 6.1.4 In developing the SoCC, regard was also had to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal is EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on its PEIR.
- 6.1.5 The PEIR was published as part of the formal s42 consultation which took place in parallel with the Stage Two s47 community consultation between 29 January and 19 March 2025.
- 6.1.6 **Section 6.2** explains how the Applicant developed the SoCC; **section 6.3** sets out how consultation with the relevant local authority on the SoCC was carried out; **section 6.4** confirms how the SoCC was publicised; and **Table 6-4** explains how the commitments outlined in the SoCC were adhered to.
- 6.1.7 **Chapter 7** explains how the Applicant carried out consultation activities, and **Chapter 10** details the responses received during the statutory consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to them.

6.2 Developing the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- 6.2.1 The SoCC describes how a developer will conduct its statutory consultation with the local community. To help a developer benefit from relevant Local Authorities' local knowledge and expertise, s47(2) the Planning Act 2008 states that the developer must consult each local authority that is within s43(1) about the content of the SoCC (the host authorities).
- 6.2.2 The Applicant developed a SoCC that described statutory consultation in a way that allowed interested parties (particularly members of the community who may not have a detailed knowledge of major infrastructure development of NSIP consultations) to easily understand the Scheme; the consultation activities being undertaken; and how to take part in the consultation.
- 6.2.3 As the consultation approach was developed to meet all requirements of the Planning Act 2008, it was considered important that the SoCC also described the application process and how the Applicant was meeting the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and application process.

Identification of Local Authorities Within Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008

- 6.2.4 Wiltshire Council was identified as the sole relevant 'host authority' within s43(1) for the purposes of consultation on the SoCC under s47(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

Preparation of the SoCC

- 6.2.5 As prescribed by s47(1) of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant prepared a SoCC setting out how consultation would be undertaken with people living in vicinity of the land affected by the Scheme.
- 6.2.6 In preparing the draft SoCC, the Applicant considered best practice and guidance from PINS, early and ongoing engagement with host authorities, experience of, feedback to and lessons learned from its first stage of consultation (see **Chapter 4**) and its knowledge of the area of the proposed Scheme. The team also reviewed published SoCCs for other solar NSIPs as well as those of NSIPs more broadly.
- 6.2.7 Before preparing the SoCC to reflect the requirements of s47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant consulted with the local authority within s43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 on a draft SoCC as required by s47(2) of the Planning Act 2008. An advance copy of the draft SoCC was supplied to the local authority on 22 October 2024 ahead of formal s47(2) consultation with officers. This was to provide an opportunity for relevant officers to familiarise themselves with the draft SoCC and to informally provide any initial feedback in advance of formal consultation (**see section 6.3**). A copy of the draft SoCC supplied is provided in **Appendix D: Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 6.2.8 Wiltshire Council provided informal comments on the draft SoCC to the Applicant on 28 October 2024. These comments and the Applicant's response to them are set out in **Table 6-1**, including a description of where and how the draft SoCC was updated accordingly.
- 6.2.9 The Applicant issued the revised draft SoCC to the host local authority Wiltshire Council for consultation on 30 October 2024 (**Appendix D Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) [EN010168/APP/5.2]**).
- 6.2.10 The Applicant informally engaged with clerks to parish councils located near the boundary of the Site within which the Scheme is proposed, to invite suggestions for potential venues for future statutory consultation events to be considered within their respective districts.

Content of the Draft SoCC

- 6.2.11 The draft SoCC included the following information and proposals for consulting with the local community:
- An introduction;
 - An overview of the Applicant;
 - An overview of the Scheme;
 - Proposed dates for the Stage Two Statutory Consultation to be held;
 - An overview of the DCO application process and where to find out more information, as well as a summary of the pre-application consultation process relating to the Scheme;

- Confirmation that the Scheme was EIA development, and the statutory requirements as set out in s47 and s42 of the Planning Act 2008 in respect of consultation on PEIR;
- The objectives of the consultation being undertaken in accordance with s47;
- An overview of non-statutory consultation already carried out and key information relating to the Stage Two statutory consultation including the proposed consultation period starting on 29 January and closing on 14 March 2025;
- Details of the scope of what is being consulted on including the proposed Scheme, the potential impacts of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning and the PEIR;
- A definition of consultees under s47 of the Planning Act 2008, including the Core Consultation Zone identifying consultees in vicinity of the Scheme, as well as wider consideration of consultation with people who have a potential interest in the Scheme who live outside the Core Consultation Zone and/or approach to identifying under-represented groups;
- Details of the methodology the Applicant proposed to engage with the local community including:
 - Publishing consultation information on the Scheme website;
 - Sending a consultation leaflet by direct mail to all addresses within the Core Consultation Zone to confirm the consultation dates (including deadline for submissions), details on in-person and online information events taking place, how to find out more about what was being consulted on and take part;
 - Details of community consultation literature and technical documents available and where they can be accessed;
 - Anticipated or proposed details of in-person and online community information events taking place including dates, times, venues, and format (event programme was being finalised in consideration of venue availability which was still being gathered at the time);
 - List of CAPs in relation to public deposits;
 - Publicising the consultation online and through local media;
 - Scheme information services available including details of how the community relations team can be contacted to request information, ask questions, or request copies of materials in alternative formats; and,

- Overview of how the Applicant will have regard to comments received and how it will progress the DCO application following statutory consultation, including approach to how further targeted consultation would be carried out should it be deemed necessary.

6.3 Consultation on the SoCC with the Relevant Local Authority

- 6.3.1 The Applicant wrote to Wiltshire Council on 30 October 2024 by email, attaching a copy of the draft SoCC and requesting comments by 28 November 2024. In accordance with s47(3) of the Planning Act 2008, the local authority identified as within s43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 was provided with 28 days to respond to the draft SoCC.
- 6.3.2 A copy of the consultation email along with a copy of the draft SoCC sent to the host authority is included in **Appendix D: Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 6.3.3 On 26 November 2024, Wiltshire Council requested an extension to 6 December 2024 to submit feedback on the draft SoCC. The Applicant agreed to this, providing an extra eight days for the consultation period, meaning the local authority was ultimately provided with 36 days to respond.
- 6.3.4 The Applicant received responses to the draft SoCC by the extended consultation deadline of 6 December from Wiltshire Council, who shared a covering email with an attached letter with comments included.
- 6.3.5 The Applicant provided an interim update to Wiltshire Council on 12 December 2024 via email, offering an informal response to some of the key points raised in the feedback received. Wiltshire Council responded on 16 December 2024 requesting the Applicant consider holding an additional information event in Whitley. A copy of this email exchange is included in **Appendix D: Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 6.3.6 The Applicant gave due consideration to Wiltshire Council's additional comment and determined the most suitable venue in the vicinity of Whitley was Shaw Church of England Primary School. An information event was scheduled at this venue for 26 February 2025, and the SoCC updated to include this.
- 6.3.7 The feedback submitted to the consultation on the draft SoCC, and how this was considered by the Applicant, is described in **Table 6-1** below.
- 6.3.8 Copies of the responses received from the host authority and detail on how the Applicant had regard to those responses in developing the final SoCC are also set out in **Table 6-1**.
- 6.3.9 In summary, the Applicant made the following changes to the SoCC having regard to comments from the host authority it consulted:
- The Applicant extended the duration of the statutory consultation, so it took place over a period of seven weeks (49 days) instead of the six

weeks (44 days) initially proposed (starting 29 January and running until 19 March 2025);

- The Applicant updated the SoCC to include a schematic map with a supporting key to visually articulate the location of the development area and component parts of the Scheme relative to existing communities and infrastructure.
- The Applicant updated the SoCC to confirm that a press release would be issued to local and regional media outlets at the start of consultation, towards the end of consultation as a ‘final call for feedback’ and further to consultation closing to provide a summary of participation and what happens next.
- The Applicant also amended the SoCC to include additional organisations and parish councils that were suggested for inclusion as stakeholders to be consulted as part of the wider engagement process.
- The Applicant acted on the recommendation to include more parish councils in the list provided describing wider consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008;
- The Applicant provided written clarification on how feedback would be recorded in the Consultation Report;
- The Applicant confirmed that the Consultation Leaflet being directly mailed to the 14,000+ addresses in the Core Consultation Zone would begin landing from 27 January 2025, providing advance notice; and
- The Applicant agreed to start online information events at 18.30 (instead of the 17.30 start time initially suggested) to facilitate participation.

Table 6-1 Applicant consideration of feedback received to informal comments (on early working draft SoCC) and to formal comments (on the draft SoCC) from Wiltshire Council

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
00. General comments	N/A	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for Lime Down Solar Park project received on 30th November 2024. Whilst it is acknowledged that the statutory 28-day deadline for comments was 23.59 on Thursday 28 November 2024, following email correspondence, the Council appreciates this deadline being extended to Friday 6th December 2024.	The Applicant welcomes these comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input provided to help shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the Planning Act 2008, and the subsequent feedback provided in response to the formal consultation held.	Noted
	N/A	Wiltshire Council welcomes the incorporated changes and response to comments previously submitted by the Council during the informal consultation on the SoCC. However, in some cases, whilst the comments appear to have been agreed with, the SoCC has not been amended accordingly. The Council believes that these agreed changes should be reflected in the SoCC to provide clear evidence at the outset of the depth of penetration for the community consultation. This will help mitigate	The Applicant notes these concerns that while having agreed to certain of the changes proposed informally, those changes were not reflected in the final draft of the SoCC issued for formal consultation on 30 October 2024. However, The Applicant can confirm that the final published SoCC has been updated to incorporate specific recommendations made both informally and through the formal consultation under s47(2) of the Planning Act 2008. Where feedback you provided has not	Noted

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
		any allegations, which may be received, stating that the affected communities / people were not made aware of consultation.	resulted in a change to the final published SoCC , the Applicant have provided a response in this document explaining why it has not been adopted. The Applicant believes our SoCC is compliant with statutory requirements and provides a robust approach to ensure inclusive and meaningful consultation with the community. The Applicant published this version of the SoCC to provide certainty on the approach to delivering statutory consultation for the Scheme. If, as a result of feedback, it is necessary to carry out further targeted consultation or additional engagement activity with affected communities, this will be undertaken in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC with any additional learning and knowledge acquired in the interim being additionally applied as appropriate. It should be additionally noted that further to receipt of formal feedback from Wiltshire Council on the version of the SoCC issued for consultation under s47(2) on 30 October 2024, in updating	

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
			the document for publication the final version retains the same information, but certain of the content and/or sections has been relocated or reordered for clarity. In the instance of feedback relating to information which has then been incorporated elsewhere in the document, this will be flagged in an 'Editor's Note' appending our response setting out the regard had to that comment.	
1. Introduction	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 1.1 reference to “land in north Wiltshire”: The Council has already received representations from the community to the effect that they are concerned with the description of the location of development, and the suggestion that its only in the North of the County and only in the vicinity of Chippenham / Hullavington. “North Wiltshire” has a particular meaning for many long-term residents. REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: <i>In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we note that the latest, confidential working draft plan of our proposals (as shown in Figure 1, Figure 3 and Appendix 3) no longer considers</i>	The Council notes the response provided in that the proposals for development locations are still subject to change. Should the proposals include areas within “west Wiltshire” i.e. near Melksham, the Council requests that the language used to describe the development is adjusted accordingly.	The Applicant welcomes this recommendation and updated the SoCC ahead of publication to describe the location of the Scheme as being in Wiltshire. The Applicant can also confirm that this advice informed a general review of how the location of the Scheme is described across the wider community consultation literature identified as being produced in the final published SoCC to support delivery of statutory consultation.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	<i>the site near Melksham substation (i.e.. near Whitley) as one of the potential sites where a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) could be located.</i> <i>This site, referred to as the 'sixth site' and 'the land near Melksham substation' during our initial Stage of consultation, is now only included in our plans as part of the potential underground cable corridor search area that we are considering to connect the solar park (including co-located BESS) that is proposed north of the M4 to the Melksham substation.</i> <i>We note that these maps are confidential working drafts as the project area (inc. proposed locations within this area for equipment including panels and the BESS) that we will consult on at Stage Two and present in the PEIR is still in the process of being determined.</i> <i>As we are still gathering the relevant environmental information needed and the plans continue to evolve, these maps are not a reliable source of Project information and are therefore not intended for public use.</i> <i>We have provided these plans to you as</i>			

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	<i>part of the draft SoCC consultation in order to support the statutory consultation methodology proposed, in particular pertaining to Section 6. Who we will consult and Section 7. How we will consult.</i>			
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 1.8 reference to “just over six week” consultation period and Section 4.2 “lasting just over six weeks”: Six weeks seems like a short consultation window. It is suggested that eight weeks would be preferable. REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: <i>In response to feedback provided by</i>	This was discussed at a recent meeting between Lime Down project team and Wiltshire Council held on 6th November, and while it was noted that the six-week period was proposed, the Council felt that this was the shorter end of the scale, albeit within the regulations. The Council would urge the developer to adopt a longer consultation period if possible.	The Applicant welcomes this recommendation and fully appreciates the guidance and input provided informally by Wiltshire Council to consider extending the duration of the statutory consultation, while also seeking to avoid, as far as possible, holding the statutory consultation during the pre-election period associated with local elections lasting from 11 March to 1 May	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	<i>Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we are exploring the feasibility of potentially extending the statutory consultation period over a period greater than the six weeks proposed. This is in consideration of project programme and the relevant interdependencies.</i>		2025. Following communication on 16 December 2024, which was welcomed by officers, the Applicant can confirm that the SoCC was updated ahead of publication to confirm that statutory consultation would take place over a period of seven weeks (49 days), starting on 29 January and running until 19 March 2025. This would see the statutory consultation period exceed the minimum period of 28 days, as stipulated by the Planning Act 2008.	
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 1.8 reference to time of closure of consultation: Query whether “before midnight on Friday” means 00:00 on Friday? We usually say 23:59 on the final day as it’s clearer that way. Midnight on Friday is one minute past 23:59 on Thursday and it confuses people as they it’s actually 24 hours later than it is. REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: <i>In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft</i>	The Council welcomes the clarification now contained within the draft SoCC.	The Applicant welcomed this recommendation provided in consideration of an early draft of the SoCC shared with informally with Wiltshire Council officers and duly updated the version of the SoCC issued for consultation under s47(2) on 30 October 2024.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	<i>SoCC, further clarification is provided here with regards to the feedback deadline - in particular specifying that feedback would need to be received by 23:59 on the final day of statutory consultation.</i>			
3. The Project	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 3.1 reference to “located to the north of the M4, southwest of Malmesbury”: Advise care on how and particularly where the main part of the site is described. The Council has already received representations from the community about parts of the development being regarded as an afterthought. REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: <i>It is assumed that the LDSP Developer response against Section 1.1 reference to “land in north Wiltshire” would equally apply here.</i>	Please see our response to Section 1.1 reference to “land in north Wiltshire” above	The Applicant welcomes this recommendation and updated the SoCC ahead of publication to ensure that the description of the Scheme location does not suggest it is only located in North Wiltshire. The recommendation also informed a review of how the location of the Scheme is described in wider community consultation literature set out in the final published SoCC to support statutory consultation. It should be noted that ahead of publication the SoCC was updated to provide a more detailed description of the Scheme location and include a schematic map which visually articulates the extent of the development area required for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Solar PV sites and the connection	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
			into the national grid at Melksham Substation.	
	N/A	1. Figure 1: Project location and site boundary Map - The Council queries whether this map will have a clear key? It is considered that it needs it. Whilst it is recognised that the map contained in this draft SoCC is a placeholder, there is concern that the blue areas could look like water to some people. Whilst it is acknowledged that this map is a placeholder of the overarching project location and site boundary, due to much of the background information i.e. roads, landmarks, footpaths etc. having been removed, it can be difficult for users to understand where the proposals are located. Please consider improving the quality of the mapping to improve	The Applicant welcomes this feedback and can confirm that it updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include a schematic map with a supporting key to visually articulate the location of the development area ('the Site') and component parts of the proposed development relative to existing communities and infrastructure.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
		comprehension and understanding of where the component parts of the proposed development are located. 2. Please ensure that the maps and plans included within the consultation material contain sufficient background information i.e. landmarks, roads and paths etc., to aid comprehension and understanding of where the component parts of the proposed development are located. 3. Will this map have a clear key? As I think it needs it. The blue areas could look like water to some (recognise this is a placeholder!)		
	N/A	Suggested amending as follows: "...Our consultation process [insert consists] of at least two stages of consultation..."	The Applicant welcomes this proposed amendment and can confirm that the paragraph of the SoCC highlighted was further edited in advance of publication as follows: -“The pre-application process for the Project comprises at least two stages of consultation as follows:”	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 4.6 reference to timings of event held in Shaw (between 14:00 and 18:00) and other locations where events were held: This event is likely to be well attended – is 18:00 too early a finish? Also, no event in Chippenham itself is being proposed?	Whilst it is recognised that the Council's original comment was included against the events held at the Stage One consultation, the Council requests that the sentiment is reflected in the proposed consultation event programme for Stage Two. It is noted that the proposed event programme does not contain an event in Chippenham.	The Applicant welcomes this request and can confirm that in finalising the information event programme for statutory consultation the Applicant sought to ensure in-person information events take place on days and times that enable the maximum number of people to attend. The Applicant updated the SoCC ahead of publication to include a final programme of community information events proposed as taking place during statutory consultation including eight in-person events of which six took place on a weekday and two took place on a Saturday. The location and timing of events is informed by venue availability, however in-person events taking place in the working week were open to the public from 14.30-19.30, with the exception of one venue where a prior booking meant the event started at the later time of 17.30 with it then running to the later time of 20.30 to maximise accessibility. The Applicant actively sought advice from Wiltshire Council officers and members, as well as parish councils on	Noted

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
			appropriate and accessible venues within their community area where in-person events could take place. Further to contacting venues identified and/or recommended, based on availability, the Applicant updated the SoCC in advance of publication to confirm that in-person information events will take place at the following venues: • Sherston Village Hall • Hullavington Village Hall • Grittleton Village Hall • Corsham Town Council Hall • Malmesbury Town Hall • Luckington Village Hall • Goss Croft Hall • Shaw Church of England Primary School Venues were selected based on their location (in relation to the Scheme), their suitability (including a number being used from the Stage One consultation), and accessibility (for local communities in the vicinity of the Scheme). To note, the Applicant did not select a venue in Chippenham, given it is located to the	

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
			east of the A350 which we have used as a natural boundary.	
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 4.8 queries regarding Community Access Points (CAPs) and hard copy requests of full PEIR: What are the CAP sites – are they listed? It would help if they were. How are the hard copies requested? REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: <i>In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we have amended the text to explicitly refer to the SoCC section listing proposed Community Access Points (CAPs), and provided clarification on the process should individuals request hard copies.</i>	Thank you for providing additional clarification in this section. However, are you able to say the actual cost for hard copies? It would be better to do so now and to put it in here so it's transparent, as "reasonable" is subjective.	The Applicant recognises the importance of having clarity on the issue raised and updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include this information.	Change
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 4.12 queries regarding the Consultation Report: As well as the summary, will it also publish all comments verbatim? It is assumed that	[TWO SIMILAR RELATED COMMENTS SUPPLIED] 1. It is considered that the process should be explained in more detail to ensure transparency, otherwise	The Applicant recognises the importance of having clarity on the issue raised and updated the SoCC to include this information in advance of publication. Chapter 10 of this Consultation Report	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	“detail the feedback and consultation responses that we have received” means that responses will be published in full. It might be good to spell this out. <i>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we have amended the copy here to clarify that in the Consultation Report we will produce, we intend to summarise the issues raised in statutory consultation feedback, and do not plan to include these in full or verbatim. This is in line with the standard approach for solar DCOs.</i>	people may feel that their comments aren’t captured. Something like “To ensure all comments are captured in the key themes, the themes will be referenced to individual comments... etc” - you will have better wording but this was explained in the meeting on 6th November so it is thought that this should be explained here. 2. I think you should explain the process in more detail to ensure transparency, otherwise people may feel that their comments aren’t captured. Something like “To ensure all comments are captured in the key themes, the themes will be referenced to individual comments... etc” - you will have better wording but this was explained in the meeting so should be explained here.	provides more detail on the process for how individual submissions are accounted for.	
	N/A	[TWO SIMILAR RELATED COMMENTS SUPPLIED] 1. Section 4.4 / 4.5 regarding Stage One non-statutory consultation - It is suggested that a link to the consultation summary report from the Stage One consultation is included within this document. These sections appear the most appropriate, but consideration could also be given to including it in Section 1.8.	The Applicant welcomes this recommendation and can confirm the final published version of the SoCC was updated to include a website reference to where the Stage One Consultation Summary Report can be found on the Scheme website, with hyperlink to this document being included in the digital version of the published SoCC.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
		2. I think you should provide a link to the report somewhere in this document (this section is probably most appropriate rather than above).		
6. Who we will consult	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 6.4 query regarding list of parish councils within boundary of the sites where solar park is proposed: Should this not also include Shaw and Whitley parishes? And potentially others?	[TWO SIMILAR RELATED COMMENTS SUPPLIED] 1. It is assumed that these have not been added due to the potential refinement of the development proposals. It would be useful to have a definitive list of the parishes within the site boundary and affected or to be included within the consultation. 2. "6.4 Core consultation zone " Coverage of those parish councils inside the boundary of the sites within which the solar park is proposed as follows:" - Will be good to have a definitive list of the parishes within the site boundary and affected or to be included in the consultation.	The Applicant acknowledges this suggestion and can confirm that it updated the text to make it clear that the parish councils cited specifically refer those which are host to any of the five Solar PV Sites. The communities of Shaw and Whitely lie within the boundaries of the civil parish of Melksham Without, the parish council for which (Melksham Without Parish Council) is included in the list of parish councils who will be consulted in accordance with s42 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008 The list of s42 consultees can be found in Appendix G-1: Statutory Consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.	Noted
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 6.6 list of Parish councils: It is suggested that this list should be more extensive. Broughton Gifford PC, Kington St Michael PC, Kington Langley PC, Sutton Benger PC, Great Somerford PC are not included? Should Melksham Town Council also be included?	The Council welcomes this clarification and requests that this is included within the text of the final SoCC.	The Applicant can confirm the final published SoCC was updated to include the parish councils identified.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	<i>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</i> In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we confirm this will include Broughton Gifford PC, Kington St Michael PC, Kington Langley PC, Sutton Benger PC, Great Somerford PC, Melksham TC			
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 6.6 list of Non-Statutory consultees: Suggestion to also include AONB Boards and possibly community groups, especially those which made representations to the EIA Scoping. <i>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</i> In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we confirm that we will be consulting with the relevant AONB Boards during the statutory consultation, as per the requirements of Planning Act 2008 (i.e. in their capacities as statutory stakeholders to the project). In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we confirm this will include community groups (and any other non-statutory groups) that submitted	The Council welcomes this clarification and requests that this is included within the text of the final SoCC.	The Applicant can confirm that it updated the SoCC in advance of publication to reference those statutory environmental bodies including National Landscape Boards (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) with whom statutory consultation was carried out in accordance with s42 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008. Details of the statutory consultation carried out in accordance with s42 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008 is set out in Chapters 8 and 9 of this report.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	comments to PINS as part of EIA Scoping process. To confirm, we will also amend Appendix 1 of the final SoCC accordingly.			
	N/A	1. Section 6.5 issuance of direct communications to addresses within the Core Consultation Zone - “We will issue direct communications via post”: Would it be possible to give an indication as to when this communication would be sent? Will it be before the start of the consultation? The Council is conscious that the consultation period is relatively short. 2. Could you say when? Will it be before the start of the consultation?	The Applicant welcomes this recommendation and can confirm that it updated the SoCC in advance of publication to confirm the date from which a direct communication to addresses within the core consultation was issued. This information is set out in Section 7 (see para 7.7) of the SoCC confirming that a Consultation Leaflet will be direct mailed to addresses within the Core Consultation Zone from 27 January 2025.	Change
	N/A	1. Section 6.6 list of non-statutory consultees - “Non-statutory consultees, such as”: Consideration should be given to including Wiltshire Area Boards in this list, particularly those in affected areas. Whilst this would not be in an official Area Board capacity, the inclusion of a Chair’s announcement could help to spread the word that the consultation is	The Applicant welcomes this suggestion and updated the SoCC in advance of publication to identify Wiltshire Area Boards as organisations representing the interests of communities who may be affected to whom communications were issued.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
		underway enabling people to engage / respond should they wish to.		
	N/A	Please see comment on Figure 1 relating to detail contained in mapping	The Applicant welcomes this feedback and can confirm that it updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include a legible schematic map which visually articulates the Core Consultation Zone relative to the location of the development area ('the Site') and component parts of the proposed development relative to existing communities and infrastructure.	Noted
7. How we will consult	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 7.20 query regarding knowledge of suitable venues in Norton and Foxley area: We are not aware of any suitable venue inside of area, unfortunately. REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: <i>Following engagement with Norton and Foxley Parish Meeting, we are now considering Foxley Church or Norton Church as potentially suitable venues for information events in the area.</i>	The Council welcomes this response.	The Applicant welcomes these comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input provided to help shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the Planning Act 2008. It should be noted that further to engagement with Foxley Church and Norton Church it was established the venues were unsuitable for community information events. Further consultation with the acting chair of Foxley and Norton Parish Meeting it was established that in-person events taking place	Noted

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
			venues at Sherston and Malmesbury provided local residents with adequate opportunity to attend an in-person event.	
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 7.25 regarding Local press adverts: The Council confirmed that the list of publications comprising Wiltshire Gazette and Herald, Wiltshire Times, Melksham Independent News and the Swindon Advertiser appeared to be sufficient for paid for notices.	N/A	The Applicant welcomes these comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input provided to help shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the Planning Act 2008.	Noted
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 7.25 regarding Community Groups: Suggestion to also include Pickwick Association (Corsham) and Community Action Whitley and Shaw <i>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we have added the Pickwick Association to our list of gateway groups and organisations that we will consult with during statutory consultation.</i>	The Council welcomes the addition of the Pickwick Association into Appendix 1. The Council notes that Community Action Whitley and Shaw (CAWS) was already included in that list.	The Applicant welcomes these comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input provided to help shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the Planning Act 2008.	Change
	INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 7.26 list of local media outlets: This should be broadened to include the	The Council welcomes this clarification.	The Applicant welcomes your comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input provided to help	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	publications you are putting paid notices in. Also, BBC Wiltshire and BBC Radio Wiltshire are the same thing (remove the latter). Suggestion to also add ITV West Country and BBC Points West. <i>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we are considering adding ITV West Country and BBC Points West to the outlets listed here.</i> <i>To confirm, these two outlets were already listed in Appendix 4, meaning we plan on issuing media releases to them direct as part of our local media engagement strategy. BBC Radio Wiltshire has been removed as it is a duplicate of BBC Wiltshire.</i>		shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the Planning Act 2008. It should be noted that Table 8 in the final published SoCC was updated to specifically identify those local and regional media outlets to whom press releases will be issued. A statutory notice was published in regional and national newspapers in accordance with s48 of the Planning Act 2008.	
	N/A	1. Section 7.10 Feedback forms - "Feedback forms will be made available for community members to respond to the consultation.": It may be helpful to set out clearly in some part of the document that "These are the ways that you can respond to the consultation: online through our website; by post using our Feedback Form etc." It would be helpful to have this all-in-one place in the document.	The Applicant welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that the SoCC was updated prior to publication to include information on the different ways people can respond to the consultation.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
		As well as the online form and paper form, the Council would usually also provide an email address for more detailed responses (not using the Feedback Form format). It may also be worth noting that verbal responses will not be captured or included in the consultation i.e. from the information events. 2. It may be helpful to set out clearly in some part of the document "These are the ways that you can respond to the consultation: - online through our website; by post using our Feedback Form etc. It would be helpful to have this all-in-one place on the document. As well as the online form and paper form, we'd usually also provide an email for responses. It may also be worth noting that verbal responses will not be captured or included in the consultation.		
	N/A	1. Section 7.11 Technical documents, maps, plans and non-technical summary (NTS) - "<i>These documents are: Maps and plans showing the proposed application at appropriate scales.</i>": Please ensure that the maps and plans included within the consultation material contain sufficient background information i.e.	The Applicant acknowledges this request and can confirm that technical maps and plans included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that were published when statutory consultation launches included detail to aid comprehension and understanding of	Noted

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
		landmarks, roads and paths etc., to aid comprehension and understanding of where the component parts of the proposed development are located. 2. Please ensure that the maps and plans included within the consultation material contain sufficient background information i.e. landmarks, roads and paths etc., to aid comprehension and understanding of where the component parts of the proposed development are located.	where component parts of the proposed development are located.	
	N/A	1. Section 7.15 Information events - <i>"Members of the Lime Down Solar Park team will be in attendance to answer questions and discuss the proposals with stakeholders in more detail."</i> : The format for these events is queried – will they be drop-in, Q&A, formal presentation etc.? It would be good to tell people what to expect when they go. 2. What format will these events be - drop-in, Q&A, formal presentation? Will be good to tell people what to expect when they go.	The Applicant welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that it updated the SoCC prior to publication to include information which provides an overview of the format for in-person and online community information events.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	N/A	1. Section 7.18 Webinar sessions - <i>“Webinar sessions will be recorded and made publicly available on the project website for others to watch and review at their convenience.”</i>: Consideration should also be given to publishing a document containing all questions and answers asked and answered in the webinars on the Scheme website. This is standard practice for the Council. 2. We usually also publish a document of all Qs and As asked and answered in the webinars	The Applicant acknowledges this request but believes that making available on the Scheme website a recording of the online information events (webinars) further to them taking place is a more efficient way of ensuring people can access the information in a timely manner (it being noted that we issued a notice to Scheme registrants to make them aware of the recordings being available). This is consistent with the approach taken at in-person information events where questions and answers provided are not published following each event.	No change
	N/A	1. Table 3 Dates, times and locations of consultation events - “17:30pm – 19:00pm” for online meetings: It is considered that a 17:30 start is a little early. We’d suggest 18:30 is probably better. 2. We feel 5.30pm start is a little early. We’d suggest 6.30pm is probably better.	The Applicant welcomes this recommendation and can confirm that online community information events (webinars) that took place during statutory consultation started at 18.30 and closed at 20.00.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	N/A	1. Table 3 Dates, times and locations of consultation events - "[TBC – subject to availability]" for venue dates and times" It is noted that there is limited information in the draft SoCC regarding dates / times for consultation events. It is our understanding following discussion at a recent meeting between Lime Down project team and Wiltshire Council held on 6th November, that the first event would ideally be held between 10-14 days post consultation launch, and that the events would run from 14:00/14:30 to 19:30/20:00. It is understood that the intention would be to hold 2 weekend events, with the remaining events being held during the working week, with the online events likely to be held on a Tuesday or Thursday. The Council would appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed event schedule once further information is known. 2. It is noted that there is limited information regarding dates / times for the consultation events. It is our understanding that the first session would ideally be held 10-14 days post consultation launch, and that events	The Applicant welcomes this request and on 16 December 2025 shared information setting out the programme of community information events proposed as taking place during statutory consultation based on holding eight in-person events (of which six take place during the week and two take place at the weekend) and two online information events (webinars), taking into account additional input and guidance provided by Wiltshire Council officers and members in finalising the event programme. The SoCC was updated in advance of publication to set out the details of all the community information events proposed as taking place over the course of consultation. The final event programme was publicised from 14 January 2025 when the SoCC was published in advance of statutory consultation launching on 29 January 2025 by way of direct communication with stakeholders including elected members, parish councils, Scheme registrants and the	Noted

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
		would run from 14:00/14:30 to 19:30/20:00. We believe that you are intending to hold 2 events at the weekend with the remainder during the working week, with the online events likely to be held on Tuesday or Thursday. We would appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed event schedule once further information is known.	media, as well as publication of s47 in regional media outlets.	
	N/A	1. Table 3 Dates, times and locations of consultation events e.g. "Sherston Village Hall": It is queried whether these smaller village hall venues will be big enough should 100+ people attend at the same time. Please consider how capacity constraints will be managed. 2. Will these smaller village hall venues be big enough if 100+ people attend at the same time?	The Applicant recognises and acknowledges this concern and can confirm that attendance at in-person information events was monitored and managed to ensure attendance did not exceed venue capacity limits. It should also be noted that the SoCC was updated in advance of publication to confirm this protocol (see paragraph 7.32), with it also being flagged on the Consultation Leaflet that was direct mailed to addresses in the Core Consultation Zone that entrance to events will be managed to attendance exceeds the stated maximum capacity of those venues.	Noted

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	N/A	1. Section 7.25 Local press adverts - "Adverts will include contact information and consultation event dates, times and locations.": Please can you confirm whether it will be just one advert in each publication? 2. Will it be just one advert in each?	The Applicant acknowledges this request and updated the SoCC in advance of publication to confirm the list of publications with whom a minimum of one round of advertisements will be placed to publicise the consultation and community information events taking place (see paragraph 7.42). The Applicant can confirm that two advertisements were placed in Melksham Independent News, Swindon Advertiser, Wiltshire Gazette and Herald, and Wiltshire Times. One advertisement was placed in Hullavington News and The Signpost. More details on this, including the publication dates of each advertisement, can be found in Table 7-4 of this report.	Change
	N/A	1. Section 7.25 Local Information Points (LIPs) - "In the local vicinity, such as village halls, places of worship, shops, pubs, after-school clubs and civic buildings" - Please consider including health facilities e.g. GP surgeries in this list. 2. Maybe health facilities too? E.g. Drs	The Applicant welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that it updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include reference to health facilities in the list of local information points to whom posters were issued.	Change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
	N/A	1. Media releases will be issued to local and regional outlets as listed in Appendix 4 of this SoCC.”: Please confirm the frequency of these. Will it be one at the start, one in the middle of the consultation and one at the end? 2. What will be the frequency of these? One at the start, one in the middle of the consultation and one at the end?	The Applicant welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that it updated the SoCC in advance of publication to confirm that press release will be issued to local and regional media outlets as follows: i. At the start of consultation ii. Towards the end of consultation to as a 'final call for feedback' ahead of consultation closing iii. Further to consultation closing to provide a summary of participation and what happens next	Change
10. Next steps and contact details	N/A	1. It is queried whether a data protection statement should be included within the SoCC or whether this will be publicised during the consultation. 2. Will you also include the data protection statement? Or will that be publicised during the consultation?	The Applicant acknowledges this question and can confirm that the final published SoCC includes reference in Section 5 (paragraph 5.22) to the Applicant's privacy policy which is available on the Scheme website and also referenced in the printed Consultation Feedback Form which requires people to provide personal data., reference to which is include in the consultation Feedback Form.	Noted
Appendix 1 - Gateway organisations	N/A	1. It is queried why the secondary schools in Corsham, Chippenham and Melksham are not included within this	The Applicant acknowledges this question and can confirm that it updated the SoCC in advance of publication to	Noted

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
and local groups		list. It is also considered that there are additional primary schools which have not been captured here. 2. Why are the secondary schools in Corsham, Chippenham and Melksham not included in this list? Also query whether this is the full list of primary schools.	include the secondary and primary schools noted.	
	N/A	1. Please consider inclusion of 9 Regt, RLC based at Buckley Barracks, Hullavington and Signals at Basil Hill Barracks in Corsham in this list. 2. What about 9 Regt, RLC based at Buckley barracks, Hullavington + Signals at Basil Hill Barracks, Corsham??	The Applicant welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that it updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include organisations suggested.	Change
	N/A	1. It is noted that Athelstan House is in Malmesbury. It is queried whether other care homes within the area should be included here. 2. Athelstan House is in Malmesbury. Are there any other care homes within the area?	The Applicant acknowledges this question and can confirm that any care homes with addresses that lie within the Core Consultation Zone were notified of the consultation by direct mail of the Consultation Leaflet. The list otherwise identifies a number of gateway organisations who represent the interests of the older people or those involved in the care of older people.	Noted

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
Appendix 3 - Local information points	INFORMAL COMMENT: Appendix 3 Map of in-person information events and document inspection locations: It was noted that there did not appear to be an in-person information event in Melksham REGARD HAD TO COMMENT: <i>As set out in Section 7.20 of this SoCC, we propose holding seven in-person events and two online events over the course of the statutory consultation. Here we have layered Figure 1 (project location) and Figure 3 (Core Consultation Zone) of this draft SoCC and shown how these relate to the nine venues we have identified as potentially suitable to hold the information events for statutory consultation (as set out in Table 3).</i> <i>We also show the locations for the four proposed Community Access Points (CAPs) as described in Sections 7.28 to 7.30 (as set out in Table 4). In the final SoCC, we will include a map showing the confirmed statutory consultation event venues and CAP site locations as they relate to the project boundary.</i>	Whilst it is noted that the map of in-person information events is still in draft (a placeholder), please consider holding an in-person event in Melksham.	The Applicant acknowledges this request and can confirm that it has actively sought advice from Wiltshire Council officers and members, as well as parish councils on appropriate and accessible venues within their community area where in-person events could take place. Further to contacting venues identified and/or recommended, based on availability, the Applicant updated the SoCC in advance of publication to confirm that in-person information events will take place at the following venues: • Sherston Village Hall • Hullavington Village Hall • Grittleton Village Hall • Corsham Town Council Hall • Malmesbury Town Hall • Luckington Village Hall • Goss Croft Hall • Shaw Church of England Primary School Venues have been selected based on their location in relation to the Scheme, their suitability (including a number being used from the Stage One consultation),	No change

Topic/Section of Draft SoCC	Informal comments provided by Wiltshire Council and regard had to those comments (issued 28 October 2024)	Formal consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council (supplied 6th Dec 2024)	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
			and accessibility (for local communities in the vicinity of the Scheme). Subsequent to receipt of feedback on the SoCC from Wiltshire Council in response to formal consultation under s.47(2), ongoing discussion with officers and members regarding the availability of venues for an in-person event in proximity of Melksham determined that given the proximity of the communities such as Whitely and Shaw to Melksham Substation, Shaw Church of England Primary School presented a suitable location for an in-person event as an alternative to a venue in Melksham.	

6.4 Publicity under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

- 6.4.1 The SoCC was published on 14 January 2025. Printed copies of the document were supplied to and available at CAPs (see **Table 7-1**), and a digital version was available on the Scheme website. A copy of the published SoCC and the updated webpages can be found in **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 6.4.2 On 27 January 2025, the Applicant published an Errata Statement, which was issued to correct an error identified in **Figure 3** - Core Consultation Zone. The boundary for the Core Consultation Zone shown in **Figure 3** was corrected. As a result of this amendment, the total number of addresses within the Core Consultation Zone increased from approximately 10,523 to around 14,187. This resulted in more addresses receiving the Community Consultation Leaflet, which was posted to addresses before 27 January 2025. The corrected Core Consultation Zone – and accompanying maps showing the zone relative to the location of in-person events and CAPs – was also included in the Errata Statement.
- 6.4.3 The Errata Statement was uploaded to the Scheme website and deposited at the CAPs on 27 January 2025 and sent to Wiltshire Council as well as the Clerk to the Parish Council affected by the core consultation boundary correction (St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council). A copy of the Errata Statement can be found in **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 6.4.4 As prescribed by s47(6) of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant also publicised details of the locations where and when the SoCC could be viewed in newspapers circulated in the vicinity of the Scheme. Details of the publication of the s47 Notice are included in **Table 6-2**. Copies of the final SoCC, Errata Statement and notices as published (confirming the name of the publication and the date) are provided in **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**. A digital copy of the Section 47 Notice was also made available on the Scheme website.

Table 6-2 Section 47 Notice newspaper publication schedule

Date published	Newspaper
16 January 2025	Wiltshire Gazette and Herald
17 January 2025	Wiltshire Times

- 6.4.5 On publishing the SoCC on 14 January 2025, the Applicant issued a copy of the final published SoCC to the host authority, alongside a copy of the s47 Notice, and a table setting out all the issues raised by the host authority in response to the draft SoCC consultation and regard had to those responses by the Applicant in developing the final SoCC. Copies of the communications issued to the host authority are set out in **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

- 6.4.6 The Applicant also issued a copy of the final SoCC and Section 47 Notice on 14 January 2025 to the clerks of the parish councils set out in **Table 6-3**. Copies of the communications issued to parish council clerks are set out in **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

Table 6-3 List of parish councils issued with final SoCC and Section 47 Notice on 14 January 2025

Parish Council
Acton Turville Parish Council
Atworth Parish Council
Badminton Parish Council
Bidderstone and Slaughterford Parish Council
Box Parish Council
Bromham Parish Council
Brokenborough Parish Council
Broughton Gifford Parish Council
Calne Without Parish Council
Castle Combe Parish Council
Chippenham Without Parish Council
Colerne Parish Council
Corsham Town Council
Cotswold District Council
Easton Grey Parish Council
Great Somerford Parish Council
Grittleton Parish Council
Hawkesbury Parish Council
Hullavington Parish Council
Kington Langley Parish Council
Kington St Michael Parish Council
Langley Burrell Without Parish Council
Lacock Parish Council

Parish Council
Lea & Cleverton Parish Council
Little Somerford Parish Council
Luckington and Alderton Parish Council
Malmesbury Town Council
Melksham Town Council
Melksham Without Parish Council
Nettleton Parish Council
North Wraxall Parish Council
Seagry Parish Council
Sherston Parish Council
St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council
Stanton St Quintin Parish Council
Sutton Benger Parish Council
Yatton Keynell Parish Council

- 6.4.7 On 14 January 2025, the Applicant also notified Local MPs, Scheme Registrants, gateway organisations and local groups of the SoCC publication, including providing these stakeholders with confirmation of the statutory consultation dates, information events programme and where consultation information could be accessed when the consultation period began. Copies of these communications are set out in **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

6.5 Adherence to the Contents of the SoCC

- 6.5.1 **Table 6-4** below sets out the commitments the Applicant made for its statutory consultation with people living in vicinity of the land in accordance with s47 of the Planning Act 2008 and summarises how the Applicant fulfilled these commitments.

Table 6-4: Summary of commitments made in the SoCC and how the Applicant fulfilled these

Section	Commitment	Compliance
Introduction	1.6. The SoCC will be published on Tuesday 14 January 2025 ahead of	

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	statutory consultation launching. 1.7. As required by s47 (6) of the Planning Act 2008 we will publish a s47 Notice in local newspapers for one week to advertise that the SoCC has been published as follows: Wiltshire Gazette and Herald – Thursday 16 January 2025 Wiltshire Times – Friday 17 January 2025 1.9. The SoCC is available to view and download from the Project website, and printed reference copies will be made available from Community Access Points (CAPs) (see Table 5 of the SoCC). Printed reference copies will also be available to view at in-person community information events being held during statutory consultation (see Table 6 of the SoCC).	The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with s47(6) of the Planning Act 2008 on 14 January 2025. The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's website and made available to view and collect from the four CAPs listed in the document and accompanying s47 Notice. Notices were published in the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 January 2025 and the Wiltshire Times on 17 January 2025 to publicise the SoCC and its availability.
4. The DCO consenting process	4.6 Wiltshire Council, as the local host authority, has been consulted on the contents of this document as required by Section 47 (2) of the Planning Act 2008. Wiltshire Council has also had the opportunity to provide comments on an early draft of this SoCC. We have had regard to the feedback Wiltshire Council provided, with it having been considered and used to inform this final version.	The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC for Wiltshire Council to review on 22 October 2024 prior to commencing formal consultation on the draft SoCC. This was to provide an additional opportunity to inform the content of the SoCC. Comments were received from Wiltshire Council on the early working draft of the SoCC on 28 October 2024. The Applicant formally provided a draft SoCC to Wiltshire Council for consultation on 30 October 2024. This was provided alongside a document explaining how the draft SoCC had been updated in response to comments on the working draft SoCC and a covering email and letter to explain the purpose of the draft SoCC, the response process and deadline for comments.
5. Our public consultation process	Consultation objectives Our overall objectives for the Stage Two consultation are to:	The Applicant undertook consultation with local communities, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by the

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	5.2.1. Raise awareness about the Project proposals and the consultation so local communities have the opportunity to: Understand the Project, its potential impacts and the measures proposed to reduce those impacts. Engage in discussion relating to ways of maximising local benefits to meet their long-term needs so they can provide their views and feedback. 5.2.2. Give local communities, relevant authorities and other stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposals based on appropriately detailed information that is clear and accessible. 5.2.3. Provide a range of ways for people to engage with the Project at a time that is convenient to them. For example, online (website, webinars), in person (events, briefings), in writing (Feedback Form, letters). 5.2.4. Clearly signpost the different ways people can comment on the Project. 5.2.5. Ensure that everyone who has an interest in the Project is made aware of the examination process and provided with information explaining how they can participate in that process.	Scheme under s42, s47 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008. A suite of consultation materials was published on 29 January 2025 to provide appropriately detailed information that is clear and accessible. Materials were published online and available in printed format (to inspect and/or take away) at the four CAPs, as stated in the SoCC. These materials included reference copies of the PEIR, PEIR NTS and maps and plans for inspection, and the Consultation Leaflet, Project Information Booklet, Feedback Form, and Document Navigation Booklet to view and take away. Materials also clearly signposted how people could get involved in the Stage Two consultation, including a series of in-person and online information events and different methods to provide feedback. Materials included: • A PEIR and accompanying Non-Technical Summary, including technical maps and plans; • A Community Consultation Leaflet (distributed to local homes and businesses); • A Project Information Booklet, including illustrative plans showing the nature of the Scheme; • Event Displays; and • A paper and online Feedback Form to encourage responses.
	Stage One 'non-statutory' consultation 5.9. A summary of the Stage One consultation and how we have used feedback received to inform the ongoing development of our proposals for Lime	The Applicant published a Stage One Consultation Summary Report on 24 October 2024 to summarise the feedback received during the Stage One consultation and how this feedback was being considered to inform the Scheme.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	Down Solar Park is set out in our Stage One Consultation Summary Report. This is available to view and download from the Project website.	The Stage One Consultation Summary Report was: • Shared by email and post with key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors and parish councils) and individuals who had registered to be kept informed; • Uploaded to the Scheme website; and • Wider publicity via a press release, which was sent to over nineteen local publications.
	Stage Two 'statutory' consultation 5.11. Stage Two Statutory consultation will take place over a period of seven weeks (49 days) from Wednesday 29 January until Wednesday 19 March 2025. This consultation period exceeds the minimum period of 28 days as required by the Planning Act 2008.	The Applicant held the Stage Two consultation over a period of seven weeks (49 days) from 29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025.
	5.13. During this time, local communities will be consulted on proposals via a range of methods including in-person information events held at local venues, as well as online events.	During Stage Two consultation the Applicant held eight in-person information events and two online webinars, as detailed in Section 7.3 of this report.
	5.13. At the same time as carrying out this consultation in accordance with s47 'Duty to consult local community' of the Planning Act 2008, we are proposing to carry out statutory consultation in accordance with s42 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008 which includes local authorities, parish councils, statutory stakeholders and owners, tenants and occupiers of the land who may be potentially affected by the Project.	The Applicant undertook consultation with community and technical consultees in parallel under s42, s47 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008. Consultation was held for 49 days from 29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025.
	5.14. This statutory consultation will be	The Applicant issued a Community Consultation Leaflet to all properties

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	publicised to local communities within a defined Core Consultation Zone (see Figure 3 of the SoCC) as well as other stakeholders using a variety of communication methods (see Section 7 of the SoCC).	(around 14,187) within the defined Core Consultation Zone), inclusive of the 27 January 2025 errata statement amendment, to publicise and encourage responses to the Stage Two consultation. These leaflets were issued to land on or before the launch of consultation on Wednesday 29 January 2025. The Applicant publicised more widely to stakeholders using a variety of other communication methods, including: • Publishing a s48 notice in local and national press and London Gazette on Friday 17 – Friday 24 January 2025 (see Table 9-1 of this report); • Advertising in local and regional media outlets; • Issuing media releases to 32+ local and regional media outlets on Wednesday 26 January 2025; • Sending posters to community venues, local information posts and parish councils on Wednesday 26 January 2025; • Issuing communications to key stakeholders, including local political representatives (Wiltshire Councillor and MPs) and parish councils on Wednesday 26 January 2025; • Issuing communications to gateway organisations, local groups and individuals registered to receive information about the Scheme on Wednesday 26 January 2025; and • Publishing consultation materials so they are available to view online from Wednesday 26 January 2025.
	5.15. Consultation documents and materials will be made available to view at Community Access Points (CAPs) (see Table 5 of the SoCC) and in-person information events (see Table 6 of the SoCC). They will also be available to view and download from the Project website: www.limedownsolar.co.uk. Members of the Project team will be available at	Consultation materials listed in the final SoCC (noted in Table 4 of the SoCC) were made available in printed format for the full consultation period (29 January to 19 March 2025) at the four CAPs (listed in Table 5 in the final published SoCC). The Applicant communicated with the CAPs throughout the statutory consultation period to ensure that they had sufficient stock of consultation materials in printed format for members of the community to inspect and/or take away. Documents were uploaded to the Scheme website on 29 January 2025 and were also

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	events to answer questions about the Project and provide information about the consultation.	made available for the full consultation period. Members of the team were in attendance at the events (eight in person and two online) to answer questions about the Scheme.
	5.16. Unless agreed with us directly, the deadline for submitting responses to this statutory consultation is 23.59 on Wednesday 19 March 2025.	The consultation closed at 23:59 on 19 March 2025. The dates were clearly communicated in community consultation literature, including a Community Consultation Leaflet, the SoCC, Project Information Booklet, s47 and s48 Notices, newspaper advertising, on the Scheme website and communications issued to community stakeholders and representatives.
	What we will consult on 5.17. The aim of our pre-application consultation is to ensure that community, landowners and tenants, public representatives and technical consultees all have a chance to understand and influence the Project. We will consider the feedback we receive to help refine our proposals ahead of preparing our application for development consent.	The Stage Two consultation was delivered to ensure all stakeholders had the chance to understand the latest proposals and have their say. Chapter 10 of the Consultation Report, submitted as part of the final DCO application, documents the responses received and the Applicant's regard had to comments in the final Scheme design.
	5.18. During statutory consultation we welcome and will consider feedback on all aspects of our proposals for the Project, and will specifically invite comments on: The design for the five Solar PV Sites in which the electricity generating station and BESS would be contained; The proposed Cable Route Search Corridor in which an underground cable would be installed to connect the Solar PV Sites to one another and provide an electrical connection into	The Applicant produced a Document Navigation Booklet setting out all the consultation overview documents and technical documents that had been produced to support the consultation to provide information about the proposals being consulted on and where/how they could be accessed. A copy of the Document Navigation Booklet can be found in Appendix F-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2] . Information on topics the Applicant was seeking comments on was provided in the Project Information Booklet which included an indicative site map of the Scheme. This document was available to view and download from the Scheme website; printed copies were available at four CAPs and in-person community information events, with

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	the national grid at Melksham Substation; The environmental effects of the Project detailed in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which sets out the results of our preliminary environmental assessments and associated mitigation; The timescales and next steps for the Project; and Anything else you think we need to consider.	printed and digital copies also being made available on request. The Feedback Form was structured to encourage participants to provide feedback on these topics. Availability of the PEIR was publicised in the SoCC, the Scheme website, the Project Information Booklet and on the Feedback Form. It was also referenced in the s47 and s48 Notices.
	Table 3 (of the SoCC): Statutory consultation – key dates 14 Jan 2025 – SoCC available to view at CAPs and on the Project website. From 14 Jan 2025: S48 Notices published in regional papers, one national paper, and the London Gazette. S42 consultation information sent to statutory and prescribed persons. From 27 Jan 2025 – Consultation leaflet announcing consultation launch distributed to addresses within the Core Consultation Zone. 29 Jan 2025: Statutory consultation launches Consultation materials available to view at CAPs and on the Project website Community information events held at local venues and online	The series of activities took place as follows: • The final SoCC was available to view in person at the four CAPs and was hosted on the Scheme website from 14 January 2025. • S48 Notices were placed in the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald (16 and 23 January 2025), Wiltshire Times (17 and 24 January 2025), The Guardian (22 January 2025) and The London Gazette (24 January 2025). • S42 consultation information was sent to statutory and prescribed person on/before 27 January 2025. • The Community Consultation Leaflet was distributed to over 14,000 properties, inclusive of the 27 January 2025 errata statement amendment, within the Core Consultation Zone from 27 January 2025. • The Stage Two consultation launched on 29 January 2025 – consultation materials were available on the Scheme website and in hard copy at CAPs (where stated) from this date. • Eight in person events and two online webinars were held across the consultation period.
	Consultation reporting 5.19. When statutory consultation has closed we will review and finalise the	In line with commitments made in the SoCC, as outlined in Chapter 6 of this Consultation Report:

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	proposed application for the Project, having regard to the feedback received. We will then produce a Consultation Report which will be included with our DCO application.	• Describes the consultation that has been carried out (in accordance with the SoCC) Chapter 7; • Evidences how we have satisfied and adhered to legal requirements in Appendix A: Statement of Compliance [EN010168/APP/5.2]; • Details how we have worked with Wiltshire Council to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in the SoCC in Chapter 6; • Sets out the key themes raised in the feedback and consultation responses received in Chapter 10; and • Responds to the feedback, setting out how we have had regard to feedback relevant to the Scheme and how it has influenced our proposals in Chapter 10.
6. Who we will consult	6.1. Our consultation process is open to anyone who is affected by or has an interest in our proposals for the Project. We are seeking to engage with a range of individuals and groups and want our consultation to be accessible for everyone to take part.	The Applicant accepted all feedback submitted in response to consultation during the consultation period. Opportunities to provide feedback were publicised through a range of methods including national and local media.
	Core consultation zone 6.7. We will seek to engage directly with those people who live and work, or have an interest, in land within our Core Consultation Zone including residents, local businesses, and community organisations (including parish councils) to raise awareness and encourage participation in the consultation through a selection of communication channels (see Section 7 of the SoCC).	The Applicant issued a Community Consultation Leaflet to all properties (around 14,187) within the defined Core Consultation Zone) to publicise and encourage responses to the Stage Two consultation. The leaflet notified consultees of the consultation dates and provided information relating to the consultation process and where information about how to take part and what was being consulted on could be found using a range of communication methods.
	Errata Statement – 27 January 2025 Please note: the boundary for the Core Consultation	On 27 January 2025, the Applicant published an Errata Statement, which was issued to correct an error identified in Figure 3 - Core Consultation Zone.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	Zone shown on this map has been corrected. Please refer to the Errata Statement for the updated map and further details.	The boundary for the Core Consultation Zone shown in Figure 3 was corrected. As a result of this amendment, the total number of addresses within the Core Consultation Zone increased from approximately 10,523 to around 14,187. This resulted in more addresses receiving the Community Consultation Leaflet, which was posted to addresses on/before 27 January 2025. The corrected consultation zone – and accompanying maps showing the zone relative to the location of in-person events and CAPs – was also include in the Errata Statement. The Errata Statement was uploaded to the Scheme website and deposited at the CAPs on 27 January 2025 and sent to Wiltshire Council as well as the Clerk to the Parish Council affected by the core consultation boundary correction (St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council).
	Consulting people beyond the Core Consultation Zone 6.9. We recognise that individuals, groups and organisations who live and work beyond the Core Consultation Zone may also have an interest in the Project and may have taken part in Stage One Consultation. 6.10. To give these individuals and organisations the opportunity to participate in this second stage of consultation we will raise awareness in the following ways: 6.10.1. Directly notify any individual who has registered to receive information about the Project, including those who have expressed concern or opposition to the proposals;	The Applicant issued a Community Consultation Leaflet to all properties (14,187) within the defined Core Consultation Zone to publicise and encourage responses to the Stage Two consultation. The Applicant issued a communication to those who had registered to be kept informed about the Scheme to notify them that statutory Section 47 consultation has launched and including a summary of the following: • How Stage Two consultation was being publicised; • Documents and information available; • Details of information events taking place, including times, dates and venues; • Scheme website updates; and • How feedback could be submitted; and • The Applicant issued the communication in the form of a letter by Royal Mail 1st Class on Tuesday 25 January 2025, and as an email from info@limedownsolar.co.uk on Wednesday 26 January 2025 when the consultation launched and the Scheme website was updated with all the consultation information and materials.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		A copy of the letter and email communication issued to stakeholders to announce the launch of Section 47 consultation is set out in Appendix F-1: Statutory Consultation under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2] .
	6.10.2. Publish a S48 notice in the local and national press and London Gazette (see Table 7 of the SoCC).	The S48 Notice was published as follows: • Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025; • Wiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025; • The Guardian on 22 January 2025; and • The London Gazette on 24 January 2025.
	6.10.3. Advertise the consultation in local media outlets reaching audiences beyond the Core Consultation Zone (see Table 8 of the SoCC).	The consultation was advertised in local media outlets as follows: • Hullavington News on 01 February 2025; • Melksham Independent News on 30 January and 13 February 2025; • Swindon Advertiser on 22 and 29 January, and 5 February 2025; • The Signpost on 01 February 2025; • Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 23 and 30 January, and 6 February 2025; and • Wiltshire Times on 24 and 31 January, and 7 February 2025. Advertisements also ran from 22 January to 20 February 2025 in the following online local media outlets: • This is Wiltshire; • Swindon Advertiser; • Wiltshire Gazette and Herald; and • Wiltshire Times.
	6.10.4. Publish consultation materials so they are available to view online (see Table 4 of the SoCC).	All consultation materials were published on the Scheme website on 27 January 2025.
	6.10.5. Fulfil requests for copies of the consultation materials received through the Project communications channels	The Application considered requests for printed and digital consultation materials on a case-by-case basis. The Applicant received and fulfilled 15 requests for printed copies of consultation materials, including one request for the

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		Project Information Booklet and Feedback Form in large print.
	6.11. We will also engage those parties representing the interests of those communities which lie beyond the Core Consultation Zone including: 6.11.1. Members of Parliament representing the host constituencies: Roz Savage MP (South Cotswolds) Sarah Gibson MP (Chippenham) Brian Mathew MP (Melksham and Devizes) 6.11.2. Wiltshire Council electoral division members (councillors)	The Applicant contacted the MPs listed via email and posted individual letters to their offices on 29 January 2025, at the start of the statutory consultation and on 26 March 2025, following the close of the consultation on 19 March 2025. This was alongside ad hoc meetings and correspondence undertaken throughout the consultation. The Applicant also contacted Wiltshire councillors, including Officers, Senior Leadership, Area Board members, and those representing the relevant electoral districts (33 members total) by email on 29 January 2025 and 26 March 2025. These were also issued alongside ad hoc meetings and correspondence undertaken throughout the consultation period.
	6.11.3. Wiltshire Area Boards within whose boundaries the Project site boundary lies including: Chippenham and Villages Area Board; Corsham Area Board; Malmesbury Area Board; and Melksham Area Board.	The Applicant contacted the Senior Democratic Services Officers and Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager for the four Area Boards listed by email on 29 January 2025 and 26 March 2025 to notify them of the launch and close of statutory consultation respectively.
	6.11.4. Community interest groups and voluntary organisations (see Appendix 1);	In consulting Wiltshire Council on the draft SoCC, the Applicant welcomed additional groups to engage with the Applicant ahead of and during the Stage Two consultation. The Applicant issued postal and email communications to the community groups listed in Appendix 1 of the SoCC on 14 January 2025 to provide advance notice of the statutory consultation period, an overview of the proposals, overall approach to consultation (inc. Information event details) and to invite them to consider sharing this information through their own channels. The Applicant also contacted such groups on 29 January 2025 (to confirm

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		the consultation launch) and on 26 March 2025 (to confirm its close).
	Consulting with under-represented or seldom heard groups 6.12. We are committed to ensuring the consultation process and associated communications reach as many parts of the community as possible. 6.13. We have identified various 'under-represented' or 'seldom-heard' groups and individuals within the Core Consultation Zone who may be less likely to engage with, or participate in, consultation. 6.14. Our consultation methodology (see Section 7 of the SoCC) has been designed to communicate as effectively as possible with these groups, ensuring they have the opportunity to access information and participate in the consultation. 6.15. We will contact bodies and organisations representing these groups ahead of statutory consultation starting to provide information about the consultation and ensure our approach considers the needs of their members. See Appendix 1 for a list of the gateway organisations and local groups we will contact. 6.16. Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for their members will be considered on a case-by-case basis and agreed and planned with the requesting organisations. We will continue to notify them of further consultation and engagement activity as	The Applicant developed a list of gateway organisations and bodies representing the interests of under-represented or seldom heard groups in Wiltshire, which was included as Appendix 1 to the SoCC. On 14 January 2025, the Applicant issued a postal and email communication to the gateway organisations and bodies identified to share details of the consultation (including dates), offer direct engagement and invite suggestions on alternative ways of engaging with the groups/interests they represented. A postal and digital communication was subsequently issued to the same organisations and bodies on 29 January 2025 to confirm the launch of Statutory Consultation, details of how it was being publicised/promoted, how and where information was being made available including the programme of events taking place, as well as the different mechanisms for providing feedback and the deadline for submissions. No requests were received from the gateway organisations and bodies contacted for additional information and/or delivery of specific consultation activity to best meet the needs of the groups they represented. During the statutory consultation period, the Applicant received and fulfilled one request for consultation literature in large print. The Applicant also issued both postal and digital communications to these organisations on 26 March 2025, to confirm the statutory consultation period had come to an end and provide information on next steps.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	information becomes available. 6.17. Our community relations team is available to assist anyone who may find it difficult to submit written comments to the consultation and can be contacted directly via the Project communications channels (see 10.5). Requests for community consultation literature to meet specific requirements (such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language for those who do not speak English as their first language) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how to provide the information required.	
	Wider consultation in accordance with s42 of the Planning Act 2008 6.18. At the same time as carrying out Stage Two 'statutory' consultation in accordance with s47 'Duty to Consult local community' of the Planning Act 2008, we will be carrying out statutory consultation in accordance with s42 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008.	The Applicant undertook consultation with community and technical consultees in parallel under s42, s47 and s48 of the Planning Act 2008 between 29 January and 19 March 2025. Consultees included Wiltshire Council (as a Host 'B' authority) and Neighbouring 'A' authorities – as listed in Table 8-1 of this report. A full list of s42 consultees is provided in the Consultation Report in Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]. This list included the relevant parish councils (located within the Development Site Area) and additional neighbouring parish councils, statutory environmental bodies (as listed in the SoCC) and persons having an interest in land affected by the Scheme, including property and landowners and occupiers.
7. How we will consult	7.2. We have identified a number of ways in which, throughout the consultation period, people can: Access clear and concise information about the	Throughout the consultation period, the Applicant ensured all consultation information/materials were readily accessible, including: • Hosting materials on the Scheme website and in printed format at four CAPs and at

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	project and the potential effects (this will include making available all relevant technical documents relating to the project); Review and comment on consultation documents at a time which is convenient to them; and Express their views regarding the Project by submitting feedback to the statutory consultation via easy to use and accessible methods.	in-person events. These included reference copies of the PEIR, PEIR NTS, and maps and plan for inspection, as well as the Consultation Leaflet, Project Information Booklet, Feedback Form, and Document Navigation Booklet to view and take away. • Monitoring stock levels of consultation materials at CAPs and replenishing as necessary; • Giving people seven weeks to review consultation documents at a time convenient to them, including accessing documents online and/or in person (as above); and • Providing a variety of channels to provide feedback, including via a printed and/or online Feedback Form or to the Applicant's communication channels (email or Freepost).
	Project website 7.4. The Project website www.limedownsolar.co.uk will be updated to provide information about the consultation and what we are consulting on. All the community consultation literature and technical documents produced to support the statutory consultation (see 7.7-7.18) will be available to view and download from the 'Documents' section of the website.	The Scheme website was updated on 27 January 2025 to provide full information about the Stage Two consultation. All materials were also hosted on the website from this date: https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/documents
	7.5. It will be possible to submit a response to the consultation via the website using a dedicated online Feedback Form which will be live throughout the consultation period.	The Applicant hosted an online Feedback Form on the Scheme website, which replicated the contents of the paper Feedback Form. The online form was accessible until 23:59 on 19 March 2025. A copy of the Stage Two Feedback Form can be found in Appendix F-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2].
	7.6. The website will continue to provide the facility for people to register their contact details with the Project so they can receive	The Scheme website continues to remain active and host the latest Scheme information. This includes a 'Register for updates' page:

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	future updates and information directly.	https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/register-here
	Community consultation literature 7.7. A Consultation Leaflet will be direct mailed to approximately 10,523 addresses which lie within the Core Consultation Zone from 27 January 2025. Leaflets can also be posted to those outside the Core Consultation Zone on request. 7.8. The Consultation Leaflet will be our main form of direct communication about the consultation with the public confirming the dates of the consultation and the deadline for receipt of feedback, details of in-person and online information events taking place, where they can find information about what is being consulted on and how they can take part. It will also provide details for the website and Project communications channels.	The Applicant issued a Community Consultation Leaflet to all properties (14,187) within the defined Core Consultation Zone) to publicise and encourage responses to the Stage Two consultation. As noted in the SoCC Errata Statement, the original Core Consultation Zone was revised from 10,523 addresses to 14,187 addresses. The Consultation Leaflet provided full information about the Scheme and Stage Two consultation.
	7.9. We will publish a Project Information Booklet to provide a summary of the Project and what is being consulted on, details of how people can take part in the consultation, and how feedback will be considered and used to influence the Project.	A Project Information Booklet was published on the Scheme website and in printed format at the four CAPs on 27 January 2025.
	7.10. A Feedback Form will be made available for people to respond to the consultation in writing. Completed Feedback Forms can be returned by post, free of charge, to the Project freepost address FREEPOST Lime Down Solar. An online version of	A Feedback Form was produced and made available for the Stage Two consultation, including: • In printed format at the four CAPs, at in-person events and on request from the team from 27 January 2025;

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	the Feedback Form will also be made available on the Project website so people can submit their feedback electronically. 7.11. Throughout the consultation period, people will also be welcome to submit written feedback by post to FREEPOST Lime Down Solar or by email to the Project email address: info@limedownsolar.co.uk	• Online via the Scheme website (as a downloadable PDF) from 27 January 2025; and • As an online form on the Scheme website, which could be accessed from 27 January until at least 23:59 on 19 March 2025. Completed forms and freeform feedback could be returned by post (FREEPOST Lime Down Solar), in person at events, or by email to the team.
	7.12. Feedback submitted to the consultation by email must be received by 23:59 on Wednesday 19 March 2025. Written feedback sent to the Project freepost address which is received after this deadline will be accepted subject to the postmark date being no later than the prescribed deadline of 19 March 2025.	The Applicant accepted feedback until 23:59 on 19 March 2025 and allowed two weeks after this date to receive representations via Freepost, acknowledging delay in postal times.
	7.13. By appointment with the Project team it will be possible to make a verbal representation over the Project freephone information line 0808 175 6656. Feedback provided will be transcribed and agreed verbally prior to submission. Appointments to provide verbal feedback should be made by contacting the Project team via Project freepost, email address or telephone number described above.	By exception (to the stated feedback methods), the Applicant accepted verbal feedback via the Scheme freephone. No representations were received via this method as no requests to provide verbal feedback were received.
	7.14. The Consultation Leaflet, Project Information Booklet and Feedback form will be available to view and download from the Project website from the start of statutory consultation on 29 January 2025. Hard copies of these documents will be available to take away free of charge from CAPs (see	All materials were available to view and download from the Scheme website on 29 January 2025. Printed copies of the Consultation Leaflet, Project Information Booklet and Feedback form were also available to inspect and/or take away from the four CAPs from this date and at the eight in person events throughout the consultation period.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	Table 5 of the SoCC) from the same date, and to collect from in-person information events taking place (see Table 6 of the SoCC). Digital and printed copies can be made available on request by contacting the Project community relations team (see section 10.5 of the SoCC).	Upon request, the Applicant provided consultation materials by post and/or email. The Applicant received and fulfilled fifteen requests for printed copies of consultation materials during the statutory consultation period. One request was received for large print consultation literature and fulfilled by the Applicant.
	7.15. Requests for community consultation literature set out above to meet specific requirements (such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or in an alternative language for those who do not speak English as their first language) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.	The Applicant considered requests on a case-by-case basis throughout the consultation period. One request was received for large print consultation literature and fulfilled by the Applicant.
	Technical documents 7.16. We will publish all those technical documents we have produced which describe and evaluate our proposals for the Project under consultation on the Project website when consultation launches on 29 January 2025. 7.17. Printed reference copies of the PEIR, NTS, maps and plans will be available to view free of charge at CAPs from the launch of consultation, and at in-person information events. Requests for a printed hard copy of the PEIR will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing and postage costs, a charge of up to £4,874.00 may apply. (The charge will be calculated based on cost per individual volume requested as follows:	All technical documents – including the PEIR and accompanying NTS and maps and plans – were made available on the Scheme website from 29 January 2025. Printed copies of these documents were also available to inspect (but not take away) from this date and were available to view electronically at CAPs. Seven requests for printed copies of technical documents were received and fulfilled by the Applicant during the consultation period. A Document Navigation Booklet was also published on this date, which was available to take away from CAPs, the in-person events, on request from the team and via the Scheme website.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	Volume 1 – Main Report, £896.00; Volume Two – Figures, £700.00 and Volume Three – Appendices, £3,278.00). 7.18. A Document Navigation Booklet will be published to assist with the review of community consultation literature and technical documents. This document will be available online, and to view and take away from CAPs and in-person information events.	
	7.19. Details of where documents will be available during the statutory consultation period are set out in Table 4 of the SoCC. 7.20. Reference copies of technical documents (PEIR, NTS of the PEIR, and maps and plans) will be available to view free of charge at CAPs for inspection in printed and electronic format. Copies of the community consultation literature (Consultation Leaflet, Project Information Booklet, Feedback Form, and Document Navigation Booklet) which will also be available at CAPs to view and takeaway free of charge.	All consultation documents were made available as stated in Table 4 of the SoCC. Stock levels (at CAPs and in person events) were monitored on a regular basis and replenished as necessary, and the Applicant checked in to ensure that reference copies of technical documents had not been removed by members of the public. No missing information was reported by CAPs throughout the statutory consultation period.
	Community information events 7.23. During the statutory consultation, we will hold community information events on days and at times designed to maximise attendance, including two events on a Saturday. At these events, you will be able to access information about the Project and the aspects we are consulting on. Members of the Project team will be available to	The Applicant held a total of eight in person and two online events across the consultation period (as detailed in Section 7.3 of this report). Events were held on a range of dates and times throughout the week, including in the afternoon, evening and at weekends to encourage attendance from all consultees. All venues were located within the Scheme's Core Consultation Zone and were selected based on their accessibility (to affected communities) and health and safety/capacity requirements. All venues had disabled access.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	discuss the proposals and answer any questions. 7.24. The programme of community information events comprises eight in-person events and two online events. 7.25. In-person information events will be held at publicly accessible venues which accommodate the needs of individuals with limited mobility. 7.30. The timings for in-person and online information events have been coordinated to ensure they are not restricted to take place during typical working hours to maximise opportunities for engagement.	Several members of the team were in attendance at the events, including representatives from IGP and a wide range of planning, land, technical and environmental impact assessment disciplines., to discuss the proposals and answer questions.
	7.25. In-person events will take the form of 'drop-in' events that people can come along at any point during the advertised opening hours.	Consultation event locations and timings were advertised in advance, including an opening and closing time. The Applicant invited interested parties to attend in-person events at any point between these times.
	7.26. Information available to view at in-person events will include display panels, reference copies of technical documents, maps and plans published as part of the consultation (including the PEIR and NTS), and the SoCC (this document). Printed copies of community consultation literature will be available to take away. Representatives from the Project team will be available to discuss the proposals and provide guidance on how people can take part in the consultation.	All consultation materials were made available to inspect and/or take away from the in-person events. Members of the team were on hand to discuss the proposals in more detail.
	7.27. Online information events will take the form of webinars conducted on 'Zoom', the date and time for which will be publicised	The Applicant held two online webinars via Zoom. Details were publicised in the consultation materials and wider publicity. Consultees could sign up to attend via a link

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	along with details of in-person events. 7.28. Webinars will be held for any member of the public to join via telephone or the internet. The format of these webinars will involve the presentation of information consistent with that made available at in-person events (i.e. display panels) by representatives from the Project team, followed by a moderated question and answer session. Participants will be invited to submit questions during the webinar. 7.29. Webinar sessions will be recorded and made available.	on the Scheme website or by getting in touch with the team. Webinars included a live presentation, which covered information consistent with materials presented at the in-person events, and a Q&A with the team. Questions could be submitted and answered live via a 'Q&A' box. Webinar recordings were uploaded to the Scheme website after each event and both webinar and Scheme registrants were issued digital notifications on the day of publication. Responses to questions that remained outstanding following each session were published in writing via the Scheme website and the Applicant issued notifications to both webinar and project registrants following publication.
	7.30. The full programme of events anticipated as being held are set out in Table 6 of the SoCC. 7.33. Where any information events set out in Table 6 are cancelled or rearranged for any reason, as much notice as possible will be given. Notice of any alternative arrangements (if any) will be given as soon as possible after the cancellation or rearrangement is made.	All in-person and online events were held as advertised in the final SoCC, s47 and s48 Notices and wider publicity information.
	Open communication 7.3.4 The Project communications channels will remain open throughout the pre-application stage. Outside of the statutory consultation period you will still be able to speak to a member of our Project community relations team to ask questions through these channels.	All communication channels remained open throughout the pre-application period, including Freephone, email and Freepost, and remain open for people to get in touch with the Scheme community relations team with any questions.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	7.35. During the consultation period consultees can provide feedback by: 7.35.1. Submitting an online Feedback Form through the Project website 7.35.2. Completing a printed copy of the Feedback Form and submitting it an in-person information event or returning it to FREEPOST Lime Down Solar (no stamp required) 7.35.3. Sending an email to: info@limedownsolar.co.uk 7.35.4. Providing comments in writing and posting them to FREEPOST Lime Down Solar 7.36. By appointment with the Project team, it will be possible to make a verbal representation over the Project freephone 0808 175 6656.	Stakeholders could submit comments to the Stage Two consultation via the advertised methods. All responses submitted by the closing date (23:59 on 19 March 2025) were accepted, with additional days provided for the receipt of postal feedback (to account for any delays). No representations were received verbally via the Scheme freephone, as no requests to provide verbal feedback were received.
	7.37. Questions and requests for information can be made using the communications channels above and by calling the Project freephone line 0808 175 6656 (open 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday, with a voice message service operating during out of office hours so a callback can be made subject to the correct information being provided in the message).	The team were available via the stated communication channels and received answerphone messages outside of these hours.
	Section 48 notice 7.39. A list of the newspaper outlets and dates when the Section 48 Notice will appear are set out in Table 7 pf the final published SoCC.	The s48 Notice was published in the following publications: • Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025; • Wiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025;

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		• The Guardian on 22 January 2025; and • The London Gazette on 24 January 2025.
	Media and advertising 7.40. To raise awareness about the Project and consultation within and beyond the Core Consultation Zone we will issue media releases: 7.40.1. At the start of consultation to provide an overview of the proposed application, why we are consulting and how people can access information about the Project, including dates of information events (online and in person) and the deadline for receipt of feedback to the consultation. 7.40.2. Towards the end of the consultation period to remind people of the deadline for feedback and encourage people to have their say before consultation closes 7.40.3. After the consultation has closed to provide a summary of participation and details of what happens next.	The Applicant issued a series of media releases to local/regional publications at the start, during and after the close of the Stage Two consultation, including: • A media release on 29 January 2025, announcing the start of the Stage Two consultation, a list of in-person and online events and where people could view more information; • A media release on 04 March 2025, thanking all those who attended information events and reminding people to submit their feedback ahead of consultation close; and • A media release on 26 March 2025, announcing the close of the consultation, a summary of consultation activities undertaken and thanking stakeholders for their engagement.
	7.41. In addition to publishing a formal s48 Notice in regional and national newspapers, we will place advertisements in local media to publicise the consultation and information events taking place (online and in-person). 7.42. A list of local and regional media outlets to whom media releases will be issued, and at least one round of advertising placed with, is set out in Table 8 of the SoCC.	The Applicant placed a series of additional advertisements in local media outlets as follows: • Hullavington News on 01 February 2025; • Melksham Independent News on 30 January and 13 February 2025; • Swindon Advertiser on 22 and 29 January, and 5 February 2025; • The Signpost on 01 February 2025; • Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 23 and 30 January, and 6 February 2025; and • Wiltshire Times on 24 and 31 January, and 7 February 2025. The Applicant also ran a digital campaign for the duration of the statutory consultation

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		period on four local media websites as follows: • The Wiltshire Gazette & Herald; • Swindon Advertiser; • Wiltshire Times; and • This is Wiltshire. Media releases were also issued to 31 local and regional media outlets as set out on Table 8 of the SoCC.
	Posters 7.43. Posters publicising the consultation will be issued to venues where in-person information events are taking place, and the clerks of parish councils listed in Section 6 (see 6.18.2) for display on local parish notice boards. They will also be made available to other community venues and local information points such as village halls, shops, pubs, after-school clubs, health facilities, and civic buildings within the Core Consultation Zone. A list of those venues and local information points to which posters will be sent is included in Appendix 3.	The Applicant issued posters to community venues, local information points, as noted in Appendix 3 of the SoCC, and the parish councils listed in Section 6 of this Consultation Report (see 6.18.2) to advertise the Stage Two consultation (one venue requested seven copies) on 16 January 2025. Posters included a list of in-person and online events. Two Parish Councils were sent the poster via post on 28 January 2025.
	Stakeholder communications and briefings 7.44. We will issue communications to key stakeholders including local political representatives (Wiltshire Councillors and Members of Parliament) and parish council clerks representing electoral divisions, constituencies, and parishes within the Core Consultation Zone to provide information about the proposals we are consulting on and invite them to take part in the consultation.	The Applicant contacted local MPs via email and posted individual letters to their offices on 17 December 2024 and 29 January 2025, at the start of the Stage Two consultation. The Applicant also contacted Wiltshire councillors, including Officers, Senior Leadership, Area Board members, and those representing the relevant electoral districts (33 members total) by email on 17 December 2024 and 29 January 2025. The Applicant also contacted parish council clerks within the Core Consultation Zone via email and post on 17 December 2024 and 29 January 2025. The Applicant did not receive any requests for printed materials from these stakeholders.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	7.45. Communications will direct key stakeholders to digital versions of consultation materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation through their own online channels (websites, community forums, social media), with requests for printed copies of consultation materials being considered on a case-by-case basis.	
	7.46. In addition to community information events to which prescribed consultees and other bodies will be invited to attend at the start of the consultation; we will consider invitations to, or requests for, in-person and/or virtual meetings with local groups or special interest organisations on a case-by-case basis.	The Applicant considered invitations to in-person and virtual meetings throughout the consultation period. This included holding meetings with Community Action: Whitley & Shaw (CAWS) on 22 January (as a briefing one week ahead of statutory consultation period) and Stop Lime Down on 26 February.
	7.47. We extend the offer to Wiltshire Council to brief and provide information on how we are consulting and what we are consulting on.	The Applicant briefed Wiltshire Council Councillors on 20 January 2025 via Microsoft Teams. The briefing was attended by Wiltshire Council Officers and over 20 Councillors. The briefing included an explanation of the statutory consultation, covering the following points: • Timeline of pre-application engagement and consultation; • Key dates; • Consultation objective; • Who we're consulting; • How we're consulting; • Materials available; • Consultation feedback; and • Contacts for the community relations team
	Changes to consultation activities	No changes to consultation activities were required.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	7.48. Should any changes to our consultation activities be required due to circumstances outside of our control, details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in this SoCC to the extent it is reasonable and proportionate to do so.	
8. Environmental Information	8.7. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and PEIR Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') will be made available to inform statutory consultation. 8.8. It is intended to facilitate consultation on the Project. The NTS accompanying the PEIR, will help to maximise accessibility during the consultation. Interested parties and local community are invited to comment on the Project, including its likely environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures as presented within the PEIR.	The PEIR and accompanying NTS were made available on the Scheme website and in hard copy (for inspection only) at CAPs from 29 January 2025. Hard copies were also available at the in-person events. The Feedback Form was designed to include questions targeted at specific areas of the Scheme, including requesting comments on the contents of the PEIR and NTS.
	Environmental Statement (ES) 8.10. Following statutory consultation, we will prepare the ES. This will build on the content of the PEIR, incorporating feedback received during statutory consultation, and the outcomes of the EIA. 8.11. The ES will describe the Project after incorporating statutory consultation feedback, and those mitigation measures proposed to control or reduce environmental effects of the Project, along with any measures identified to enhance	The ES has been submitted as part of the Scheme's DCO application. ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010168/APP/6.1] explains changes to the Scheme as a result of statutory consultation feedback and ongoing design work.

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	beneficial effects. The ES will form part of the DCO application we submit to the Inspectorate.	
10. Next steps and contact details	Consultation responses 10.1. Feedback to the consultation must be submitted in writing or online by 23:59 on Wednesday 19 March 2025, unless agreed otherwise with us directly.	The Applicant accepted feedback submitted by 23:59 on 19 March 2025. One extension was granted upon request, wherein the Applicant agreed to receive feedback by 23:59 on 12 April 2025. The Applicant also accepted 22 feedback submissions received or submitted after the close of the consultation.
	10.2. When a respondent submits feedback to the consultation online (via the online Feedback Form or via email) an automated acknowledgement to confirm receipt will be issued. 10.3. Any person submitting feedback online who is concerned that they have not received acknowledgment of receipt is advised to contact the Project community relations team using the communication channels (see 10.5).	Respondents received an automated acknowledgement to confirm receipt of feedback via the online Feedback Form. If submitted by email, respondents would receive an automated reply, noting that the email had been received by the team.
	Information services 10.4. The Project community relations team is available to provide people with assistance in finding out about the Project and our consultation. 10.6. These communications channels will remain open throughout the pre-application stage.	The communications channels were accessible for stakeholders throughout the consultation period and remained open throughout the pre-application stage.
	Ongoing engagement and potential further consultation 10.7. If, as a result of feedback, our proposals change to the extent we consider it necessary to undertake further targeted	Any targeted consultation will take place, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	consultation, this will be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.	

6.6 Conclusion

- 6.6.1 The Applicant considers that, in developing the SoCC and publishing the s47 Notice publicising the SoCC, it fully complied with the Planning Act 2008 and the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure.
- 6.6.2 As set out in this chapter and the following **Chapter 7**, the Applicant published a s47 Notice publicising the SoCC (**see Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**) and made the SoCC available for the public to view at CAPs (see **Table 7-1**) and on the Scheme website. Consultation activities were carried out in line with the SoCC, as set out in **Table 6-4** and **Chapter 7**.

7 Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

7.1 Overview

- 7.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report sets out the consultation activities carried out by the Applicant with the people living in vicinity of the land ('the community') to which the Scheme relates under s47 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 7.1.2 As required under s47(7) of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant carried out statutory consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) provided in **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**. A summary of how the Applicant adhered to s47(7) of the Planning Act 2008 through commitments placed in the SoCC is set out in **Table 6-4**.
- 7.1.3 This chapter sets out the s47 statutory consultation carried out in line with the commitments set out in the SoCC covering the period Wednesday 29 January to Friday 19 March 2025.

7.2 Summary of Section 47 statutory consultation

- 7.2.1 The Stage Two (statutory s47) community consultation launched on Wednesday 29 January and closed on Wednesday 19 March 2025. The consultation ran in parallel to the s42 consultation and s48 consultation. The Applicant held eight in-person and two online community information events between 05 February and 27 February 2025.
- 7.2.2 The Applicant carried out the s42 consultation and Stage Two s47 consultation in parallel to enable consultation on the PEIR and Stage Two consultation literature.
- 7.2.3 The purpose of this consultation was to seek the views of statutory consultees and the public on the Scheme. This included the potential environmental effects of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning and proposed mitigation, and the information presented in the PEIR.
- 7.2.4 The Applicant sought to ensure that consultation was accessible to all who may have an interest in the Scheme. This was enabled by a hybrid approach, with content, engagement tools and opportunities to provide feedback and comments online and in-person/offline. This approach included:
- A combination of in-person and online community information events held during the consultation period;
 - All community and technical materials were available online and at CAPs throughout the consultation period;
 - Communication channels (including email, phonenumber and Freepost) were open throughout the consultation;
 - The Scheme website was designed to enable stakeholders and communities to access information online and submit their views and feedback using intuitive web functions; and

- Offers of update briefings to key stakeholders (MPs, local authority officers, elected representatives and parish councils) were extended.

7.2.5 Through this consultation, the Applicant welcomed feedback on all aspects of the Scheme. In particular, the Applicant specifically invited feedback on:

- The design for the five Solar PV Sites, within which the electricity generating station and BESS would be contained;
- The proposed Cable Route Search Corridor, which would be refined and within which an underground cable would be installed to connect the Solar PV Sites to one another and provide an electrical connection into the national grid at Melksham Substation;
- The environmental effects of the Scheme, as detailed in the PEIR, which sets out the results of our preliminary environmental assessments and associated mitigation; and
- The timescales and next steps for the Scheme.

7.2.6 The consultation also sought general feedback on anything else respondents thought the Applicant should consider.

Core Consultation Zone

7.2.7 S47 (1) of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in the 'vicinity' of the land to which the Scheme relates.

7.2.8 The Applicant identified a Core Consultation Zone to help determine the areas where consultation would take place; taking into consideration where the Scheme may have a direct or indirect impact, either permanently or temporarily, as a result of construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning.

7.2.9 The Core Consultation Zone was identified for the Scheme and described in the SoCC. The Core Consultation Zone is illustrated in Figure 3 of the Errata Statement included in **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

7.2.10 The Core Consultation Zone for the Scheme was identified by the following methodology:

- An initial distance of two kilometres (km) from the boundaries of the five Solar PV Sites, and 500 metres (m) from the edge of the Cable Route Search Corridor, was considered.
- Where proportionate, the Core Consultation Zone was extended further to include reasonable consideration of areas in the vicinity of the Scheme site boundary which could experience a degree of visual impact, existing human and natural geographical boundaries (such as the M4 and A350), and to cover host wards and parishes.

- 7.2.11 Throughout the Core Consultation Zone, which included over 14,100 local homes and business properties at the time of the Statutory Section 47 consultation, the following consultation activities took place:
- Direct mailing of Stage Two Consultation Leaflets to all properties within this zone;
 - Hosting a series of in-person community information events across a range of dates, times and venues;
 - Displaying hard copy Scheme information, including the PEIR NTS, across four CAPs; and
 - Issuing posters to 96 identified local information points to publicise the consultation opportunities.
- 7.2.12 The Applicant recognises that individuals or parties outside the Core Consultation Zone may still have an interest in the Scheme. The Applicant therefore accepted feedback from any interested parties outside the Core Consultation Zone.
- 7.2.13 In addition to the targeted activities within the Core Consultation Zone, to further publicise consultation opportunities the Applicant also:
- Displayed consultation notices in regional and national newspapers;
 - Displayed consultation adverts in regional newspapers;
 - Issued a press release publishing the consultation opportunities to regional press;
 - Hosted Scheme information and all consultation materials on the website; and
 - Issued Scheme updates to a register of email addresses for individuals who had registered to be kept informed.
- 7.2.14 In addition to the 14,100 residential and business properties notified within the Core Consultation Zone, the Applicant identified a range of relevant local interest groups and community organisations in the vicinity of the Scheme, as well as gateway organisations representing the interests of potentially seldom heard and underrepresented groups identified. These consultees were identified through desk-based research, suggestions made by local authorities and other stakeholders, and the Stage One consultation already undertaken by the Applicant. A list of these organisations is included Appendix 1 of the SoCC (see **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**).

7.3 Section 47 consultation activity (29 January to 19 March 2025)

- 7.3.1 Statutory consultation under s47 of the Planning Act 2008 was undertaken as a specific stage of consultation between Wednesday 26 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025 inclusive (allowing 49 days). While this was the first phase of statutory consultation, it was the second phase of community consultation,

following on from the Stage One non-statutory consultation undertaken in March to April 2024.

7.3.2 The Applicant undertook the following consultation activities as set out in the SoCC:

- Holding eight in-person information events during the statutory s47 consultation period;
- Holding two online webinars for any members of the public to join via internet connection or telephone;
- Offering briefing sessions to local authorities, MPs, and parish councils;
- Posting community consultation leaflets to all properties within the Core Consultation Zone to publicise the statutory s47 consultation and share relevant information;
- Making available Project Information Booklets detailing the Scheme proposal at the four CAPs identified in the SoCC, community information events, the Scheme website, and by request through the Scheme communication channels;
- Hosting Feedback Forms at CAPs, community information events, the website, and by request. Completed Feedback Forms could be returned by Freepost, at in-person community information events, online and by email;
- Placing s48 notices in local and national newspaper publications;
- Hosting free-to-use Scheme communication channels (emails, Freephone, and Freepost) to receive feedback and enquiries throughout the pre-application period;
- Issuing posters publicising consultation opportunities to 96 identified local information points to be displayed across the Core Consultation Zone;
- Hosting hard-copy Scheme information, including the PEIR NTS, at CAPs across the Core Consultation Zone for the duration of the consultation period. These were publicised through the SoCC, the Project Information Booklet, the website, and s48 notices; and
- Consulting with identified organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups, who were notified of the proposals, consultation activities, and feedback opportunities.

Community Access Points (CAPs)

7.3.3 The Applicant identified and liaised with four publicly accessible venues across the Core Consultation Zone to act as CAPs. The details of these CAPs were presented in the draft SoCC for consultation with local planning authorities.

7.3.4 The four CAPs are presented in **Table 7-1**.

Table 7-1 Community Access Points

Venue	Opening Hours
Corsham Library Springfield Community Campus Beechfield Road Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 9DN	Mon (staffed): 09:00 – 19:00 Tues (staffed): 09:00 – 17:00 Weds (staffed): 09:00 – 17:00 Thurs (staffed): 09:00 – 17:00 Fri (staffed): 09:00 – 19:00 Sat (staffed): 09:00 – 17:00 Sun (not staffed)
Melksham Library Melksham Community Campus Market Place Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6ES	Mon (staffed): 09.30 – 19:00 Tues (staffed): 09.30 – 17:00 Weds (not staffed). Thurs (staffed): 09.30 – 19:00 Fri (staffed): 09.30 – 17:00 Sat (staffed): 09.30 – 17:00 Sun (not staffed)
Malmesbury Library 24 Cross Hayes Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 9BG	Mon: 14:00 – 19:00 Tues: 09:30 – 17:00 Weds: 09:30 – 17:00 Thurs: closed Fri: 09:30 – 19:00 Sat: 09.30– 13:00 Sun: closed
Chippenham Library Timber Street Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 3EJ	Mon: 10:00 – 19:00 Tues: 09:00 – 17:00 Weds: 09:00 – 13:00 Thurs: 09:00 – 19:00 Fri: 09:00 – 19:00 Sat: 09:00 – 17:00 Sun: closed

7.3.5 The following hard copy Scheme information was available to access at CAPs during the Statutory s47 consultation:

- Scheme PEIR NTS, and all associated figures and appendices;
- Stage Two Consultation Leaflet;
- Project Information Booklet;

- Stage Two Feedback Form; and
- Document Navigation Booklet.

Section 47 Consultation Launch

- 7.3.6 The Applicant issued a communication to local authorities, councillors, MPs, parish councils, gateway organisations and local groups, and over 14,000 properties across the Core Consultation Zone to notify them that statutory s47 consultation had launched and including a summary of the following:
- How Stage Two consultation was being publicised;
 - Documents and information available;
 - Details of community information events taking place, including times, dates and venues;
 - Scheme website updates;
 - How feedback could be submitted; and
 - Offer to meet and brief members or individuals to provide more detail.
- 7.3.7 The Applicant issued the communication in the form of a letter by Royal Mail 1st Class on Tuesday 25 January 2025, and as an email from info@limedownsolar.co.uk on Wednesday 26 January 2025 when the consultation launched and the Scheme website was updated with all the consultation information and materials.
- 7.3.8 A copy of the letter and email communication issued to stakeholders to announce the launch of s47 consultation is set out in **Appendix F-1: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 7.3.9 As a result, a briefing meeting was arranged with Corsham Town Council and took place on Wednesday 12 March 2025.
- 7.3.10 The Applicant issued further postal and email communications on Monday 03 March 2025 to all those stakeholders as above in Section 7.3.7 of this Consultation Report to:
- Provide a reminder of the deadline to submit feedback to the Statutory s47 consultation;
 - Provide a reminder of how to submit feedback to the consultation; and
 - Advise on next steps in the ongoing development process.
- 7.3.11 A copy of the letter and email communication issued to stakeholders to remind them to submit feedback is set out in **Appendix F-6: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 7.3.12 Further to statutory s47 consultation closing on Wednesday 19 March 2025, the Applicant issued postal and email communications on Wednesday 26 March

2025 to all those stakeholders as above in Section 7.3.7 of this Consultation Report to:

- Provide a summary of engagement over the course of the consultation period;
- Advise on the next steps in the ongoing development process and associated key milestones; and
- Extend the offer to meet and brief members and individuals to provide a summary of consultation, issues raised and next steps in respect of the ongoing development process.

7.3.13 A copy of the letter and email communication issued to stakeholders to announce the close of s47 consultation is set out in **Appendix F-6: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

In-person Section 47 Community Information Events

7.3.14 During the statutory consultation period, the Applicant held a series of community information events, both in-person and online. These events took place during the consultation period across a range of times, days and venues between the period of Wednesday 26 January 2025 and Wednesday 19 March 2025.

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

7.3.16 The details of these events, including attendance numbers recorded by the Applicant, are presented in **Table 7-2**.

Table 7-2 Community information events held in person during statutory Section 47 consultation

Venue	Date and Time	Number of attendees
Sherston Village Hall , High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LQ	Friday 07 February 2025 14:30 – 19:30	221
Hullavington Village Hall , Hayes Lane, Hullavington, Chippenham, SN14 6EB	Saturday 08 February 2025 11:00-15:00	136
Grittleton Village Hall , The Street, Grittleton, Chippenham, SN14 6AW	Wednesday 12 February 2025 14:30-19:30	107
Corsham Town Council Hall , Town Hall, 65 Hight Street, Corsham, SN13 0EZ	Thursday 13 February 2025 14:30-19:30	96

Malmesbury Town Hall , Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, SN16 9BZ	Friday 14 February 2025 14:30-19:30	159
Luckington Village Hall , Bristol Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6NP	Saturday 15 February 2025 11:00-15:00	109
Goss Croft Hall , Startley Road, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, SN15 5HD	Tuesday 25 February 2025 14:30-19:30	137
Shaw CofE Primary School , Corsham Road, Shaw, Melksham, SN12 8EQ	Wednesday 26 February 2025 17:30-20:30	96

7.3.17 The following Scheme information was available at the community information events:

- Stage Two Consultation Leaflet (included in **Appendix F-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Stage Two Project Information Booklet (included in **Appendix F-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Stage Two Feedback Form (included in **Appendix F-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Stage Two Event Display Panels (included in **Appendix F-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Stage Two Document Navigation Booklet (included in **Appendix F-3: Statutory consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Scheme PEIR and associated appendices and figures; and
- Scheme PEIR NTS.

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

7.3.19 Photographs taken during each event are provided in **Appendix F-5 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

Online Section 47 Community Information Events

- 7.3.20 The Applicant scheduled two online community information events (webinars) to take place on different days of the week and published recordings of the webinars on the Scheme website to account for different consultees' availability.
- 7.3.21 The webinars were the first and last community information events to take place in the programme of events held over the consultation period; being held on Wednesday 05 February 2025 and Thursday 27 February 2025.
- 7.3.22 The Applicant welcomed 64 attendees at the first webinar held on Wednesday 05 February 2025, and 46 attendees at the second webinar held on Thursday 27 February 2025.
- 7.3.23 Individuals wishing to attend were able to register in advance via the Scheme website, with this information being included in all the materials providing details of the events being held. Each of the webinars included a presentation by the Applicant and the project team covering a variety of topics, followed by a question-and-answer session. A copy of the presentation slide deck can be found in **Appendix F-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**, and a list of the questions submitted by attendees and verbally responded to by the project team at each webinar can be found in **Appendix F-5: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 7.3.24 Recordings of the webinars were uploaded to the website following each event. As soon as the recordings were available an email notification was sent to all project registrants and anyone who registered and/or attended the online event to advise them the recordings were available to view and listen to.
- 7.3.25 A copy of the notifications issued after each online event can be found in **Appendix F-5: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

Scheme website

- 7.3.26 The Applicant updated the Scheme website at the start of s47 statutory consultation. This update was to ensure the Scheme website presented clear information about the statutory consultation, what was being consulted on and the development process. The Scheme website provided people with access to all the consultation overview and technical documents produced to inform the consultation, an online Feedback Form and access to register to attend the online community information events.
- 7.3.27 The Scheme website address was publicised across all the consultation and publicity materials, including public notices, that were produced to support the statutory consultation. Copies of these materials are set out in **Appendix F: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]** and **Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 7.3.28 Screenshots of the updated website can be found in **Appendix F-4: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

7.4 Publicising the Section 47 consultation

Press releases

- 7.4.1 Press releases were issued to the local and regional media outlets to publicise the s47 consultation at the start of the consultation period on Wednesday 26 January 2025. A further press release was issued two weeks before the close of consultation on Tuesday 04 March 2025 to remind people of the deadline for providing feedback.
- 7.4.2 In addition to what was set out in the SoCC, the Applicant recognised the opportunity of issuing a press release to regional and local media outlets in advance of consultation launching on Tuesday 14 January 2025 to publicise the dates and encourage anyone interested in receiving information to register their details to be kept informed about the consultation when it became available.
- 7.4.3 A further press release was issued immediately following the close of Stage Two Consultation on Wednesday 26 March 2025 to provide a summary of the consultation and invite people to register their details if they wished to be kept updated as the development process progressed.
- 7.4.4 **Table 7-3** below lists those local and regional media outlets to whom press releases were issued. Copies of the press releases issued are set out in **Appendix F-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

Table 7-3 List of media outlets to which press releases were issued

Local and regional media outlets
BBC Politics West
BBs Points West
BBC Wiltshire
Connect Magazine
Fosseway News
Gloucestershire Live
Hullavington News
Inspiratia
ITV West Country
Melksham Independent News
PA Media
Salisbury Journal

Local and regional media outlets
Shropshire Star
Somerset Live
Swindon Advertiser
Swindon Link
The Sherston Cliffhanger
The Signpost
The Parish Life
The Swindonian
This is Wiltshire
Warminster Journal
West and North Wiltshire Star
Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Standard
Wiltshire Gazette and Herald
Wiltshire Life
Wiltshire News
Wiltshire Publications
Wiltshire Star
Wiltshire Times
Your Wiltshire Magazine

- 7.4.5 The press releases issued generated editorial coverage, and the Scheme itself also attracted media coverage separately before and during Statutory Section 47 Consultation.

Public notices

- 7.4.6 The consultation details were publicised in the s48 Notices published in local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, and in national newspapers as listed in **Table 9-1**. A copy of the s48 notice is provided in **Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

Media advertising

- 7.4.7 In addition to publishing a formal s48 Notice in regional and national newspapers, the Applicant also placed adverts across regional media outlets to publicise the consultation and programme of public consultation as set out in **Table 7-4**.

Table 7-4 List of adverts placed

Newspaper outlet	First publication date	Second publication date
Hullavington News	Saturday 01 February 2025	N/A
Melksham Independent News	Thursday 30 January 2025	Thursday 13 February 2025
Swindon Advertiser	Wednesday 29 January 2025	Wednesday 05 February 2025
The Signpost	February 2025	N/A
Wiltshire Gazette and Herald	Thursday 30 January 2025	Thursday 06 February 2025
Wiltshire Times	Friday 24 January 2025	Thursday 06 February 2025

- 7.4.8 The adverts were designed to provide a simple visual guide to highlight the dates of the statutory consultation period and events taking place along with clear signposts to where and how people could access information.
- 7.4.9 Copies of the adverts can be found in **Appendix F-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

Media advertising

- 7.4.10 At consultation launch the Applicant issued Consultation Posters to identified publicly accessible venues (such as libraries, shops and civic buildings within the Core Consultation Zone), information event venues, as well as the clerks for host parish council with a request that the posters be displayed on local parish notice boards. The Consultation Poster was designed to publicise the consultation and provide a simple guide to when events were taking place and where more information could be found. A copy of the Poster is provided in **Appendix F-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 7.4.11 These locations were identified in support of raising awareness across local residents and businesses and visitors to the areas. Subject to having first confirmed the consent of the venue manager, Consultation Posters were issued by Royal Mail.
- 7.4.12 A list of the venues to which Consultation Posters were issued can be found in Appendix 3 of the SoCC. The SoCC is provided in **Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

Seldom Heard Groups

- 7.4.13 In addition to the properties and local businesses consulted with through the core consultation mailing zone, the Applicant identified additional seldom heard groups. These consultees were identified by desk-based research and through discussions with Local Authorities.
- 7.4.14 These groups and individuals were identified as less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. The groups and individuals that may find it harder to get involved in consultation and/or need additional support to access materials include:
- Geographically isolated communities;
 - Economically inactive individuals and socially deprived communities;
 - Young people and older people;
 - People with physical or learning disabilities;
 - Ethnic minorities; and
 - Time poor, busy working people.
- 7.4.15 These consultees are listed in Appendix 1 of the SoCC (see **Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**).
- 7.4.16 The Applicant issued communications to organisations representing seldom heard groups to notify them about the statutory consultation.
- 7.4.17 On Tuesday 14 January 2025, the Applicant issued an email to identified organisations (**Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]**) to provide them with advance notice of the dates for s47 Consultation and to encourage them to circulate the enclosed information and register for updates.
- 7.4.18 Gateway organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups were also included in the Applicant's mailings on Wednesday 26 January 2025, Monday 03 March 2025, and Wednesday 19 March 2025. This included a notification on the launch and close of statutory consultation.

Requests for documents in alternative formats

- 7.4.19 Consultation documents in large-scale or alternative formats were available on request by contacting the Applicant's community relations team. Hard-copy versions of documents were also available by request. The Applicant received one request for consultation literature in large print format, which was fulfilled by the Applicant free-of-charge.
- 7.4.20 Requests for hard copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and other technical documents were reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge of £4,874 was applied to one full suite of materials.

7.5 Conclusion

7.5.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with s47 of Planning Act 2008 through the following activities:

- The Applicant consulted on the SoCC with the relevant local authorities as defined in s43(1) of Planning Act 2008, giving them each at least 28 days to respond (as described in **Chapter 6** of this report);
- The Applicant advertised the SoCC in the publications described in **Chapter 6** of this report;
- The Applicant commenced statutory consultation with the community through the publication of its SoCC on Tuesday 14 January 2025 and in accordance with the SoCC (see **Table 6-4 SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance**);
- The Applicant consulted with the community i.e. those persons defined under s47 of Planning Act 2008 as living in the vicinity of the land where the Scheme is, by reference to a Core Consultation Zone;
- The Applicant notified and offered briefing meetings to elected representatives and key stakeholders;
- The Applicant welcomed over 1,100 members of the public across a series of eight in-person and online community information events;
- The Applicant purposefully ran the Stage Two (statutory under s47) consultation in parallel to s42 consultation to invite responses from the community to the PEIR and PEIR NTS and to collect feedback from both the community and statutory consultees on the same proposals; and
- A total response period of 49 days was provided for the statutory s47 consultation, in excess of the minimum period of 28 days.

8 Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report details the statutory consultation under s42 of Planning Act 2008 ('s42 consultation') and provides an overview of the consultation activities that took place during the statutory consultation period commencing 29 January and closing 19 March 2025.

8.2 Statutory requirements and guidance

8.2.1 S42 of Planning Act 2008 requires that the Applicant must consult the following groups of stakeholders about the proposed Application:

- Such persons as may be prescribed;
- Each local authority that is within s43;
- Each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in s44.

8.2.2 In relation to s42(1)(a) the Applicant consulted all persons listed as a prescribed consultee notified by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (c) of the EIA Regulations referred to in this Consultation Report as the 's42 consultees' and listed in **Appendix G-1: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

8.2.3 In relation to s42(1)(b), the local authorities under the definitions set out in s43 of Planning Act 2008 were consulted. **Table 8-1** includes a list of relevant local authorities and their classification, as defined by Planning Act 2008.

8.2.4 For the purposes of s42(1)(d), a person is within s44 of Planning Act 2008 if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land; is interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land; or is entitled to make a relevant claim if the order sought by the proposed Application were to be made and fully implemented.

8.2.5 The relevant persons defined under s44 of Planning Act 2008 were consulted as part of the s42 consultation between 29 January and 19 March 2025. The list of land interests consulted is provided in **Appendix G-4: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

8.2.6 S45(1) of Planning Act 2008 states that the Applicant, when consulting a stakeholder under s42, must provide notification of the deadline for responses to the consultation. S45(2) states that such a deadline must not be less than 28 days. The Applicant provided s42 consultees a period of 49 days (from 29 January to 19 March 2025) for consultation responses. This deadline for responses was communicated in a s42 covering letter, which is provided in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

8.3 Preliminary environmental information Report

- 8.3.1 The PEIR was produced as part of the statutory consultation documents for the s42 consultation with the s42 consultees (and also made available for the parallel Stage Two s47 statutory consultation).
- 8.3.2 The PEIR complied with the requirements specified in Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations, being the environmental information listed in Regulation 14(2) which was compiled by the Applicant and is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme.
- 8.3.3 A PEIR NTS was also produced, recognising that some s42 consultees may wish to view a more concise and less-detailed document.

8.4 Identifying Section 42 consultees

- 8.4.1 The Applicant consulted all statutory bodies listed by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (c) of the EIA Regulations in the Scoping Opinion dated 22 August 2024 as prescribed s42 consultees.
- 8.4.2 **Appendix G-1: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]** includes a list of the s42 consultees for the Scheme.
- 8.4.3 The Applicant notified s42 consultees of the statutory consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence by post.
- A s42 covering letter, including link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (provided in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
 - A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (provided in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**); and
 - A copy of the notice publicising the application under s48 of Planning Act 2008 (including details of the community information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided in **Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]**).
- 8.4.4 The Applicant also contacted s42 stakeholders by email on 29 January 2025, where contact details were available.

8.5 Identifying Section 43 Consultees

- 8.5.1 S42(1)(b) of Planning Act 2008 places a duty for the Applicant to consult each local authority that is within s43.
- 8.5.2 S43 defines what a local authority is for the purposes of s42 i.e. any local authority in whose area the proposed development would be sited and neighbouring authorities sharing a boundary.

- 8.5.3 Local Authorities are classified by Planning Act 2008 as “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D” depending on whether the Scheme is sited in their area (“B” and “C”) or not (“A” and “D”) and depending on the tier of the local authority.
- 8.5.4 The Applicant identified and consulted with local authorities identified in accordance with s43 of Planning Act 2008.
- 8.5.5 The Applicant notified 15 s43 consultees of the statutory consultation on 29 January 2025 in writing by email and by post.
- 8.5.6 These s43 consultees were consulted again as part of the Applicant's targeted consultation held between 03 June and 11 July 2025.
- 8.5.7 The information presented as part of the Applicant's targeted consultation included revised Order Limits, with the addition of areas of land within the administrative boundary of South Gloucestershire Council. While the Applicant had previously consulted South Gloucestershire Council as neighbouring local authority (classified as an “A” local authority as defined by s43 of the Planning Act 2008), it was now considered to be a host local authority (classified as a “B” local authority as defined by s43 of the Planning Act 2008).
- 8.5.8 As a result of South Gloucestershire Council being reclassified as a category “B” host local authority, four additional neighbouring local authorities were identified as s43 consultees. Accordingly, alongside the targeted consultation (see **Chapter 11** of this Report), the newly identified local authorities were provided with at least 28 days to provide comments on the Scheme.
- 8.5.9 Bristol City Council and Stroud District Council were consulted between Tuesday 03 June and Friday 11 July 2025.
- 8.5.10 Monmouthshire County Council and Forest of Dean District Council were consulted between Tuesday 19 August and Monday 15 September 2025.
- 8.5.11 Local authorities identified by the Applicant under s43 of the Planning Act 2008 are listed in **Table 8-1** along with the dates during which they were consulted, and referred to in this Consultation Report as ‘s43 consultees’.

Table 8-1 Relevant local authorities under Section 43 of Planning Act 2008

Local Authority	Classification under Section 43	Dates of consultation
Wiltshire Council	B (host)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025;
New Forest District Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Vale of White Horse District Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Cotswold District Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Test Valley Borough Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025

Local Authority	Classification under Section 43	Dates of consultation
New Forest National Park Authority	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Dorset Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
West Berkshire Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Bath and North East Somerset Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Somerset Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Swindon Borough Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Oxfordshire County Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Gloucestershire County Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Hampshire County Council	A (neighbouring)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
South Gloucestershire Council	B (host)	29 January to Wednesday 19 March 2025
Bristol City Council	A (neighbouring)	03 June to Friday 11 July 2025
Stroud District Council	A (neighbouring)	03 June to Friday 11 July 2025
Monmouthshire County Council	A (neighbouring)	19 August to Monday 15 September 2025
Forest of Dean District Council	A (neighbouring)	19 August to Monday 15 September 2025

8.5.12 Ahead of each period of consultation as set out in **Table 8-1**, the Applicant provided s43 consultees with the following package of information by email and in writing:

- A s42 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (provided in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);

- A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (provided in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**); and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under s48 of Planning Act 2008 (including details of the community information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided in **Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]**).

8.6 Identifying Section 44 Consultees

- 8.6.1 S42(1)(d) of Planning Act 2008 places a duty for the Applicant to consult each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in s44.
- 8.6.2 The Applicant sought to identify the s42(1)(d) consultees by undertaking diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. This included reviewing publicly available data (for example at the Land Registry), sending out Land Interest Questionnaires, undertaking site visits and erecting site notices.
- 8.6.3 The Applicant notified 415 identified s44 consultees by post on 22 January 2025 ahead of the statutory consultation period commencing on 29 January 2025. These consultees were informed of a response deadline of 19 March 2025, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days.
- 8.6.4 The Applicant notified a further 26 s44 consultees following the start of the Stage Two consultation period (29 January 2025). Each consultee was notified by letter and provided with a response deadline of at least 28 days.
- 8.6.5 Where owners, lessees, tenants, or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Scheme Site.
- 8.6.6 The list of all land interests consulted is presented in **Appendix G-4: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]** (hereafter referred to in this Consultation Report as 's44 consultees'). This appendix details the date on which they were notified of consultation and the deadline provided to them for responding.
- 8.6.7 It is noted that the list of persons with an interest in land is subject to change over time, as a result of changes to land ownership. Where new consultees were identified under s42(1)(d), they were notified of the Scheme and provided with an opportunity to provide feedback on the Scheme proposals.
- 8.6.8 The Applicant informed the s44 consultees of the consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence by post (or email):
- A s44 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials on the website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (as provided in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);

- A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (as provided in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008** [EN010168/APP/5.2]; and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under s48 of Planning Act 2008 (including details of the community information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided in **Appendix H: Section 48 Notice** [EN010168/APP/5.2]).

8.6.9 The Applicant received 57 responses from s44 consultees to the s42 consultation. The Applicant has considered these representations alongside all other s42 feedback received. A summary of s42 and s44 feedback is provided in **Chapter 10** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's consideration of feedback in **Appendix G-5: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008** [EN010168/APP/5.2].

8.6.10 The Applicant also notes that many s44 consultees would also have been notified of the s47 consultation, as described in **Chapter 7**, and may have therefore chosen to provide their responses to the s47 consultation without indicating they were also a s44 consultee. In these cases, their feedback will have been captured as s47 and presented in **Chapter 10** and **Appendix F-7: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008** [EN010168/APP/5.2].

8.7 Duty to Notify the Planning Inspectorate of the Proposed Application Under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008

8.7.1 Prior to commencing s42 consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent for the Scheme under s46 of Planning Act 2008. The notification was sent to the Planning Inspectorate electronically on 27 January 2025, including the following attachments:

- A s46 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials on the Scheme website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (included in **Appendix G-3: Statutory Consultation under s42 of the Planning Act 2008** [EN010168/APP/5.2]);
- Example copies of the s42 covering letters (one letter type being s42 consultees and the other for s44 consultees) (included in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008** [EN010168/APP/5.2]);
- A site location plan showing the Scheme (included in **Appendix G-2 Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008** [EN010168/APP/5.2]) and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under s48 of Planning Act 2008 (including details of the community information events and the locations of where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (included in **Appendix H: Section 48 Notice** [EN010168/APP/5.2]).

- 8.7.2 The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State acknowledged receipt of the notification on 29 January 2025. A copy of this acknowledgement is included in **Appendix G-3: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

8.8 Undertaking Section 42 Consultation

- 8.8.1 In summary, s42 consultees (including those defined under s43 and s44) were notified of the commencement of the s42 consultation in writing on or before 29 January 2025.
- 8.8.2 The following documents were provided to s42 consultees:
- A relevant covering letter, explaining why the consultee had been contacted and including a link to the consultation materials on the Scheme website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (included **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
 - A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (included in **Appendix G-2: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 EN010168/APP/5.2]**); and
 - A copy of the notice publicising the application under s48 of Planning Act 2008 (including details of the community information events and the locations of where the consultation documents could be inspected free-of-charge) (included in **Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]**).
- 8.8.3 The PEIR formed part of the s42 consultation documents under s45(3) of Planning Act 2008. S42 consultees were also directed towards the s47 community consultation materials, as described in **Chapter 7** of this report.
- 8.8.4 With the s42 consultation period commencing on 29 January 2025 and ending on 19 March 2025, this provided a response of 49 days (therefore exceeding the minimum 28-day statutory period set out in s54(2) of Planning Act 2008).
- 8.8.5 In total 46 responses were received from s42 consultees to the s42 consultation. An overview of the s42 feedback and Applicant's response is provided in **Chapter 10**, with a more detailed record of s42 feedback provided in **Appendix G-5: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

8.9 Statement of Compliance with Formal Consultation Under Section 42

- 8.9.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with s42, s44, s45 and s46 of Planning Act 2008 by undertaking the following activity:
- The Applicant consulted with such persons as may be prescribed (s42(1)(a) – (d)) and relevant to the Scheme, including landowners under s44;

- Notification of the Scheme under s46 was provided to the Secretary of State on 27 January 2025, before the start of the consultation period; and
- The total response periods provided for each part of the s42 consultation were each at least the statutory minimum period of 28 days.

9 Statutory Consultation under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008

9.1 Overview

- 9.1.1 This section details how the Applicant has complied with s48 of the Planning Act 2008 (duty to publicise).

9.2 Statutory Requirements and Guidance

- 9.2.1 S48 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Applicant to publicise the proposed Application in the prescribed manner. A deadline for the receipt of comments to the publicity must also be provided.
- 9.2.2 Regulation 4 of APFP 2009 sets out what the publicity under s48 of the Planning Act 2008 should entail, which requires the publication of a notice in given publications, with requirements on the contents of such notice. Specifically, Regulation 4 requires an Applicant to publish the notice for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers, once in a national newspaper, and once in the London Gazette.
- 9.2.3 Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) Regulations 2017 notes that where a proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the Applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under s48(1) of the Planning Act 2008, send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations. The Applicant complied with this requirement.
- 9.2.4 For the Scheme, s48 publicity took place in parallel with Stage Two (statutory under s47) community consultation, s42 consultation, and publication of the PEIR. The parallel consultation process provided the same response times for the s42, s47 and s48 consultations.
- 9.2.5 Evidence of compliance with the relevant legislation is provided in **Appendix A: Statement of Compliance [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

9.3 Publication of Section 48 Notice

- 9.3.1 The s48 notice (included in **Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]**) publicising the Scheme and advertising the intention to apply for a DCO was placed in the publications listed in **Table 9-1**.
- 9.3.2 All consultees identified under s42 of the Planning Act 2008 were provided with a copy of the s48 notice as required by Regulation 11 of the EIA regulations and described in **Chapter 8**.
- 9.3.3 Copies of the notices as placed in the newspapers are provided in **Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

Table 9-1 Publication schedule of Section 48 notice

Publication	First Insertion	Second Insertion
Wiltshire Times	17 January 2025	24 January 2025
Wiltshire Gazette and Herald	16 January 2025	23 January 2025
The Guardian	22 January 2025	N/A
The London Gazette	24 January 2025	N/A

9.3.4 The s48 notice contained the required information under Regulation 4(3) of APFP 2009.

9.4 Statement of compliance with formal consultation under Section 48

9.4.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with s48 of the Planning Act 2008 by undertaking the following activities:

- The Applicant publicised the Scheme in appropriate newspapers in the prescribed manner, as listed in **Table 9-1**; and
- The Applicant held the s48 consultation in parallel with the s42 consultation and s47 consultations, notifying consultees of the PEIR and where the consultation documents could be reviewed.

9.4.2 The notice contained the required information including a deadline for comments on the proposals which coincided with other statutory dates given the s48 consultation was held in parallel with the s42 and s47 consultations.

10 Account of Feedback and the Applicant's Response to the Statutory Consultation

10.1 Overview

- 10.1.1 This chapter explains the process the Applicant undertook to analyse the feedback received to the statutory consultation under Section 42 and Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity carried out as required by Section 48.
- 10.1.2 A definition of who the Applicant consulted, how the Applicant identified these groups and how it consulted with these groups at the statutory stage of the consultation can be found in **Chapter 7** (Section 47) and **Chapter 8** (Section 42). **Chapter 9** sets out the Applicant's approach to publicise the consultation under Section 48.
- 10.1.3 As detailed in **Table 10-3** and **Table 10-5** below, the Applicant has addressed responses when changes have been proposed, or objections made and have provided responses to how they have had regard to them.

10.2 Feedback Analysis Methodology

- 10.2.1 This section sets out the approach taken to receiving and recording feedback at the statutory stage of consultation. Consultation feedback was received through a range of channels, including:
- Hard copy Feedback Forms – available on request and at community events;
 - Online Feedback Forms – available on the Scheme website;
 - Email: info@limedownsolar.co.uk, which was promoted on all consultation promotion and materials; and
 - Post – received via the Scheme Freepost address: FREEPOST LIME DOWN SOLAR, which was promoted on all consultation promotion and materials.
- 10.2.2 Feedback received through these channels was logged and securely recorded by the Applicant.
- 10.2.3 Details of how feedback could be submitted were included in the community consultation materials and on the Scheme website.
- 10.2.4 **Table 10-1** details the volume of feedback recorded as being received through each channel.

Table 10-1 Methods of response during the statutory consultation

Type	Number of responses
Online Feedback Form	922
Hard copy Feedback Form	236

Type	Number of responses
Email	66
Letter	14
Total	1,638

- 10.2.5 All responses were assigned a unique ID number and their feedback comments logged against this number.
- 10.2.6 All hard copy Feedback Forms and letters were scanned and recorded against the respondent's unique ID number.
- 10.2.7 When a response was received, the Applicant identified who had submitted it and whether that response had been submitted by an individual or organisation under Section 42 or Section 47.
- 10.2.8 **Table 10-2** details the number of responses identified as being submitted by each category of consultee.

Table 10-2 Responses received in respect of the Planning Act 2008 defined consultee categories

Category in respect of the Planning Act 2008	Number of responses
Prescribed bodies (Section 42(1)(a))	41
Local authorities (Section 42 (1)(b))	5
Section 42 (1)(d)	57
Local community (Section 47)	1,491

- 10.2.9 The Applicant received feedback from the following prescribed bodies (Section 42) including local authorities:
- Acton Turville Parish Council;
 - Atworth Parish Council;
 - Bath and North East Somerset Council;
 - Bristol Water;
 - Brokenborough Parish Council;
 - Canal and River Trust;
 - Chippenham Without Parish Council;
 - Christian Malford Parish Council;
 - Corsham Town Council;

- Cotswolds National Landscape;
- Dauntsey Parish Council;
- Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service;
- Dorset Council;
- Easton Grey Parish Council;
- Environment Agency;
- Forestry Commission;
- Gloucestershire County Council;
- Great Somerford Parish Council;
- Grittleton Parish Council;
- Health and Safety Executive;
- Health Secretary;
- Historic England;
- Hullavington Parish Council;
- Kington St Michael Parish Council;
- Langley Burrell Without Parish Council;
- Lea, Garsden and Cleverton Parish Council;
- Luckington and Alderton Parish Council;
- Malmesbury Town Council;
- Marine Management Organisation;
- Melksham Without Parish Council;
- National Gas Transmission;
- National Grid Energy Distribution;
- National Grid Electricity Transmission;
- National Highways;
- Natural England;
- Royal Mail Group;
- Seagry Parish Council;
- Sherston Parish Council;

- South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils;
- St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council;
- Tormarton Parish Council;
- Vodaphone;
- West Berkshire District Council;
- Wiltshire Council;
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust; and
- Yatton Keynell Parish Council.

10.2.10 Respondents who submitted feedback online received an automated acknowledgement confirming receipt on screen as provided in **Appendix F-6: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

10.2.11 Anyone submitting an email response received a standard acknowledgement as provided in **Appendix F-6: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

10.2.12 Anyone submitting feedback in writing received a standard acknowledgement letter by post as provided in **Appendix F-6: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

10.3 Section 42 Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made

10.3.1 Across the Section 42 consultation undertaken – as described in **Chapter 8** of this report – the Applicant received responses from 46 prescribed consultees and local authorities (Section 42 (1)(a) and (1)(b)) and 57 land interests (Section 42 (1)(d)).

10.3.2 A detailed record of all comments received from Section 42 consultees, and the Applicant's response to all of these comments, is provided as **Appendix G-5: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

10.3.3 **Table 10-3** presents a summary of this feedback.

Table 10-3 Summary of Section 42 consultation feedback, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land	
Consultees raised concerns about the use of BMV agricultural land, highlighting potential impacts on food production and farming jobs.	National Policy Statement for Energy EN-3 provides, at paragraphs 2.10.29 to 2.10.34, that land type should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location, that

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
Some consultees also felt that insufficient evidence had been provided to demonstrate consideration of alternative sites.	development of solar arrays on BMV land is not prohibited, and that Applicants should explain their choice of site noting the preference or development on suitable brownfield, industrial, and low and medium grade agricultural land. NPS EN-3 recognises that it is likely that developments will use agricultural land and encourages the development and implementation of a soils resource management plan. The Applicant carried out a robust site selection process, reported in the Site Selection Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/6.3] and has developed an outline Soil Resource Management Plan (SRMP) [EN010168/APP/7.15] to avoid and minimise adverse effects to soil. ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010168/APP/6.1] sets out the methodology for site selection, including brownfield sites, and alternative layouts, as well as for alternative cable route corridors, alternative sites for the BESS and alternative construction compounds in addition to alternative technologies). The Applicant has considered ALC grade in its site selection for the Scheme, seeking to avoid BMV land when assessing appropriate sites. The areas of each ALC grade affected by the Scheme are set out in Section 17.7 of ES Volume 1, Chapter 17: Soils and Agriculture [EN010168/APP/6.1]. Table 17.6 shows that most of the agricultural land in the Solar PV sites (477.4 ha or 67% of the total) is not BMV land. There is no excellent quality Grade 1 land, 30.8 ha (4%) of very good quality Grade 2 land and 209.3 ha (29%) of good quality land. The ALC grades are mapped in ES Volume 2, Figure 17-2 [EN010168/APP/6.2]. ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation [EN010168/APP/6.1] acknowledges that there will be some economic effects arising from changes to agricultural employment. However, these are expected to be outweighed by the positive economic benefits generated by the Scheme, including direct and indirect employment within the 20 km Study Area over the Scheme's operational lifetime.
Cable Route Corridor	
Consultees commented that the PEIR presented incomplete environmental surveys and plans. In particular, concern was expressed that not enough detail was provided on the Cable Route Corridor.	The Applicant considers that the statutory consultation has been robust, thorough and undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, and the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. The

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
Some respondents therefore requested a second statutory or supplementary consultation.	consultation was carried out in line with commitments and principles established in the Applicant's published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), presented in Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]. The PEIR provides a snapshot of the Applicant's assessment at the time statutory consultation is undertaken, providing the information required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposals. The Applicant considers the amount of information published during statutory consultation was sufficient and in accordance with this standard for preliminary environmental information, and that further statutory consultation is not required in relation to the refined Cable Route Corridor, this being located within the Cable Route Search Area already consulted upon. In recognition of consultee interest in the Cable Route Corridor, the Applicant published a Summer Newsletter on the Scheme website and issued this to the 14,000+ addresses located in the Core Consultation Zone. The Summer Newsletter is provided in Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]. The results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) are set out in the ES [EN010168/APP/6.1], including a full assessment of the Cable Route Search Corridor within each of the technical chapters and relevant appendices. The location of the Cable Route Corridor is shown in ES Volume 2, Figure 2-1: Elements of the Site [EN010168/APP/6.2].
Cotswold National Landscape	
Consultees raised concerns about the Scheme's effects on the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL). Concerns included landscape and visual impacts, loss of tranquillity during construction and cumulative effects.	The CNL is fully assessed as its own stand-alone receptor within ES Volume 3, Appendix 8.6: Assessment of Effects on the Special Qualities of the Cotswold National Landscape [EN010168/APP/6.3]. Within this appendix, the impacts of the proposal on the landscape character, visual amenity and the CNL's special qualities, including tranquillity, are assessed. Panels along the edge of the CNL have been removed from the Order Limits in fields C2, C3 and C4 where significant visual effects on receptors within the CNL were recorded. Panels within C1, C6, C8, the western section of C9, and the majority of C10 have been removed and the land used for ecological mitigation to protect the setting of the CNL. Panels within fields A11 and A12 have been removed and the land

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
	used for ecological mitigation to protect the setting of the CNL towards Sherston. All fields on the edge of the CNL provide habitat enhancement to further the purpose of the CNL designation and have been informed by the CNL Management Plan and the Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) Landscape Strategy and Guidelines'. The Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (LEMP) [EN010168/APP/7.18] provides details of the proposed mitigation and enhancement which are described in Section 9 of ES Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [EN010168/APP/6.1], ES Volume 2: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010168/APP/7.18] and the Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy (EPMS) [EN010168/APP/7.19].
Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and recreational routes	
Consultees highlighted the importance of PRoW and recreational routes in the area, raising concerns about potential impacts from the Scheme. Consultees commented on the fragmentation on the current PRoW network and welcomed the opportunity for the Scheme to improve connectivity.	A detailed assessment of the likely significance of effects of the Scheme on the use and desirability of PRoWs, permissive routes and long-distance recreational routes has been included in the ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation [EN010168/APP/6.1] with assessment of individual routes and receptors in ES Volume 3, Appendix 16-2: Tourism and Recreation Receptor Tables [EN010168/APP/6.3]. The Applicant is committed to keeping Public Rights of Way in place and open to the public, with any temporary diversions during the construction period signposted and notice provided, as set out and secured through the Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.17]. During operation, all PRoWs will also be given a minimum 15m setback to the nearest solar PV structures, with 2.5m deerstock fencing set approximately 10m from the PRoW centreline. Where PRoWs run along hedgerows, the hedgerows will be retained. PRoWs will be kept clear with surrounding areas planted only with low-level groundcover (such as wildflower meadow mix) to retain a more open aspect along PRoWs. Additional landscape and ecological enhancement planting with help to visually separate recreational users from onsite infrastructure. The Applicant confirms that direct consultation has been held with the Public Rights of Way Team at Wiltshire Council to determine how the Scheme can improve PRoW network connectivity.

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
	Resultantly, the Applicant has committed to a series of permissive paths within the Solar PV Sites as part of the Scheme, shown as Work No.10 on the Works Plan [EN010168/APP/2.3] and shown on ES Volume 2, Figure 3-4: Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan [EN010168/APP/6.2]. Improvements to PRoW access arrangements, or permissive routes outside the Order Limits can be explored through the Community Benefit Fund in coordination with the Wiltshire Council and relevant landowners.
Mental health and wellbeing	
Consultees commented on the potential impact to mental health as a result of the Scheme.	Impacts on mental health and wellbeing are assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 18: Human Health [EN010168/APP/6.1]. This includes specific assessment of the impact of the Scheme on a broad range of determinants of health, with mental health aspects to them. This includes assessment of impacts on access to housing, access to open and leisure space, transport and connectivity, community identity and culture, education and training, employment, climate change, noise and vibration, and access to health and social care services. Priority has been given in the assessment to the communities most immediately affected by the Scheme in the 2km Study Area surrounding the Scheme. In consultation with Wiltshire Council's Public Health Team, as documented in ES Volume 3, Appendix 18-1: Matters Relevant to Human Health Raised Through Consultation [EN010168/APP/6.3], the Applicant has explored ways to ensure members of impacted communities have access to mental health resources during and following the Development Consent Order (DCO) process should it be required or requested, and that the Applicant team will help to direct community members to existing resources operating in (NW) Wiltshire, using resources provided by Wiltshire Council's Public Health Team.
Flood risk	
Respondents expressed concerns about the Scheme increasing flood risk in the local area. Respondents noted that certain areas were already prone to flooding.	The vast majority of the developed areas of the Scheme have been sequentially allocated within Flood Zone 1 and outside Flood Zones 2 and 3. Further information on this is available in the Planning Statement, Annex C: Sequential Test / Exception Test [EN010168/APP/7.2]. This has been achieved through the application of a sequential approach to site layout, supported by

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
	topographic analysis and flood mapping. As part of the broader constraints-led design process, surface water flow routes have been identified using topographic data and national flood mapping and have been avoided wherever practicable. This includes avoiding low points and known exceedance routes. Flood risk has been assessed in detail within ES Volume 1, Chapter 11: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010168/APP/6.1] and the supporting Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [EN010168/APP/6.3]. This work includes baseline analysis, modelling of runoff, and review of climate change allowances. The Scheme is designed to ensure runoff rates and volumes remain consistent with greenfield conditions. Measures such as permeable surfacing, infiltration features, swales and attenuation storage will manage surface water. As a result, no increase in flood risk is expected on or off site, including to adjacent communities and downstream settlements. Embedded mitigation and design measures will be secured through the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12] and finalised at detailed design.
Tourism	
Consultees commented on the potential impacts to tourism destinations and the local tourism economy as a result of the Scheme.	The Scheme has been designed to minimise impacts on the tourism industry through site layout and provision of landscape mitigation and enhancement measures. A detailed assessment of the likely significance of effects from the Scheme on tourism destinations, recreational features, and the economic impact to the tourism economy has been included in ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation [EN010168/APP/6.1] and ES Volume 3, Appendix 16-2: Tourism and Recreation Receptor Tables [EN010168/APP/6.3]. This assessment considers the potential effects on individual recreational routes, including their use, enjoyment, and overall desirability. It also examines impacts on tourism and visitor destinations, as well as potential effects on tourism-dependent businesses in areas directly affected by the Scheme.
Equestrian facilities and horse-riders	
Consultees commented on the potential impacts to equestrian facilities and horse-riders as a result of the Scheme.	Equestrian facilities, including private stables and paddocks, studs, and riding schools have been considered as specific recreational receptors in

Feedback Comments	Applicant Response
Specific concerns focused on how construction noise could affect horses.	the assessment in ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation [EN010168/APP/6.1]. The likely effects on these locations are specifically assessed in ES Volume 3, Appendix 16-2: Tourism and Recreation Receptor Tables [EN010168/APP/6.3] which identify no significant residual effects to their operation or recreational use subject to implementation of embedded and additional mitigation measures with any mitigation requirements (such as noise screening, offsetting away from neighbouring paddocks, and PRow protections) secured through the relevant management documents set out in the draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]. Engagement will be undertaken with equestrian groups on the scheduling of construction activities with the potential for generating high levels of noise in the vicinity of PRow or other highways frequently used by horse riders and also in the vicinity of the stud farm and related facilities (e.g. paddock, grazing land). This commitment to engagement is secured in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12].
Community Benefits	
Consultees commented on the community benefits associated with the Scheme. In particular, consultees requested further details on the Community Benefit Fund.	The Applicant believes those communities living closest to the proposed Project should benefit from it - with these communities being best placed to recommend what a 'community benefit' should be. In addition to on-site initiatives, such as ecological enhancement measures and the creation of new permissive paths, the Applicant is committed to providing off-site initiatives outside the immediate vicinity of the Scheme. A Community Benefit Fund will allow for community-driven benefits that are not necessarily associated with the Scheme itself. This is meant as a means to recognise local community needs that the Applicant wants to be able to contribute towards in recognition of the local impact of the Scheme. Information on the Community Benefits Fund and what this can contribute towards will be consulted upon with Wiltshire Council, local parish councils, and community groups which would like to be involved and have needs or services that they would like to see benefitting from the available funds. The Applicant welcomes consultees' recommendations for what benefits are considered of the greatest benefit and use.

10.4 Section 47 Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made

- 10.4.1 This section sets out responses received to Stage Two Consultation, which was statutory under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 10.4.2 This consultation was held over a seven-week period between Wednesday 29 January and Wednesday 19 March 2025.
- 10.4.3 Responses were collected primarily via online Feedback Form on the Scheme website and emails to the dedicated Scheme email address. Written responses and hard copy Feedback Forms received to the Applicant's Freepost address were also collected and their content considered.
- 10.4.4 Through the Stage Two Feedback Form the Applicant asked for comments on a range of topics, including views on the overall Scheme proposals, views on the site masterplan, landscape and views, ecology, environment and biodiversity, the Cable Route Corridor, construction, operation and decommissioning, community benefits, and provision to provide any other comments.
- 10.4.5 The Stage Two Feedback Form (both the hard copy and online version) including a mix of closed and open-ended questions to encourage responses regarding the respondent's interest in the Scheme.
- 10.4.6 Responses provided through the Feedback Form (both hard copy and online) therefore included responses to closed (multiple choice) questions and open-ended responses.
- 10.4.7 The quantitative data from the closed questions is presented in **Table 10-4** of this report. The qualitative data from the open-ended responses has been considered alongside written feedback received through email and Freepost and is summarised in **Table 10-5** and presented in full in **Appendix F-7: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**, alongside the Applicant's response to this feedback.

10.5 Quantitative Analysis of Responses Received

- 10.5.1 **Table 10-4** presents a summary of the quantitative data gathered by the Applicant through its Feedback Form. The results are presented visually in **Figures 10-1 to 10-2**.

Table 10-4 Summary of quantitative data from Stage Two Consultation

Feedback question	Analysis of response data
How would you describe your interest in Lime Down Solar Park?	1,067 respondents answered this question. The vast majority (86.5%) described their interest as being a local resident. Other respondents identified as being regular visitors (12.9%), landowners (7.5%), local business owners (5.8%), 'other' (5%), local interest group members (2.2%), local representatives (1%), and statutory organisations (0.6%).

Feedback question	Analysis of response data
	The Applicant notes that respondents could select more than one aspect they find important, and therefore percentages will exceed 100%. These results are presented in Figure 10-1.
As a principle do you agree there is a need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?	1,061 respondents answered this question. 686 respondents (64.6%) did not agree there is a need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK. 292 respondents (27.6%) indicated they agreed with the need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK, and 83 respondents (7.8%) feel they do not know enough to have an opinion. These results are presented in Figure 10-2.
Based on the information made available to support this consultation what is your view of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park?	1,135 respondents answered this question. 1009 respondents (88.9%) indicated they do not support the proposals, 76 respondents (6.7%) supported the proposals, and 30 (2.6%) signalled that they are supportive subject to changes being made. 18 respondents (1.6%) indicated that they need further information to form an opinion, and 2 respondents (0.2%) indicated they had no opinion. The results are presented in Figure 10-3.
What aspects of the Project are most important to you?	1,131 respondents answered this question. The most frequently selected aspect was 'landscape and visual' (84.2%) followed by 'ecology and biodiversity' (78.7%), 'transport and access' (73.8%), 'noise and vibration' (68.4%) 'ground conditions' (65.3%) and 'arboriculture' (63.9%). Further, respondent expressed other aspects as being most important including 'hydrology, flood risk and drainage' (63.1%), 'site selection and consideration of alternatives' (62.6%), 'cultural heritage' (61.2%) 'soils and agriculture' (59.9%) and 'human health' (57.9%). Other aspects selected included 'socio-economic, tourism and recreation' (47.5%), 'cumulative and in-combination effects' (47%), 'climate change' (36.9%), 'air quality' (35.5%), and 'other' (14%). The Applicant notes that respondents could select more than one aspect they find important, and therefore percentages will exceed 100%. The results are presented in Figure 10-4.

Figure 10-1: Responses to Stage Two consultation Feedback Form question “How would you describe your interest in Lime Down Solar Park?”

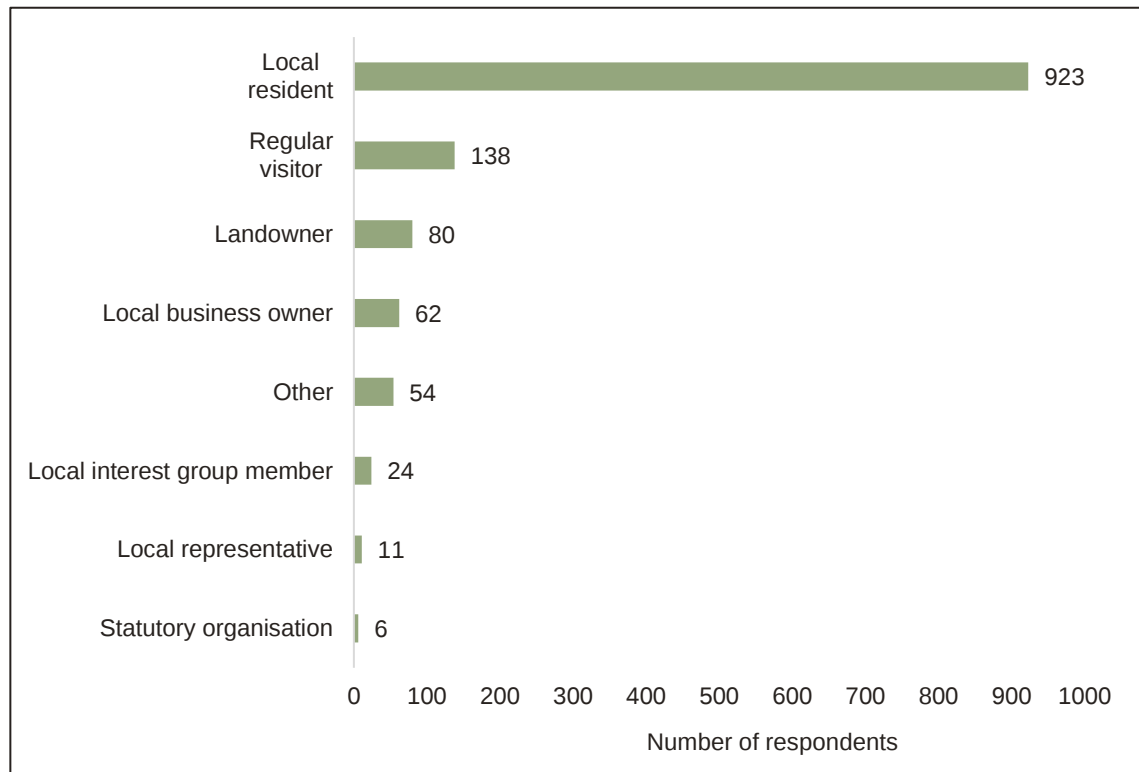


Figure 10-2: Responses to Stage Two consultation Feedback Form question “As a principle do you agree there is a need to install ground mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?”

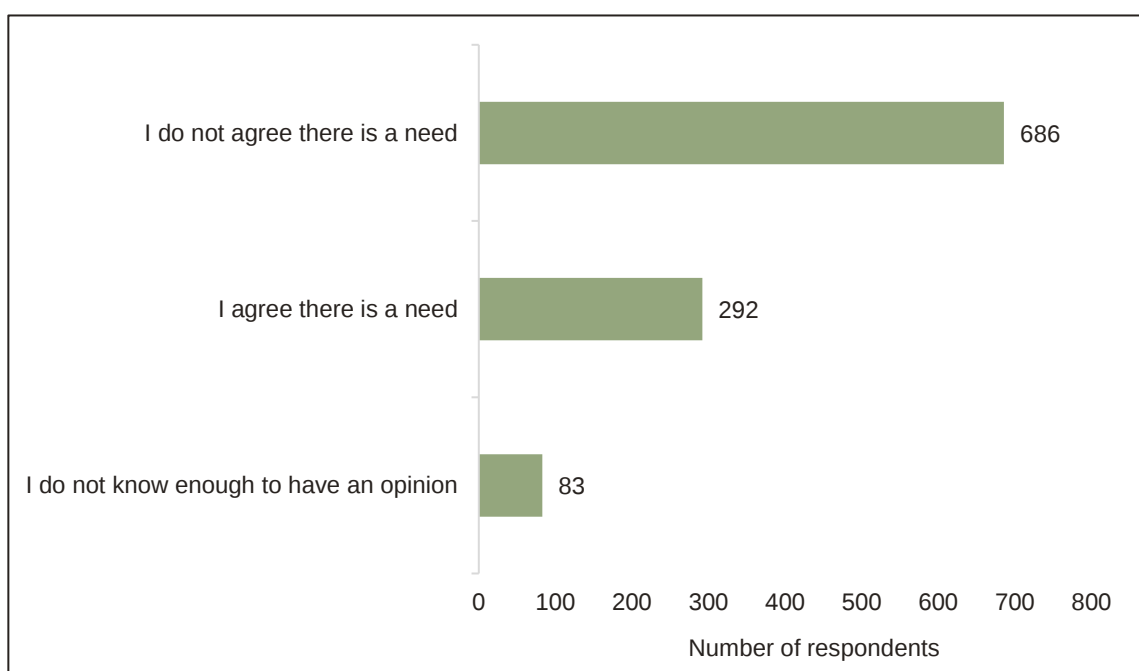


Figure 10-3: Responses to Stage Two consultation Feedback Form question “Based on the information made available to support this consultation what is your view of our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park?”

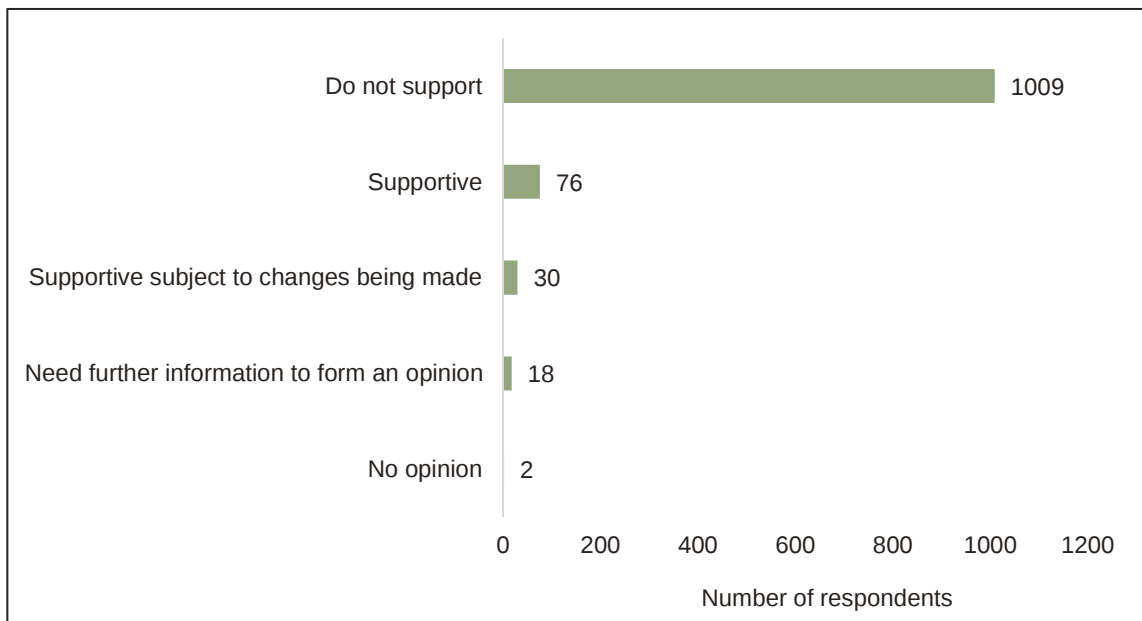
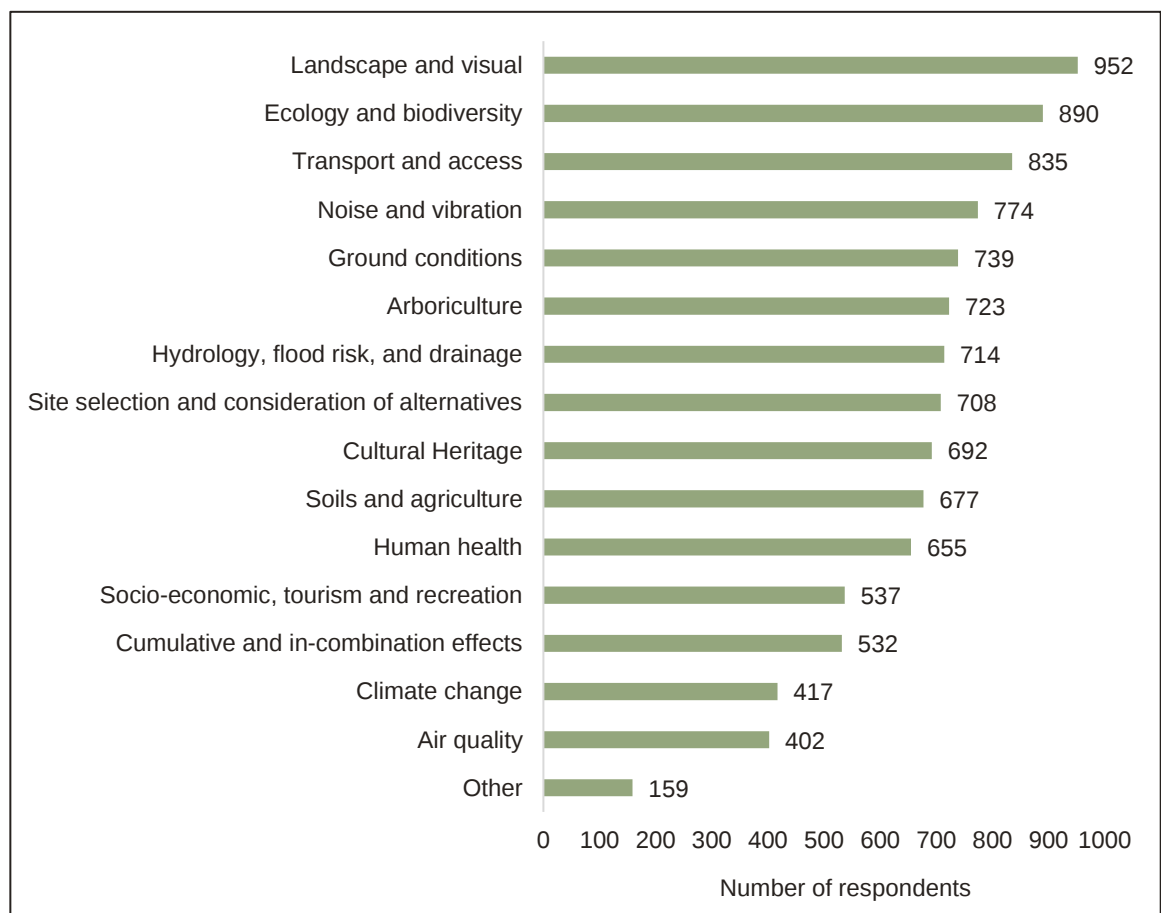


Figure 10-4: Responses to Stage Two consultation Feedback Form question “What aspects of the Project are most important to you?”



10.6 Qualitative Analysis of Responses Received

- 10.6.1 **Table 10-5** includes a summary of how the Applicant has considered this feedback in developing the Scheme, consistent with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 10.6.2 A detailed record of all comments received and the Applicant's response to these comments is provided as **Appendix F-7: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

Table 10-5 Summary of qualitative data from the Section 47 consultation, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback

Feedback comments	Applicant response
Size and scale	
Respondents expressed concern for the size and scale of the Scheme, including the length of the Cable Route Corridor.	Since the Stage Two statutory consultation, the Applicant has undertaken further refinement of the Scheme design in line with the iterative design process. This has resulted in a number of reductions to the Scheme boundary, as detailed in ES Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010168/APP/6.1]. Notable areas of land removed from the Solar PV sites following statutory consultation are identified in that chapter, with all removals illustrated in ES Volume 2, Figure 4-2 and Figures 4-2-1 to 4-2-8 [EN010168/APP/6.2]. The total area of the Solar PV Sites (excluding the Cable Route Corridor) has reduced to 749 ha (from 878 ha at PEIR), while the Cable Route Corridor has been reduced from the larger Cable Route Search Corridor presented at PEIR to cover 462 ha (from 1,947 ha at PEIR). The Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010168/APP/6.1] provides an assessment of the adverse and beneficial effects associated with the Scheme. The Applicant is confident that the proposed mitigation measures set out in the ES are adequate and that the Scheme aligns with national and local planning policy; this is outlined in the Planning Statement [EN010168/APP/7.2]. Justification for the length of the grid connection is set out in the Planning Statement [EN010168/APP/7.2] and the Statement of Need [EN010168/APP/7.1]. More details on how the Cable Route Corridor has been located and designed can be found in ES Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010168/APP/6.1].

Feedback comments	Applicant response
Climate change and energy need	
Respondents expressed general support for renewable energy, including solar in principle, recognising its role in addressing climate change. Some respondents welcomed the Scheme's contribution to the UK's energy security. However, respondents raised concerns about the efficiency of solar energy, questioning whether the UK receives sufficient sunlight. Some respondents felt Wiltshire was already contributing enough renewable electricity and were concerned about the cumulative impact of nearby solar projects.	The Applicant welcomes the comments in support of renewable energy, including solar. The Scheme is designed to contribute to the UK's energy security by providing a low-carbon, reliable source of electricity. Solar energy is at the heart of the Clean Power 2030 Mission (April 2025 revised draft NPS EN-3, Para 2.10.2) and it is the Government's view that a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar (NPS EN-1, Para 3.3.20). Sunlight, the input energy source for solar, is abundant, predictable, renewable, low carbon and free. The Statement of Need [EN010168/APP/7.1] describes that there is an urgent and unprecedented need for new low carbon generation in the UK to meet our climate change, energy security and affordability targets. Figure 16 of the Statement of Need and related text (Section 7.4) demonstrates that there are many viable areas of solar irradiation in the UK. The inclusion of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) as part of the Scheme will enable energy generated by the Scheme to be stored and exported to the grid when it is needed, which will provide flexibility and improve grid reliability. In 2019, Wiltshire Council declared a climate emergency and resolved to seek to make the county carbon neutral by 2030. The Scheme will support and build on Wiltshire's progress toward achieving this goal. The impact of solar developments (both existing and forthcoming) in the areas surrounding the Scheme been fully assessed within the ES. Existing solar farms are considered in the baseline of each technical chapter (ES Volume 1, Chapter 7-20 [EN010168/APP/6.1]). Forthcoming solar developments are assessed within the cumulative and in-combination effects section of each technical chapter (ES Volume 1, Chapter 7-20 [EN010168/APP/6.1]) and summarised in ES Volume 1, Chapter 21: Cumulative and In-combination effects.
Use of agricultural land	
Respondents raised concerns about the Scheme's use of agricultural land, particularly its potential impact on UK food security. Many requested that the Applicant avoid the use of best and most versatile (BMV) land.	Details on the site selection process can be found in ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010168/APP/6.1] and ES Volume 3, Appendix 4-1: Site Selection Assessment Report (SSAR) [EN010168/APP/6.3].

Feedback comments	Applicant response
A preference was expressed for rooftop solar as an alternative to ground-mounted solar. Concerns were also raised about whether land would be fully restored to its original use after decommissioning, especially in relation to land classification and soil health.	An assessment was carried out to identify brownfield land, industrial land, previously developed land, and low-grade agricultural land for use within the Scheme, in accordance with policy. An appraisal of alternative sites within a 20km radius of the Existing National Grid Melksham Substation has been undertaken, which concludes that there are no more suitable locations within the 20km search area than the proposed location for the Scheme. Section 4.2 of the Statement of Need [EN010168/APP/7.1] explains that the Government does not believe that that decentralised and community energy systems, which by definition include rooftop schemes, will replace the need for new large-scale electricity infrastructure to meet our energy objective [EN-1, Para 3.3.12]. The areas of each Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grade affected by the Scheme are set out in Section 17.7 of ES Volume 1, Chapter 17: Soils and Agriculture [EN010168/APP/6.1]. Table 17.6 shows that most of the agricultural land in the Solar PV sites (477.4 ha or 67% of the total) is not BMV land. There is no excellent quality Grade 1 land, 30.8 ha (4%) of very good quality Grade 2 land and 209.3 ha (29%) of good quality land. The ALC grades are mapped in ES Volume 2, Figure 17-2 [EN010168/APP/6.2]. Food security will not be compromised by the Scheme (or solar energy more widely). In 2024, solar occupied around 7,300 ha of agricultural land in England, approximately half of which was in dual use for agricultural production. In the same year, 581,000 ha of arable land in England were left uncropped (source: <i>Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Agricultural land use in England at 1 June 2024</i>). It should also be noted that food security is not identified as an issue within the suite of Energy National Policy Statements or the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Further, the Government's <i>UK Solar Roadmap (2024)</i> states that solar development is not considered to compromise food security, and that climate change itself poses the greatest long-term risk to food production - a risk which the Scheme directly helps to address by providing a secure, low-carbon source of electricity. As stated ES Chapter 17 all land will be returned to its original use and condition as far as is practicable and returned to the landowner. This includes built aspects of the Scheme such as the BESS Area and substations. Further, that chapter concludes that leaving land undisturbed under long-term grassland within the Solar PV Sites is likely to result in

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	significant beneficial effects, with soil health, quality, and structure improving during the lifetime of the Scheme. A Decommissioning Strategy (DS) is secured by Requirement 21 of the DCO and will need to be approved by the local planning authority prior to decommissioning. An Outline DS [EN010168/APP/7.14] has been submitted as part of the DCO Application.
Visual impact	
Respondents expressed concern for the Scheme's potential visual impact. Respondents expressed concern for the Scheme's proximity to the Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL).	The visual impact of the Scheme is fully assessed in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) presented in ES Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [EN010168/APP/6.1]. The Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) is fully assessed as its own stand-alone receptor within Volume 3, Appendix 8.6: Assessment of Effects on the Special Qualities of the Cotswold National Landscape [EN010168/APP/6.3]. The scale of development within the red line boundary has significantly reduced from the layout assessed at PEIR as part of the iterative design process and response to consultation. Panels along the edge of the CNL have been removed in fields C2, C3 and C4 where significant visual effects on receptors within the CNL were recorded. The Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (LEMP) [EN010168/APP/7.18] provides details of the proposed mitigation and enhancement which are described in Section 9 of ES Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual [EN010168/APP/6.1], ES Volume 2: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN010168/APP/7.18] and the Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy (EPMS) [EN010168/APP/7.19]. The design will incorporate minimum offsets from existing landscape features, including residential properties, ancient woodland, woodland and hedgerows, public rights of way and watercourses.
Construction and construction traffic	
Respondents expressed concern for disruption caused by the construction phase. Concerns for increased construction traffic were noted, with many respondents expressing that local infrastructure may be unsuitable for the size and volume of vehicles, and raising related concerns about road damage and safety.	Disruption during the construction phase has been fully assessed within the Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010168/APP/6.1], any likely significant effects of the Scheme have been identified and appropriate mitigation measures incorporated. Mitigation measures are contained within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010168/APP/7.12]. The potential impact on traffic has been assessed within ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010168/APP/6.1] which concludes no

Feedback comments	Applicant response
Concerns for noise, vibration and air quality caused by the construction phase were also noted.	significant effects are expected. An assessment on safety and accidents is provided in that chapter, it is concluded that the level of construction traffic associated with the Scheme is unlikely to materially affect road safety. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010168/APP/7.22] has been prepared to manage construction vehicle movements during the construction phase. A road condition/dilapidation survey of minor roads not typically used by HGV traffic forms a measure set out within the CTMP. Any damage in the verge or on carriageway road surface caused by construction vehicles will be rectified to the satisfaction of the local highway authority. Traffic noise and noise and vibration relating to construction activities are assessed in ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration, and no significant effects are predicted. The mitigation measures associated with construction activity are presented in Section 14.9 of that chapter and committed to in the Outline CEMP. A noise monitoring programme agreed with Wiltshire Council will be carried out during construction. Construction dust emissions, construction vehicle emissions and emissions from Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) (onsite plant) have been considered for the construction phase in ES Chapter 13: Air Quality [EN010168/APP/6.1]. With the embedded mitigation measures in place, as set out in the Outline CEMP and Outline CTMP, air quality effects as a result of the construction phase of the Scheme would not be significant.
Flood risk	
Respondents expressed concerns about the Scheme increasing flood risk in the local area. Respondents noted that certain areas were already prone to flooding.	The vast majority of the developed areas of the Scheme have been sequentially allocated within Flood Zone 1 and outside Flood Zones 2 and 3. Further information on this is available in the Planning Statement, Annex C: Sequential Test / Exception Test [EN010168/APP/7.2]. This has been achieved through the application of a sequential approach to site layout, supported by topographic analysis and flood mapping. As part of the broader constraints-led design process, surface water flow routes have been identified using topographic data and national flood mapping and have been avoided wherever practicable. This includes avoiding low points and known exceedance routes. Flood risk has been assessed in detail within ES Volume 1, Chapter 11: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010168/APP/6.1] and the supporting Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [EN010168/APP/6.3]. This work includes baseline analysis, modelling of runoff, and review of

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	climate change allowances. The Scheme is designed to ensure runoff rates and volumes remain consistent with greenfield conditions. Measures such as permeable surfacing, infiltration features, swales and attenuation storage will manage surface water. As a result, no increase in flood risk is expected on or off site, including to adjacent communities and downstream settlements. Embedded mitigation and design measures will be secured through the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12] and finalised at detailed design.
Safety of the battery energy storage system (BESS)	
Respondents expressed safety concerns regarding the BESS element of the Scheme, particularly in relation to fire risk. Concerns were also raised about the potential release of toxic gases and contamination from firewater runoff, with respondents requesting further information on how such risks would be managed.	Safety risks from the BESS has been assessed within ES Volume 1, Chapter 20: Other Environmental Matters, Section 20.7 Major Accidents and Disasters [EN010168/APP/6.1]. The chapter assesses the risk from building failure, fire and explosions as not significant. This is due to embedded mitigation such as built in safety features in the BESS Area (i.e. cooling systems, non-combustible BESS enclosures, high levels of thermal insulation to protect against fire propagation, fire and gas detection system, explosion protection systems, suppression systems, emergency stop functions and isolation monitoring) and the implementation of the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (BSMP) [EN010168/APP/7.21]. Nonetheless, toxic gases from any fires are assessed within ES Volume 1, Chapter 15: Air Quality and ES Volume 1, Chapter 20: Other Environmental Matters, Section 20.7 Major Accidents and Disasters [EN010168/APP/6.1]. An assessment of how these fumes could impact all sensitive receptors within a 1km radius of the BESS area which includes residential properties and species is provided in ES Volume 1, Chapter 15: Air Quality [EN010168/ APP/6.1] which concludes that no significant off site impacts are predicted should a fire event occur. The potential for firewater runoff from BESS incidents has been assessed within the ES Volume 1, Chapter 11: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage [EN010168/APP/6.1] and supporting documents. BESS compounds will incorporate sealed, lined drainage systems with sufficient containment capacity to hold firefighting water and prevent uncontrolled discharge to the ground or watercourses. These systems include automatically actuating shut-off valves designed to isolate the drainage network in the event of an incident.

Feedback comments	Applicant response
Importance of local cultural heritage	
Respondents highlighted the importance of local cultural heritage, emphasising the area's rich history. Concerns were raised regarding the Scheme's potential impact on archaeology and historic features, including Roman and medieval heritage. Particular concern was raised regarding the Scheme's proximity to the Fosse Way.	ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [EN010168/APP/6.1], supported by appendices in Volume 3 (12.1 to 12.7 [EN010168/APP/6.3]), has assessed the potential impact of the Scheme on built heritage and archaeological assets, and where required appropriate mitigation has been proposed (see Section 12.9 of ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [EN010168/APP/6.1] for embedded mitigation and Section 12.11 for additional mitigation). An overarching archaeological mitigation strategy is provided in ES Volume 3 Appendix 12.6 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/6.3]. The Scheme design includes setbacks and removal of panels from fields adjacent to the Fosse Way.
Importance of nature and wildlife	
Respondents highlighted the importance of nature and local wildlife. While some welcomed the Scheme's commitment to environmental improvements and delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), others expressed concern that the Scheme could negatively affect wildlife, including birds. Concerns were also raised about the potential loss of hedgerows and removal of trees.	Potential impacts of the Scheme are fully assessed in ES Volume 1, Chapter: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010168/APP/6.1]. This assessment considers all phases of the Scheme, including the construction phase, and describes appropriate measures to avoid or mitigate identified impacts. Habitat creation and enhancement measures, including areas provided for skylark mitigation are shown in ES Volume 2, Figure 3-4: Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan [EN010168/APP/6.1]. Measures to safeguard nesting birds during construction and operation activities will be secured through the Outline EPM [EN010168/APP/7.19] and Outline LEMP [EN010168/APP/7.18]. A BNG Assessment for the Scheme is provided in a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.8] and a completed version of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric [EN010168/APP/7.9] provided, both of which demonstrate the Scheme will achieve BNG of at least 10% in Habitat Unit, Hedgerow Units and Watercourse Units. The Scheme has been designed to retain existing hedgerows and grassland habitats as far as practicable. Some loss of hedgerows will be required to provide new access and infrastructure. Anticipated hedgerow losses represent a small proportion of the existing hedgerow network within the Order Limits, and planting of new hedgerows will far outweigh losses. Proposed new hedgerows are shown in ES Volume 2, Figure 3-4:

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan [EN010168/APP/6.1]. No ancient and/or veteran trees are proposed to be removed to facilitate the Scheme. The Scheme has been designed in order to retain existing arboriculture features as far as practicable. Any unavoidable tree losses as a result of the Scheme will be suitably mitigated for. This is set out in ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Arboriculture [EN010168/APP/6.1].

10.7 Conclusion

- 10.7.1 As detailed in this chapter, the Applicant considers that it has fulfilled its statutory duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity, pursuant to Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity carried out as required by Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

11 Targeted Consultation on a Series of Proposed Boundary Changes

11.1 Introduction

- 11.1.1 Following the close of the Stage Two consultation, the Applicant continued to refine the proposals for the Scheme in preparation for submitting a DCO application. This progression has been informed by further design work and due diligence, ongoing consideration of consultee feedback, and findings from the environmental impact assessment.
- 11.1.2 This resulted in a series of minor amendments to the development boundary area for the Scheme, compared to the boundary presented in the PEIR and for Stage Two Statutory Consultation. The changes comprise:
- Six areas to enable the temporary highway and traffic works that would be required to safely accommodate the Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) vehicles needed during the construction phase of the Scheme.
 - Nine areas where the proposed development boundary area was adjusted to avoid constraints such as woodland and hedgerows.
- 11.1.3 Although these changes are minor in nature and scale, the Applicant undertook further statutory consultation targeted on these specific additions to ensure communities and consultees had an opportunity to comment on the full Draft Order Limits prior to a DCO application being submitted.

11.2 Preparing for Further Targeted Consultation

- 11.2.1 The Applicant prepared a strategy for undertaking this stage of further targeted consultation.
- 11.2.2 This strategy was informed by the relevant legislation and guidance, as described in **Chapter 3** of this report and further detailed in **Appendix A: Statement of Compliance [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 11.2.3 The Applicant also considered the commitments and principles established in its published SoCC. Paragraph 10.7 of the Applicant's SoCC states:
"If, as a result of feedback, our proposals change to the extent we consider it necessary to undertake further targeted consultation, this will be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC."
- 11.2.4 The Applicant was keen to provide an opportunity for host local authorities to understand and comment on its proposed approach prior to commencing targeted consultation activities.
- 11.2.5 Although South Gloucestershire Council was not initially identified or consulted as a host authority during statutory consultation, the Applicant recognised that the revised Order Limits, which include proposed local highway works, extend into the administrative boundary of South Gloucestershire Council.
- 11.2.6 As a result, ahead of the subsequent targeted consultation, the Applicant contacted South Gloucestershire Council to inform them of the upcoming

consultation and the minor amendments to the Order Limits. In recognition that the Council had not previously been engaged in its capacity as a host authority, the Applicant requested a meeting to provide more detailed information on the proposed changes.

- 11.2.7 The Applicant shared a document describing the Applicant's approach to targeted consultation for further review and comment with Wiltshire Council and South Gloucestershire Council on 14 May 2025. A copy of this document is included in **Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 11.2.8 The Applicant received comments in response on its approach to targeted consultation from South Gloucestershire Council on 15 May 2025 and from Wiltshire Council on 22 May 2025.
- 11.2.9 This feedback was considered and responded to by the Applicant prior to commencing targeted consultation on 03 June 2025.
- 11.2.10 The feedback received, and how this was considered by the Applicant ahead of commencing targeted consultation activities, is presented in **Table 11-1** and **Table 11-2**.

Table 11-1 The Applicant's consideration of feedback received from South Gloucestershire Council on their approach to targeted consultation

Topic	Comments provided by South Gloucestershire Council	The Applicant's consideration of this comment
General comments	Thank you for your emails of the 1st and 14th May. The areas within South Gloucestershire which it is now proposed would now be included within the Development Boundary would appear to be limited to areas of public highway, or immediately adjoining areas of public highway.	The Applicant notes this comment.
What will be consulted on	The advice of the Council's Highways team is that the details of the proposed works are not clear and that these details will be required as part of the consultation to enable the council and the Councillors and Parish councils identified to make informed representations.	The Applicant provided further details as part of the Targeted consultation materials and associated communications (including the Information Change Note) to enable the Council and other parties to make informed representations.
What will be consulted on	That detail that is needed would be the overall construction routes and what vehicles are used that require these changes / what traffic management will be in place, the likely duration, and	The Applicant makes note of this comment. At the time of holding the targeted consultation, construction routes as presented in the PEIR continued to be publicly available via the Scheme

Topic	Comments provided by South Gloucestershire Council	The Applicant's consideration of this comment
	proposed reinstatement works thereafter. It is presumed the changes relate to construction traffic.	website and in hard copy at a selection of CAPs. For the targeted consultation, the Applicant also published maps showing the proposed AIL routes on the Scheme website, and included a signpost to these in the Information Change Note. The Applicant provided further information on Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) in the Information Change Note and featured the same details on the Scheme website. This included setting out details on the vehicles (being AIL vehicles for transformers, smaller AIL vehicles for cable drums and HGVs where possible). The Outline Construction Traffic Management plan presented at PEIR remained available throughout the targeted consultation period and beyond in digital and hard copy as stated above. Key aspects of the plan (including undertaking movements during off-peak times, commitments to ensure minimal impact/ disruption and mitigation measures) were reiterated in the Information Change Note in the section providing further information on AIL. Details regarding the likely duration of the proposed works and reinstatement was not available as this will be determined at a later stage in the planning development process, following (and subject to) acquiring development consent. The Applicant was able to provide high-level information on reinstatement in the Information Change Note (page 11) as follows: <i>Once the required AIL deliveries have been undertaken, the temporary highway mitigation will be removed and the highway returned to its original layout at the earliest opportunity.</i>

Table 11-2 The Applicant's consideration of feedback received from Wiltshire Council on their approach to targeted consultation

Topic	Comments provided by Wiltshire Council	The Applicant's consideration of this comment
Objective of targeted consultation	Please ensure that a clear explanation is included within the consultation material as to why the proposed changes are intended to be made as well as why it is appropriate and necessary to do a further focused consultation.	The Applicant has included an explanation of this in the communications issued and materials produced for the Targeted consultation, including the notifications issued to Localised communities and Priority Stakeholders, the Information Change Note, the Scheme website and Summer Newsletter. These materials detail the changes proposed to be made to the development boundary area, why they are needed, and explain that a further round of targeted consultation is being held to invite comments and community input on the fifteen changes identified.
Objective of targeted consultation	The status of the targeted consultation, for example whether it is non-statutory or statutory, should also be clearly stated. It is considered that this will help residents to understand the process better.	The Applicant included additional wording to clarify this point following receipt of this comment. The relevant wording is set out here: <i>The targeted consultation is not another phase of statutory consultation pursuant to Section 47 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008. It relates specifically to minor increases to the Project development boundary presented during the statutory consultation, which was held from 29 January to 19 March 2025.</i> This wording was included in the Press Release issued to local and regional outlets, and on the Scheme website on the following webpages: <i>Homepage, Targeted Consultation - June 2025, Overview of consultation stages and News.</i> The wording was also included in the Automatic Response issued in reply to all emails received to the Scheme inbox during the Targeted consultation, and the Presentation Slides used for the online information event.
How consultation	Furthermore, in order to ensure resident understanding of the consultation proposals, the	In response to this comment, the Applicant scheduled an online information event on Thursday 19 June

Topic	Comments provided by Wiltshire Council	The Applicant's consideration of this comment
will be undertaken	council considers that online webinars should be organised whereby the Applicant's team would present the proposed changes and offer the opportunity for attendees to ask questions. It is suggested that 2 events be held; these should be held in the early evening (18:30 to 20:00) with one scheduled towards the beginning of the consultation period and the other towards the end. The council notes that the consultation events (both in person and online) were well attended at the statutory consultation stage and given the high level of interest in this scheme from the community, the Applicant is recommended to continue to engage directly with consultees.	2025, from 18:30 to 20:00. This was publicised in the communications issued to notify consultees of the Targeted consultation, the Summer Newsletter and Scheme website. To reflect the specific and disparate nature of the changes, the Applicant considers this to be a proportionate approach to the targeted consultation. In line with this, the Applicant has continued to encourage direct, bilateral engagement with the local community and key stakeholders via the dedicated Scheme communications lines (Freephone, Freepost, Email).
How consultation will be undertaken	Please also ensure that the location of the proposed changes in relation to the wider scheme is clearer. It is recommended that Figure 1-2 from the statutory consultation material which shows the Development Area (or similar figure) is annotated with the numbered changes, which would in turn correspond to the individual maps showing the intended updates.	The Applicant published a map annotated with the numbered changes and included this in the Information Change Note produced for the Targeted consultation. This was intended to direct consultees to the subject of the targeted consultation, these being the small number of specific changes proposed to the Development Boundary Area presented at PEIR. A map showing the location of these changes in relation to the wider site was also included in the Summer Newsletter issued to the 14,000+ addresses located in the Core Consultation Zone. The ES forming part of the DCO includes maps showing the same level of detail as was presented in the PEIR Figures presented during statutory consultation.
How consultation will be undertaken	Additionally, when taken in isolation, there is insufficient clarity on the provided maps as to the nature of the proposed changes. Please ensure that the proposals / maps at each location are sufficiently clear for the general public to understand the proposed changes. It is considered that this will aid clarity	The Information Change Note produced by the Applicant included a description of each of the proposed changes alongside individual maps to help inform the public on the proposed changes. The Applicant also published on the Scheme website <i>Targeted Consultation - Documents</i> webpage a

Topic	Comments provided by Wiltshire Council	The Applicant's consideration of this comment
	and understanding of the consultation material.	PDF that pulled the maps included in the Information Change Note and set these out separately, making these available at a larger scale and with a more detailed GIS background. These more detailed maps were also featured in the Presentation Slides used during the online information event held on Thursday 19 June, published on the <i>Targeted Consultation</i> webpage as a PDF alongside a recording of the session in full.
Who will be consulted	In terms of the specific individuals / organisations listed in Appendix 1 who will be directly notified of the targeted consultation, the council notes that only selected Wiltshire Council members are listed. It is recommended that all elected members of the Malmesbury Area Board, Corsham Area Board and Melksham Area Board are directly notified of the targeted consultation.	Following receipt of this comment, the Applicant directly notified all elected members of the Area Boards listed at the start of the targeted consultation and following consultation close.
Who will be consulted	Furthermore, it is noted that the Stop Lime Down community action group are not specifically identified. Given their presence and local voice in the community, the council would urge the Applicant to directly engage with this group, including notifying them of the upcoming public consultation.	Following receipt of this comment, the Applicant added the Stop Lime Down community action group to the Scheme database of Gateway organisations / community groups and contacted them in this capacity for the purposes of the Targeted consultation, and will contact them as part of gateway organisations/community groups communications moving forward.
Who will be consulted	Wiltshire Council believes that the amendments identified above will provide clarity to consultees on the purpose of the consultation, improve understanding of the information being consulted on and better inform the local community of the targeted consultation, which will hopefully result in a more meaningful consultation with the residents of Wiltshire.	The Applicant notes this comment.

Topic	Comments provided by Wiltshire Council	The Applicant's consideration of this comment
Approach to pre-application consultation	Whilst it is noted that it is the Applicant's intention for the targeted consultation to consult on proposed changes to the Scheme proposals, Wiltshire Council would like to take this opportunity to re-iterate its strong recommendation, as stated within its statutory consultation response, that a further supplementary consultation is undertaken once the full environmental assessment has been completed. This would enable sufficient scrutiny of the cable connection route and its associated impacts. Furthermore, it is the council's understanding that this request was also made in other consultation responses. The council would strongly urge the Applicant to fulfil this request in advance of the submission of the Development Consent Order application.	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant acknowledges that Wiltshire Council's response to the draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone prepared by the Applicant also included a request for further consultation to be undertaken 'once the full environmental assessment has been completed'. The Applicant responded to these points in a letter issued to Wiltshire Council on 19 June 2025, as provided in Appendix 3 of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document submitted to the Planning Inspectorate explaining that, while no second statutory consultation process will take place, there will be further opportunity for stakeholders and the community to provide representations through the Examination process.

11.3 Targeted Consultation Period (June 2025)

- 11.3.1 The Applicant carried out a defined stage of additional targeted consultation between Tuesday 03 June to Friday 11 July 2025. This consultation focused on specific changes to the development boundary area that was presented at Stage Two consultation.
- 11.3.2 The Applicant published a Targeted Consultation Information Change Note to provide details of the consultation and to present each specific change to the development boundary area. This included a description of every proposed change, confirmation of any potential changes to the environmental effects presented within the PEIR, and the total area of the change.
- 11.3.3 A copy of the Targeted Consultation Information Change Note is included in **Appendix I-3: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 11.3.4 The Applicant publicised the consultation information and response deadline by:
- Issuing written notifications to all relevant prescribed consultees under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, including host and neighbouring local authorities (Section 43) and new land interests (Section 44) (see **Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**;
 - Notifying properties in the immediate vicinity of the changes (within a minimum distance of 200 metres of the relevant areas) (see **Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**;

- Contacting ward members, MPs, parish councils, community groups, and gateway organisations representing localised communities were also informed in line with commitments in the SoCC. All identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed were also contacted by email or post (see example in **Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Distributing a newsletter to over 14,000 properties within the Core Consultation Zone. This is consistent with the zone presented in the SoCC (see **Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Distributing a press release containing details of the consultation to regional and local media, providing information about the consultation, the proposed changes, and how to participate (see **Appendix I-2: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Hosting a webinar on 19 June 2025 to present the proposed changes and facilitate a question and answer (Q&A) session (see the webinar presentation slides provided in **Appendix I-3: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]** and a record of the questions asked in **Appendix I-4: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Providing the relevant consultation information documents – including the Targeted Consultation Information Change Note and accompanying detailed maps – on the Scheme website (see copy of the website pages provided in **Appendix I-4: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**);
- Providing printed copies of targeted consultation materials for inspection at CAPs listed in the SoCC: Corsham, Melksham, Chippenham and Malmesbury Libraries, as well as to additional locations in proximity to the changes (Chipping Sodbury Library, Yate Library); and
- Providing Hard copies of the PEIR, NTS and maps and plans from the statutory consultation for inspection free of charge at two of the community venues listed above: Chippenham Library and Malmesbury Library.

- 11.3.5 Copies of the targeted consultation materials are provided in **Appendix I-3: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 11.3.6 The Applicant consulted with Section 42 consultees as part of this Targeted Consultation. **Appendix G-1: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]** includes a list of the Section 42 consultees for the Scheme.
- 11.3.7 The relevant persons defined under Section 44 of Planning Act 2008 were also consulted as part of this Targeted Consultation. The Applicant notified 100 identified Section 44 consultees by post on 02 June 2025 ahead of the Targeted Consultation period commencing on 03 June 2025. These consultees were

informed of a response deadline of 11 July 2025, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days.

- 11.3.8 The Applicant notified a further 55 Section 44 consultees following the start of Targeted Consultation (03 June 2025). Each consultee was notified by letter and provided with a response deadline of at least 28 days. The list of land interests consulted is provided in **Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 11.3.9 Where owners, lessees, tenants, or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Scheme Site.
- 11.3.10 Section 44 notices were erected on site on 02 June 2025 and were checked on a weekly basis thereafter and replaced if either weather damaged or removed. At the end of the monitoring period, following the close of Targeted Consultation, all notices were removed from site, and materials recycled as far as practical. See **Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]** for details on the locations where site notices were placed.
- 11.3.11 The Applicant welcomed 25 attendees at the online community information event held on Thursday 19 June 2025.
- 11.3.12 The Applicant recorded 139 submissions of feedback from community organisations, residents and interested parties considered as Section 47 feedback to the targeted consultation. The Applicant has considered these representations alongside all other Section 47 feedback received. A summary of Section 47 feedback is provided in **Chapter 11** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's consideration of feedback received in **Appendix I-5: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 11.3.13 The Applicant received 65 submissions of feedback from Section 42 consultees, including 19 from Section 44 consultees, as part of the targeted consultation. The Applicant has considered these representations alongside all other Section 42 feedback received. A summary of s42 and s44 feedback is provided in **Chapter 11** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's consideration of feedback in **Appendix I-5: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 11.3.14 A detailed record of all comments received from Section 42 consultees, and the Applicant's response to all of these comments, is provided as **Appendix I-5: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.
- 11.3.15 **Table 11-3** presents a summary of this feedback.

Table 11-3 Summary of targeted consultation feedback, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback

Feedback comments	Applicant response
Size and scale	
Respondents expressed concern over the increasing size of the Scheme, noting that many had raised issues regarding its overall scale during the previous consultations.	The targeted consultation focused on a series of minor increases to the development boundary area presented during the Stage Two (statutory) consultation. The fifteen localised changes were minor in nature and scale - each comprise an addition to the development boundary area of between 0.03 hectares (ha) and 0.69 ha, totaling an additional area of 3.94 ha. Further refinement of the Scheme design in line with the iterative design process has resulted in a number of reductions to the Scheme boundary, as set out in ES Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010168/APP/6.1]. Notable removals of land from the Solar PV sites following statutory consultation are listed in that chapter, with all removals shown on ES Volume 2, Figure 4-2 and Figures 4-2-1 to 4-2-8 [EN010168/APP/6.2]. As a result, the total area of the Solar PV Sites (excluding the Cable Route Corridor) has reduced to 749 ha (from 878 ha at PEIR), while the Cable Route Corridor has been reduced from the larger Cable Route Search Corridor presented at PEIR to cover 462 ha (from 1,947 ha at PEIR). The potential impacts of the Scheme are fully assessed in the ES [EN010168/APP/6.1] submitted with the DCO application. The Applicant is confident that the proposed mitigation measures set out in the ES are adequate and that the Scheme aligns with national and local planning policy; this is outlined in the Planning Statement [EN010168/APP/7.2].
Consultation and engagement	
Some respondents felt the consultation was too limited in scope, believing that it was restricted to statutory consultees and was not open to community members, for example residents of Malmesbury. Concerns were also expressed that feedback from the previous consultation had not been fully considered.	The Applicant considers that consultation has been robust, thorough and undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, the EIA Regulations, and the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. The Applicant's Stage Two consultation (which was statutory under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008) was carried out in line with commitments and principles established in the Applicant's published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The targeted consultation related specifically to minor increases to the development boundary area presented during the statutory consultation. However, it was undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC. The Applicant invited comments from Wiltshire Council and South Gloucestershire Council on their proposed approach to undertaking the targeted consultation, and had regard to their feedback prior to commencing consultation activities. Targeted consultation was open to anyone with an interest in the proposals, including both prescribed consultees and members of

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	the public. The consultation and engagement activities undertaken are outlined in full in Chapter 11 of this Report. The Applicant notified over 14,000 addresses located within the statutory core consultation zone of the targeted consultation, which included Malmesbury, in addition to addresses located in proximity of the proposed changes. The Applicant has given due regard to all feedback received during the non-statutory consultation period and statutory consultation period. A summary of feedback received to Stage One non-statutory consultation and Stage Two statutory consultation, alongside how the Applicant has had regard to these in the design process of the Scheme, is presented in Appendix C-7: Non-Statutory Consultation, Appendix F-7: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, and Appendix G-5: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2].
Construction traffic	
Respondents' concerns for increased construction traffic were noted, with many expressing that local infrastructure may be unsuitable for the size and volume of vehicles and raising related concerns about road damage and safety.	The potential impact on traffic and the capacity of local roads/infrastructure to accommodate construction vehicles has been assessed within ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Transport and Access [EN010168/APP/6.1]. The chapter concludes that the likely effects of the Scheme during the construction phase are considered to be temporary and short term and there will be no significant residual effects. An assessment on safety and accidents is provided in that chapter; it is concluded that the level of construction traffic associated with the Scheme is unlikely to materially affect road safety. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [EN010168/APP/7.22] has been prepared to manage construction vehicle movements during the construction phase. A road condition/dilapidation survey of minor roads not typically used by HGV traffic forms a measure set out within the CTMP. Any damage in the verge or on carriageway road surface caused by construction vehicles will be rectified to the satisfaction of the local highway authority. Traffic noise is assessed in ES Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration [EN010168/APP/6.1], and no significant effects are predicted.

Feedback comments	Applicant response
Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) vehicles	
Respondents raised specific concerns regarding Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) vehicles, questioning their necessity, the number required, and the suitability of the proposed routes. While most of these concerns were raised generally, some respondents raised specific concerns regarding Changes 2, 5, 10, 11, 12 and 13 which relate to AIL vehicles.	Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) vehicles will transport transformers to the substations and cable drums along the Cable Route Corridor. These movements will represent only a small proportion of construction traffic and will be managed in line with the measures set out in the Outline CTMP [EN010168/APP/7.22] (oCTMP). The anticipated number and size of AIL movements are detailed in the oCTMP and in ES Volume 3, Appendix 13-1: Transport Assessment [EN010168/APP/6.3]. The proposed AIL routes have been assessed within the oCTMP, with vehicle tracking undertaken along identified routes. All AIL movements will follow the mitigation measures in the oCTMP, and, where practicable, will be scheduled outside peak times to reduce disruption to the local road network.
Change 2 – Fosse Way	
Respondents expressed concerns regarding Change 2, particularly its potential impact and damage to the Fosse Way. Specific issues included fears that sections of the route could be permanently tarmacked, and ancient trees, verges and hedgerows would be removed.	ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [EN010168/APP/6.1], supported by appendices in Volume 3 (12.1 to 12.7) [EN010168/APP/6.3] has assessed the likely significant impact of the Scheme on identified archaeological and built heritage assets. The impact to the Fosse Way was determined as Low and following mitigation this would be reduced to Neutral (i.e. not significant). Embedded mitigation is set out in Section 12.9 of ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [EN010168/APP/6.1], with further measures detailed in Section 12.11. An overarching archaeological mitigation strategy is provided in ES Volume 3, Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/6.3]. Construction vehicle movements will be managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), designed to minimise the effect of the construction phase on the local highway network. An Outline CTMP [EN010168/APP/7.22] has been prepared and submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO). The Applicant confirms there is no intention to tarmac sections of the Fosse Way that are not already surfaced. No ancient or veteran trees will be removed to facilitate the Scheme, as confirmed in ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Arboriculture [EN010168/APP/6.1]. The Scheme has been designed to retain existing hedgerows and grassland habitats as far as practicable. Some loss of hedgerows will be required to provide new access and infrastructure. Anticipated hedgerow losses represent a small proportion of the existing hedgerow network within the Order Limits, and planting of new hedgerows will far outweigh losses.

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	Proposed new hedgerows are shown in ES Volume 2, Figure 3-4: Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan [EN010168/APP/6.1] .

12 Ongoing Activities and Statements of Common Ground (SOCG)

12.1 Introduction

- 12.1.1 The Applicant continued to engage with consultees following the close of the statutory consultation and outside of the defined phase of targeted consultation.
- 12.1.2 The purpose of this continued engagement was to discuss feedback received through consultation, seek to reach positions of agreement or understanding prior to finalising the Application, and to respond to further enquiries.
- 12.1.3 This continued engagement included a series of meetings held with several consultees, as detailed in **Table 12-1**.

Table 12-1 Ongoing meetings with stakeholders undertaken between 19 March and Application submission

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
24/03/2025	██████████, Wiltshire Council	Progress meeting to provide project / programme updates.
28/03/2025	Historic England	Heritage-based site visit.
01/04/2025	██████████, Wiltshire Council	Applicant's approach for ES submission.
01/04/2025	██████████, Wiltshire Council	Provisions for local support following consultation phase.
09/04/2025	██████████, Wiltshire Council	Approach to addressing consultation feedback from Wiltshire Council.
10/04/2025	██████████, Wiltshire Council	Heritage-based site visit.
17/04/2025	██████████, Wiltshire Council	Council's response to statutory consultation, specifically in relation to planning considerations.
29/04/2025	Sarah Gibson MP	Issues Corsham constituents raised.
06/05/2025	Wiltshire Council Steering Group	Project / programme update, technical discussions as required.
09/05/2025	Roz Savage MP	Site visit.
22/05/2025	Environment Agency	Environment Agency's response to statutory consultation, including cable route surveys and mitigation measures.
27/05/2025	██████████, Wiltshire Council	Progress meeting to provide project / programme updates.

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
29/05/2025	Environment Agency	Progress meeting to provide project / programme updates.
09/06/2025	Wiltshire Council Steering Group	Project / programme updates, technical discussions as required.
17/06/2025	National Highways	Progress meeting to provide project / programme updates.
08/07/2025	Wiltshire Council Steering Group	Project / programme updates, technical discussions as required.
28/08/2025	Wiltshire Council	Transport.
02/09/2025	Wiltshire Council Steering Group	Project / programme updates, technical discussions as required.

12.2 Ongoing Community Engagement

- 12.2.1 The Applicant's communications channels (email, Freephone, and Freepost) and Scheme website remained open and maintained following the close of statutory consultation.
- 12.2.2 Through these channels, the Applicant continued to provide information and respond to enquiries.
- 12.2.3 The Applicant published a Summer Newsletter in June 2025 to provide an update on the Scheme (including a preferred cable route search corridor), anticipated timescales for the Application, and to promote the Applicant's communications channels. A copy of the Summer Newsletter is provided in **Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]**.

12.3 Ongoing Landowner Negotiations

- 12.3.1 The Applicant has continued engagement with landowners and those with land interests regarding the Scheme. Detail of negotiations and engagement undertaken with land interests regarding the Scheme can be found in the **Pre-application Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker [EN010168/APP/4.4]** and **Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3]**.

12.4 Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement and Statements of Common Ground

- 12.4.1 The Applicant has prepared the **Potential Main issues for Examination [EN010168/APP/7.24]** which sets out the potential main issues as agreed with a number of stakeholders including Wiltshire Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England and the Cotswold National Landscape Board. The potential main issues will inform the Statements of Common Ground when they are prepared in the pre-examination stage.

- 12.4.2 The Applicant intends to continue their engagement with consultees following the submission of the Application.

13 Conclusion

13.1 Concluding Remarks

- 13.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken comprehensive pre-application consultation on the Scheme.
- 13.1.2 This consultation has been informed by and complied with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance and legislation.
- 13.1.3 The Applicant's strategy of coordinating consultation activities across the Scheme has resulted in a high level of engagement throughout the pre-application process.
- 13.1.4 The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an interactive consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the design of the Scheme in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.
- 13.1.5 The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in this Consultation Report.
- 13.1.6 Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of this iterative process, with stakeholders, such as Local Planning Authorities, statutory consultees, community groups, and members of the local community, playing a key role in the design of the proposals.
- 13.1.7 The Applicant's strategy of coordinating the Stage Two consultation to be statutory under Section 42, Section 47, and Section 48 in parallel allowed for meaningful engagement and consideration of feedback on the PEIR.
- 13.1.8 The Applicant has sought to address comments, concerns and issues raised in the final design of the Scheme where possible and has responded to comments raised in the Consultation Report.
- 13.1.9 As well as preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has set out how it complied with guidance and advice on the consultation in the Section 55 Checklist **[EN010168/APP/1.1]** that is also part of the DCO application documents.
- 13.1.10 The Applicant is grateful to all parties who have engaged throughout the pre-application process.

14 References

- Ref 1 Planning Act 2008. Available at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents> [Accessed 01 August 2025]
- Ref 2 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Available at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2264/schedule/1/made> [Accessed 08 August 2025]
- Ref 3 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. (the EIA Regulations). Available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment> [Accessed 08 August 2025]
- Ref 4 The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/332/contents/made> [Accessed 08 August 2025]
- Ref 5 Department for Communities and Local Government Planning Act 2008; Guidance on the pre-application process (2015) (DCLG Guidance); <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-pre-application-process-for-major-infrastructure-projects> [Accessed 08 August 2025]
- Ref 6 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (updated May 2025). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-preparation-and-submission-of-application-documents> [Accessed 08 August 2025]
- Ref 7 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (updated March 2025). Available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-consultation-report> [Accessed 08 August 2025]
- Ref 8 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (January 2024). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1> [Accessed 08 August 2025]
- Ref 9 The Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning Guidance (April 2024). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/introduction-to-national-infrastructure-planning-guidance> [Accessed 08 August 2025]
- Ref 10 Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 1 (the Guidance) (published 30 April 2024). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre>

application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects
[Accessed 08 August 2025]

- Ref 11 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus (updated May 2025). Available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus> [Accessed 08 August 2025]

15 Appendices

15.1 List of Appendices

Appendix A: Statement of Compliance

- Statement of Compliance
- Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Appendix B: EIA Scoping

- Example Scoping submission email – 17 July 2024
- Example Scoping submission letter – 17 July 2024
- Accompanying Scheme Map
- Press Release – 18 July 2024
- Scoping submission Website update – 17 July 2024

Appendix C: Non-Statutory Consultation

- Appendix C-1: Introduction and Stage One Notification
 - Example MP Introduction email – 05 March 2024
 - Example MP Introduction letter – 05 March 2024
 - Example Wiltshire Councillor Introduction letter – 05 March 2024
 - Example Parish Council Introduction letter – 05 March 2024
 - Postcard – 14 April 2024
- Appendix C-2: Stage One Publicity
 - Wiltshire Times front page – 15 March 2024
 - Wiltshire Times advert – 15 March 2024
 - Wiltshire Gazette and Herald front page – 14 March 2024
 - Wiltshire Gazette and Herald advert – 14 March 2024
 - Wiltshire Gazette and Herald front page – 21 March 2024
 - Wiltshire Gazette and Herald advert – 21 March 2024
 - Swindon Advertiser front page – 14 March 2024
 - Swindon Advertiser advert – 14 March 2024
 - Melksham Independent News front page – 14 March 2024

- Melksham Independent News advert – 14 March 2024
- Melksham Independent News front page – 28 March 2024
- Melksham Independent News advert – 28 March 2024
- Press Release – 14 March 2024
- Appendix C-3: Stage One Consultation Materials
 - Consultation Information Leaflet
 - Feedback form
 - Poster
 - Consultation Postcard
 - Advert
 - Event Display Panels
 - Maps and Plans – Indicative Masterplan
 - Maps and Plans – Lime Down A
 - Maps and Plans – Lime Down B
 - Maps and Plans – Lime Down C
 - Maps and Plans – Lime Down D
 - Maps and Plans – Lime Down E
 - Maps and Plans – Cable Corridor Search Area 1a
 - Maps and Plans – Cable Corridor Search Area 1b
 - Maps and Plans – Solar Sites
 - Maps and Plans – Land at Melksham Substation
 - Webinar Presentation Slides
- Appendix C-4: Non-Statutory Consultation Website
 - Pre-Stage One Consultation Launch Website – 8 March 2024
 - Stage One Consultation Launch Website – 14 March 2024
 - Stage One Consultation Close Website – 27 April 2024
- Appendix C-5: Stage One Community Information Events
 - Sherston Village Hall event photography – 22 March 2024

- Hullavington Village Hall event photography – 23 March 2024
- Grittleton Village Hall event photography – 25 March 2024
- Goss Croft Hall event photography – 09 April 2024
- Corsham Town Council Hall event photography – 10 April 2024
- Shaw Village Hall event photography – 11 April 2024
- Webinar joining instructions
- Webinar response to outstanding questions – 27 March 2024
- Webinar response to outstanding questions – 17 April 2024
- Appendix C-6: Stage One feedback acknowledgement
 - Online feedback form completion page
 - Stage One email auto-response
 - Close of consultation email auto-response
 - Written feedback acknowledgement letter – 15 May 2024
- Appendix C-7: Ongoing engagement and interim reporting
 - Stage One Consultation Summary Report
 - Email Newsletter – 24 October 2024
 - Postal Newsletter – 24 October 2024
 - Press Release – 25 October 2024

Appendix D: Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

- Draft SoCC
- Revised Draft SoCC
- Email to Wiltshire Council – 30 October 2024
- Covering letter to Wiltshire Council – 30 October 2024
- Email exchange with Wiltshire Council – December 2024

Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC

- Section 47 Notice
- Copies of notices as placed in Newspapers

- Published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
- Errata Statement – 27 January 2025
- SoCC website update
- Wiltshire Council SoCC publication communication – 14 January 2025
- Example communications issued to MPs, Parish Councils, Scheme Registrants and Gateway Organisations and Local Groups

Appendix F: Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

- Appendix F-1: Stage Two Notification
 - Example launch of consultation letters – 29 January 2025
 - Example launch of consultation emails – 29 January 2025
 - Postcard – 29 January 2025
- Appendix F-2: Stage Two Publicity
 - The Signpost
 - The Sherston Cliffhanger
 - Hullavington News
 - Wiltshire Times Front Page
 - Wiltshire Times Advert
 - Wiltshire Gazette and Herland Front Page
 - Wiltshire Gazette and Herald Advert
 - Wiltshire Gazette and Herland Front Page (2)
 - Wiltshire Gazette and Herland Advert
 - Swindon Advertiser Front Page
 - Swindon Advertiser Advert
 - Melksham Independent News Front Page
 - Melksham Independent News Advert
 - Melksham independent News Front Page (2)
 - Melksham independent News Advert (2)
 - Press Release – 28 January 2025

- Press Release – 04 March 2025
- Appendix F-3: Stage Two Consultation Materials
 - Document Navigation Booklet
 - Project Information Booklet
 - Consultation Leaflet
 - Poster
 - Consultation Feedback form
 - PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS)
 - Event Display Panels
 - Site Development Area Lime Down Solar
 - Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar A
 - Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar B
 - Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar C
 - Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar D
 - Indicative Site Layout Lime Down Solar E
 - Webinar Presentation slides
- Appendix F-4: Statutory Consultation Website
 - Stage Two Consultation Launch Website
 - Stage Two Consultation Close Website
- Appendix F-5: Stage Two Community Information Events
 - Sherston Village Hall event photography – 07 February 2025
 - Hullavington Village Hall event photography – 08 February 2025
 - Grittleton Village Hall – 12 February 2025
 - Corsham Town Council Hall – 13 February 2025
 - Malmesbury Town Hall – 14 February 2025
 - Luckington Village Hall – 15 February 2025
 - Shaw Primary School – 26 February 2025
 - Webinar Response to outstanding questions – 05 February 2025

- Webinar Response to outstanding questions – 27 February 2025
- Webinar follow-up email – 07 February 2025
- Webinar follow-up email – 28 February 2025
- Appendix F-6: Stage Two Feedback Acknowledgement, Reminder and Close of Consultation
 - Online feedback form completion page
 - Stage Two Email auto-response
 - Close of Stage Two email auto-response update
 - Example feedback reminder email – 12 March 2025
 - Example feedback reminder letter – 12 March 2025
 - Written feedback acknowledgement letter – 07 April 2025
 - Example close of consultation email – 19 March 2025
 - Example close of consultation letter – 19 March 2025
- Appendix F-7: Section 47 Applicant Response Tables
 - Section 47 Applicant Response Table
 - Section 47 Notable Organisations Applicant Response Table

Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008

- Appendix G-1: Section 42 Consultees and Non-prescribed Consultees
 - Section 42 Consultees
- Appendix G-2: Notification of Section 42 Consultation
 - Section 42 Covering Letter – 22 January 2025
 - Section 44 Covering Letter – 22 January 2025
 - Site Plan Appended to Section 42 Covering Letter
- Appendix G-3: Section 46 Notices Issued to PINS
 - Section 46 Letter Issued to PINS – 27 January 2025
 - Section 46 Response from PINS – 29 January 2025
- Appendix G-4: List of S44 Land Interests Consulted
 - S44 Land Interests Consulted

- Appendix G-5: Section 42 Applicant Response Tables
 - Section 42 and 43 Applicant Response Table
 - Section 44 Applicant Response Table

Appendix H: Section 48 Notice

- Section 48 Notice
- Map of Notice Locations
- Copies of notices as placed in Newspapers

Appendix I: Targeted Consultation

- Appendix I-1: Targeted Consultation Approach and Notification
 - Approach to consultation – 14 May 2025
 - Proscribed consultees notification email – 03 June 2025
 - Example Local Planning Authority notification email – 03 June 2025
 - Example New Land Interests letter – 03 June 2025
 - Example Localised Communities letter – 03 June 2025
 - Example Parish Council notification email – 03 June 2025
 - Summer Newsletter – 03 June 2024
 - List of Section 44 consultees
 - Close of consultation communications – 07 July 2025
- Appendix I-2: Targeted Consultation Publicity:
 - Press Release – 03 June 2025
- Appendix I-3: Targeted Consultation Materials
 - Information Change Note
 - Localised Changes – Information Change Note Maps Detailed
 - Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) Routes
 - Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) Routes - Detailed
 - Feedback Form
 - Online Feedback Form completion page
 - Webinar Presentation Slides

- Letter to libraries hosting materials – 30 May 2025
- Appendix I-4: Targeted Consultation Website and Webinar
 - Targeted consultation website – 03 June 2025
 - Close of consultation website – 12 July 2025
 - Webinar record of questions asked – 19 June 2025
- Appendix I-5: Targeted Consultation Applicant Response Tables
 - Section 47 Applicant Response Table
 - Section 47 Notable Organisations Applicant Response Table
 - Section 42 and 43 Applicant Response Table
 - Section 44 Applicant Response Table